

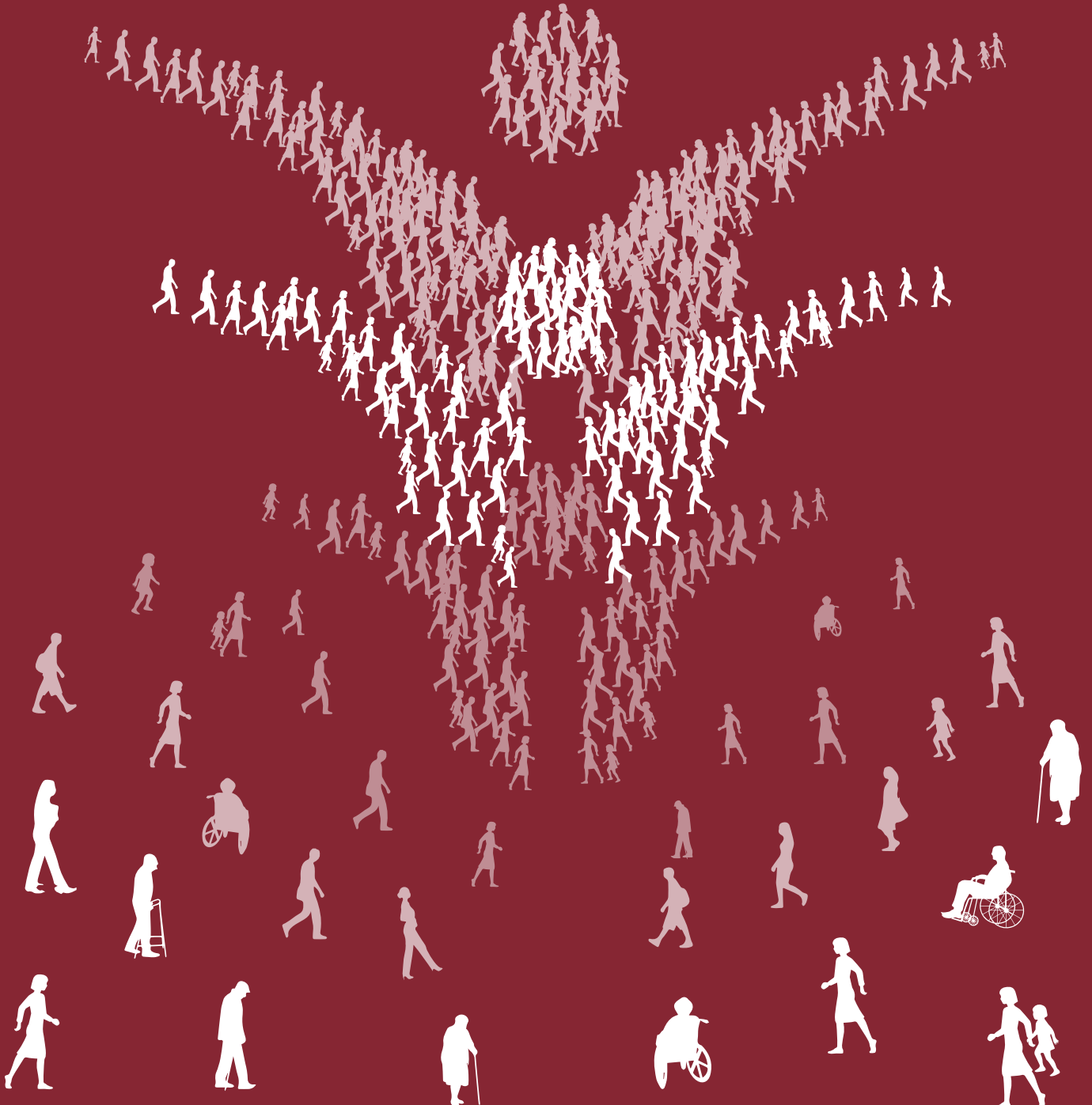
20<sup>th</sup>  
التقرير  
العشرون  
THE 20<sup>TH</sup> REPORT

المركز الوطني لحقوق الإنسان  
The National Centre for Human Rights



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البيوتات الفصحى  
٢٠٢٤-١٩٩٩

# Twentieth Annual Report on the Human Rights Situation in The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan of 2023



**The National Centre for Human Rights**

**Twentieth Annual Report on the Human Rights Situation**

**In the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**

**Of 2023**

**The National Centre for Human Rights**

**Amman**

**2024**



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



**His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al-Hussein bin Abdullah II**

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## List of key terms

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

**Kingdom** : The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

**Center** : National Center for Human Rights.

**Center Law** : Law No. (51) of 2006, as amended

**Report** : The twentieth annual report on the human rights situation in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan of 2023

**Report year** : 2023 A.D.

**Monitoring** : Field monitoring by the Center's team during 2023.

**Complaints** : Complaints received by the Center during 2023.



## Introduction

The twentieth report on the human rights situation in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan hereby covers the period extending from 01/01/2023 until 31/12/2023, and was prepared based on the legal entitlement stipulated in Article (12) of the Center's Law, which stipulates the following: "The Center prepares an annual report on the human rights situation and public freedoms in the Kingdom and submits it to the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Council of Ministers."

In its preparation mechanism for the annual report, the Center is based on the Jordanian Constitution, international human rights standards and national laws, as a basic standard for evaluating the civil, political, economic, social and cultural human rights situation, the development of legislation, policies and practices and their impact on human rights was monitored, in addition to receiving complaints from citizens and those residing on the Kingdom's lands and follow up on them in accordance with the institutional frameworks and procedures followed.

In this report, the Center adopted an accurate scientific methodology to monitor and diagnose the human rights situation through the following:

- Statement of the normative content of the right in accordance with international standards and the legislative regulation regulating the right.
- Follow up on developments related to the national legislative regulation.

- Follow up on policies related to rights, including plans, programs, strategies, and executive work programs, and their implications for rights.
- Follow up on practices on the ground by implementing monitoring visits and addressing the concerned parties with the Centre's observations monitored by monitoring reports.
- Hold specialized sessions - for some topics - to diagnose the current reality, provide solutions, and determine national priorities through opinions and proposals presented by a group of thought leaders, specialists, and experts in a number of fields that were reflected in the body of the report, in accordance with the participatory approach followed by the center.

The Center also attaches to this report four specialized appendices that reveal the Center's role in diagnosing and evaluating the human rights situation over the past year, which included the following:

- 1) Appendix of the extent of implementation of the recommendations issued in the Center's report of 2022.
- 2) Appendix of the procedures of the National Center for Human Rights during the aggression on Gaza.
- 3) Appendix of the analysis of complaints received by the Center during 2023.
- 4) A special appendix on the center's most prominent achievements and basic activities during 2023 at the three levels: national, regional, and international.

To facilitate monitoring the human rights situation, these rights have been classified into three main axes:

- The axis of civil and political rights includes a number of rights, namely: the right to life and physical integrity, the right to fair-trial guarantees, the right to nationality, movement, and asylum, the right to vote, the right to freedom of expression and opinion, the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, and the right to establish political parties, associations, and unions.
- The axis of economic, social and cultural rights, which includes rights: the right to development and a decent standard of living, the right to work, the right to education, the right to health, the right to a healthy environment, and cultural rights.
- The axis of the rights of those most in need of protection, which includes: women's rights, children's rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, the rights of the elderly, and the rights of children.

The publication of this report coincides with the Kingdom's celebrations of the silver jubilee of His Hashemite Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein, assuming his constitutional powers; on this occasion, the National Center for Human Rights published a statement in which it indicated the continuation of the royal directives and the continued royal support for institutionalizing the human rights record and approving a clear road map towards development and modernization, and deepening the process of democratic transformation, which falls within the framework of strengthening the human rights regulation , which came in accordance with a forward-looking royal vision for Jordan's future, and emanated from me A legal vision embodied in the discussion papers of His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein. The statement pointed out on the institutionalization of the human rights regulation in the Kingdom, such as publishing a group of major international human rights conventions in the Official Gazette,

and the most prominent international conventions with a human rights dimension; it will then become part of the national legislative regulation, and the establishment of constitutional institutions and bodies concerned with protecting and promoting human rights, such as the Constitutional Court, the Independent Electoral Commission, the Audit Bureau, and the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission.

Multiple royal commissions were also formed to strengthen and protect the human rights regulation, and the National Center for Human Rights valued the continued royal support for the rights of those most in need of protection, including women, people with disabilities, children, and the elderly, not to mention the continued royal support for the youth sector.

Regarding the aggression against the Gaza Strip, the Center explained that His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein, from the first moment of the aggression against the Gaza Strip, addressed the human conscience in human rights language, and was the first to point out human rights violations in the Gaza Strip and all of the occupied Palestinian territories at the peace conference held in Cairo, less than two weeks after the aggression, he said: "The ferocious bombing campaign taking place in Gaza... is a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law. It is a war crime."

It is worth noting that His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein met with the president and members of the Board of Trustees after the cybercrimes law was approved. His Majesty hereby stressed the independence of the center and its important role in the field of protecting and promoting human rights, indicating its powers to monitor human rights situations, including studying the effects of implementing this law on the ground.

The Center later held a consultative session with all parties concerned and presented its mechanisms in the field of following up on the legislative effects of the implementation of the Cybercrime Law, leading to developing its recommendations in this context. To this end, the Center launched a specialized hotline to receive complaints related to the cybercrime law.

The preparation of this report also coincided with the issuance of the royal directives of His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein, and on the occasion of the silver jubilee of His Majesty assuming his constitutional powers, the approval of the 2024 Amnesty Law, which came into consideration of the public interest, preserves the personal rights of citizens and civil rights, establishes the principle of restorative justice and proceeds in accordance therewith, and enshrines the principle of the rule of law, in a manner that does not conflict with the requirements National security and societal peace.

The twentieth human rights situation report reveals the seriousness of national efforts made to strengthen the human rights situation and reflect the current reality and takes into account the following national priorities:

- The priority of local stability, protecting borders, ensuring the integrity of the national territory, and preventing the infiltration of terrorist elements; while the armed forces and security services led a fierce battle against terrorism inside and outside the Kingdom's borders, the security containment policy was to avoid all forms of confrontation and clashes with the vigils and protest movements.
- Responsiveness and flexibility to popular economic and political demands, including the multiplicity of political roles, and the serious pursuit of modernization and continuous development of all fields and sectors in light of limited resources and the accelerating impact of regional and international conflicts on the infrastructure within the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, not the least of which are the repeated asylum seekers in Jordanian lands, the growing population, the effects of the war on the Gaza Strip and its impact on economic fields and some vital sectors.

The twentieth report on the human rights situation (95) provides recommendations based in their contents on the Center's call for continued efforts to strengthen the human rights situation from three different tracks, which are: legislation, policies, and practices. In this context, it urges the concerned parties to develop a road map to implement these recommendations and to share roles between all official and unofficial parties, from the standpoint of societal responsibility and upholding the higher national interest.

In conclusion, the National Center for Human Rights attaches with its twentieth report on the human rights situation in the Kingdom an executive summary that shows an accurate diagnosis of the human rights situation in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

## The axis of civil and political rights

### The right to life, liberty and physical integrity

One of the basic rights guaranteed by international, regional and national conventions<sup>1</sup>, the normative content of this right shall be based on the integrity of the legal protection of its components, both legally and in practice, and through implementing and strengthening guarantees of his protection through tracking and monitoring a number of issues, namely: the imposition and implementation of the death penalty, the principle of prohibition of torture, ill-treatment, cruel and inhuman treatment, suicide cases, deaths as a result of traffic accidents, drowning, cases of gunshots being fired, stray dogs, and cases of trafficking and abuse of narcotic substances.

Imposition and application of the death penalty:

International human rights law hereby affirms the human right to life as an inherent right that cannot be deprived, as well as linking it to the most serious crimes, and that this punishment is not applied except in the most serious crimes in accordance with a final ruling issued by a competent court<sup>2</sup>.

The number of inmates sentenced to death in 2023 was (264) males and (20) females, while the State Security Court did not issue any death sentences during the same year<sup>3</sup>, while the number of death sentences issued was The High Criminal Court in 2023 (25) rulings.

<sup>1</sup> Article (3) and Article (5) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article (6) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles (5) and (6) of the Arab Charter on Human Rights, and Article (8) of the Jordanian Constitution of 1952, as amended.

<sup>2</sup> Article (6) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

<sup>3</sup> Letter from the Military Judiciary Directorate No. (M.A./12/2/State Security/29651) dated 19/12/2023.

During 2023, the center did not register a number of inmates who were sentenced to death with a special amnesty<sup>4</sup>.

The most prominent events monitored by the Center related to the right to life, freedom, and physical integrity during 2023:

- **Martyrs**

The year 2023 witnessed the martyrdom of two individuals from the ranks of the security services, namely: the martyr, second lieutenant Ibrahim Hamid Suwailem Al-Khamaysah, and the martyr, Corporal Mamoun Issa Abdul-Ghani Al-Khadour, may Allah have mercy on them.

- **Suicide cases.**

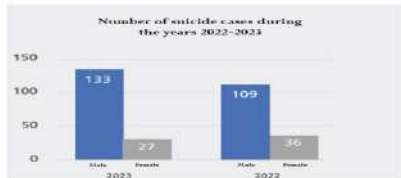
Ministry of Health statistics of 2023 showed that (160) suicide cases occurred, including (27) female cases and (133) male cases, distributed as follows: the Central Region (98) cases, the North Region (40) cases, and the South Region (22)<sup>5</sup> compared to the occurrence of (145) suicide cases, including (109) males and (36) females of 2022<sup>6</sup>. As for the number of suicide cases that occurred or were attempted in a public place, according to the text of Article (339) of the Penal Code No. (19) of 1960, as amended,

<sup>4</sup> Public Security Directorate letter No. 44/1/Cooperation/29850 dated 23/01/2024

<sup>5</sup> Ministry of Health Letter No. 44/2/453 dated 17/01/2024

<sup>6</sup> The nineteenth annual report on the human rights situation in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan of 2022, the axis of the right to life, liberty and physical integrity.

Which criminalized attempted suicide and established a penalty of imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months and a fine not exceeding one hundred dinars, or one of the two penalties against anyone who attempts suicide in a public place by committing any of the acts that usually lead to death, and the penalty is increased to double if this is done by collective agreement<sup>7</sup>.

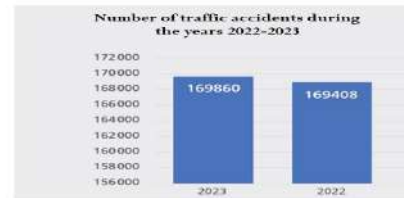


Here, the Center reiterates what was stated in its statement issued on April 29, 2022, in which it indicated that international standards and best international practices hereby emphasize the non-criminalization of attempted suicide, and the necessity of ensuring the provision of social, health, and psychological support to the perpetrators of this act; for the purpose of overcoming the reasons that led them to this practice, and hence the necessity of retracting this amendment.

<sup>7</sup> Article (339) of Amending Law No. (10) of 2022 to the Penal Code and its amendments No. 16 of 1960, published in the Official Gazette No. (5796) on page No. (3591) on 25/05/2022 and valid Effective on 24/06/2022."1 Anyone who attempts to commit suicide in a public place by committing any of the actions that usually lead to death shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months and a fine not exceeding one hundred dinars, or by one of these two penalties The penalty shall be doubled if this is done by collective agreement. 2 Whoever induces a person to commit suicide or assists him in any of the ways mentioned in Article (80) shall be punished by temporary detention. 3 If suicide remains attempted, that person shall be punished with imprisonment for a period of three months to two years, and the penalty shall be up to three years if permanent harm or disability results."

#### ● Traffic accidents

The number of traffic accidents in 2023 reached (169,860) traffic accidents resulting in (554) deaths and (16,414) injuries<sup>8</sup>, which is a number almost equal to the number of traffic accidents occurring in 2022, which amounted to (169,408) traffic accidents resulting in (562) deaths and (160,600) injuries<sup>9</sup>.



#### ● Drowning accidents

The number of drowning accidents in 2023 reached (163) accidents resulting in (73) deaths, including: (63) males and (10) females, in addition to (111) injuries, including (81) males and (30) females<sup>10</sup>. While the number of drowning incidents in 2022 was (162), resulting in (76) deaths, including (64) males and (12) females, while the number of injuries reached (111) people, including: (75) males and (36) females<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> Public Security Judiciary Directorate letter No. 44/1/Cooperation/29850 dated 23/01/2024

<sup>9</sup> The nineteenth annual report on the human rights situation in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan of 2022, the axis of the right to life, liberty and physical integrity.

<sup>10</sup> Public Security Judiciary Directorate letter No. (44/1/Cooperation) dated 23/01/2024, in response to the Center's letter No. (H A/845/S SH) dated 14/12/2023

<sup>11</sup> The nineteenth annual report on the human rights situation in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan of 2022, the axis of the right to life, liberty and physical integrity.

- **Stray dogs**

The number of cases of dog bites in 2023 was (7887) cases, of which: (5428) were males and (2459) were females<sup>12</sup>. The number of deaths resulting from dog bites in 2023 was (2) males (less than 18 years old), while the number of bitten cases in 2022 was (5177), resulting in (3) deaths<sup>13</sup>.

The center notes that in 2023, it received one complaint regarding a child being bitten in front of his place of residence in the capital, Amman, which caused severe injuries to his head and right eye but he soon passed away<sup>14</sup>. The Center also indicates that several observations have been received by the Center related to the danger of stray dogs to children, according to the outputs of field monitoring carried out by the Center in the governorates of the Kingdom.

As part of the Center's continued follow-up of a complaint received in 2022 related to the same issue, the Center received a response from the Ministry of Local Administration in 2023 regarding controlling the spread of stray dogs by working to find a suitable plot of land as quickly as possible to implement the project to reduce the breed of stray dogs, sterilize them, and vaccinate them (ABC)<sup>15</sup>, and for the purposes of follow-up, the Center addressed the Ministry of Local Administration<sup>16</sup> to find out what the municipalities referred to in the Center's letter had reached regarding the issue of finding a suitable plot of land to implement the project to reduce the breed of stray dogs, sterilize them, and vaccinate them.

<sup>12</sup> Letter from the Ministry of Health, letter No. (24/2/453) dated 17/01/2024.

<sup>13</sup> The nineteenth annual report on the human rights situation in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan of 2022, the axis of the right to life, liberty and physical integrity.

<sup>14</sup> Complaint No. (2023C21454) (dated 04/05/2023).

<sup>15</sup> Letter from the Ministry of Local Administration No. (T/13/40216/) dated 12/10/2023.

<sup>16</sup> Letter from the National Center for Human Rights No. (H.A./957/S SH) dated 27/12/2023.

- **Drugs**

The Center refers to the issuance of Medicinal Plants Regulation No. (34) of 2023, issued pursuant to Article (6) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, as amended, No. (23) of 2016<sup>17</sup>, to regulate the dealing with plants whose derivatives can be used for medical, pharmaceutical, scientific, or legitimate industrial purposes, and narcotic substances or psychotropic substances can be produced from them, their seeds, or any part thereof, at all stages of their growth or the state it is in, including seedlings and shoots, fertilized or unfertilized, provided that the Council of Ministers determines the plants that may be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this regulation and the instructions issued pursuant thereto and the places where they are grown based on the recommendation of a committee called (the Committee for Dealing with Medicinal Plants).

The number of people arrested on charges of possession and use of narcotic drugs in 2023 was (22,114), and the number of people arrested on charges of trafficking and promotion in 2023 was (13,116)<sup>18</sup>. While the number of drug trafficking crimes was (5,295) crimes in 2022, and the crimes of possession and use of narcotic substances reached (13,039) crimes<sup>19</sup>.

The Center praises the efforts of the Narcotics Control Department in its continuous endeavor to spread awareness and educate about the danger of the drug scourge in all institutions of society and its governmental and private sectors and universities, whether by holding dialogue sessions and awareness lectures.

<sup>17</sup> Medicinal Plants Regulation No. (34) of 2023, published on page 2941 of the Official Gazette No. 5870 dated 02/07/2023.

<sup>18</sup> Public Security Judiciary Directorate letter No. (44/1/Cooperation) dated 23/01/2024

<sup>19</sup> The nineteenth annual report on the human rights situation in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan of 2022, the axis of the right to life, liberty and physical integrity.

- **The right to freedom and personal security.**

- Administrative detention
- The number of those detained administratively and the number of administrative detention decisions in 2023 reached (37,395) detainees<sup>20</sup>, and the number of those detained for the purposes of deportation reached (156) compared to the number in 2022 (34,411) detainees.

Noting that during 2023, there will be no amendment to the Crime Prevention Law No. (7) of 1954, with the Center confirming its position on the Crime Prevention Law, in which it stresses the necessity of repealing the law, embodying the requirements of the principle of separation of powers.

The Center indicates that it held a closed discussion session on administrative detention on June 13, 2023. The aim of the session was to discuss the reality of implementing the Crime Prevention Law within the framework of administrative detention, and the session's outputs came within two basic frameworks, one legislative and the other practical, and among those outputs were<sup>21</sup>:

1. Inviting the House of Representatives to discuss the Crime Prevention Law, to adjust the wording of the law, provided that a balance is struck between the introduction of the law and its practical application.
2. Respecting the authority of judicial rulings as they represent the truth.
3. Controlling the authority to arrest in terms of determining the series of measures taken, and controlling the discretionary authority of administrative rulers in this regard.
4. Relying on the criminal record rather than the security record at the Public Security Directorate.

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<sup>20</sup> Public Security Judiciary Directorate letter No. (44/1/Cooperation) dated 23/01/2024

<sup>21</sup> A closed discussion session on administrative detention on 13/06/2023 was held at the headquarters of the National Center for Human Rights.

- **The tribal exodus (jalwa)**

In previous years, the National Center for Human Rights followed up on the approval of the document controlling tribal exodus (jalwa), which was prepared by the Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with the relevant authorities, and the Center reaffirms the importance of this document in practice, and the legal guarantees it contains that contribute to achieving the principle of the rule of the law and right, by reducing the phenomenon exodus "Jalwa" in preparation for its completion, which ensures the enjoyment of a wide range of rights guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution and regional and international human rights standards. In this context, the center confirms that it has received numerous complaints from individuals requesting that they return to their places of residence, given the harm they and their family members have been affected socially, economically, and psychologically due to the application of the tribal exodus "Jalwa".

- **Conditions of temporary detention centers**

In 2023, the Center carried out a number of unannounced visits to temporary detention centers, to review the detention environment and the extent of law enforcement agencies' commitment to guaranteeing the rights of detainees, in addition to reviewing the quality of services provided and their compliance with international standards.

The monitoring process included inspecting these centers in addition to conducting interviews with detainees. In this, the team noted the continuation of some practices of preventing detainees from receiving visits from their families, and sometimes not allowing them to communicate with the outside world by not facilitating telephone contact with their families in order to inform them of their whereabouts.

. In addition to the need to maintain the bathrooms of the centers that are experiencing overcrowding, and the need to provide additional meals, as the center provides one meal at the expense of the center, and the detainee bears the responsibility of purchasing the rest of the meals and drinking water at his own expense, in addition to some notes related to the infrastructure.

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- Reform and Rehabilitation Centers:

The National Center for Human Rights documented the issuance of instructions for dealing with inmates in reform and rehabilitation centers who are on strike of 2023<sup>22</sup>, and the Center praises the issuance of these instructions that unified the procedures for dealing with strike cases in reform and rehabilitation centers on the one hand, and guaranteed the inmate's right to strike, noting that the inmate's health condition is taken into account as a priority, for example, the continuation of the strike if the striking inmate takes chronic medications.

The number of inmates in reform and rehabilitation centers of 2023 reached (24,240) inmates<sup>23</sup>, compared to (21,132) inmates during 2022, and the center carried out (100) monitoring visits to the reform and rehabilitation centers in 2023<sup>24</sup>, (4) visits to Al-Bashir Hospital custody suite, and a visit to Al-Tutanji Hospital custody suite, and the most prominent things the center monitored during those visits are the following:

The continuing problem of overcrowding in reform and rehabilitation centers affects the rights of inmates and limits the possibility of providing services to them, which explains the high rate of overcrowding in reform and rehabilitation centers, which reached (182%)<sup>25</sup>, as the problem of overcrowding appears in the risk of violence, and the problem of overcrowding is a fundamental challenge in developing rehabilitation programs for inmates, and the problem of overcrowding leads to the spread of diseases,

<sup>22</sup> Instructions for dealing with inmates of reform and rehabilitation centers who are on strike of 2023 published in the Official Gazette on page (3702) of Official Gazette No. (5875) dated 16/08/2023, issued by Article (71) of the Public Health Law, as amended No. (47) of 2008 and article (43) of the Reform and Rehabilitation Centers Law, as amended, No. (9) of 2004.

<sup>23</sup> Public Security Judiciary Directorate letter No. (44/1/Cooperation) dated 23/01/2024

<sup>24</sup> Ibid

<sup>25</sup> Ibid

as the number of inmates suffering from chest (contagious) diseases in reform and rehabilitation centers reached (9) inmates<sup>26</sup>.

Thus, in 2023, the center received (3) complaints submitted by families of inmates in reform and rehabilitation centers who had been exposed to health problems during their placement in the reform and rehabilitation centers, represented by their infection with a contagious disease (tuberculosis), which was as follows:

1. An inmate in Irbid Reform and Rehabilitation Center, and the center addressed the Directorate of Public Security regarding the possibility of his family obtaining a permanent permit to visit him while he was in the hospital, and the center responded by granting the inmate's family a visit permit for the duration of his stay in the hospital on days (Sunday/Tuesday/Friday)<sup>27</sup>.
2. An inmate in Ma'an Reform and Rehabilitation Center, and the Public Security Directorate was contacted regarding enabling the complainant's son to communicate with the outside world and with his family, to provide social and moral support, as well as helping her transfer her son to Al-Bashir Hospital to receive treatment under specialized medical supervision and control in the aforementioned hospital. The Public Security Directorate responded by isolating the inmate after confirming that he was infected with tuberculosis until he recovered, following the health protocol applicable in such cases and preventing his contact with other inmates to limit the spread of the disease, knowing that he was not deprived of his rights in terms of making calls with his family<sup>28</sup>.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid

<sup>27</sup> Letter from the National Center for Human Rights No. (H A/722/S SH) dated 03/09/2023, and letter from the Public Security Judicial Directorate, Office of Transparency and Human Rights No. (118/2023/Transparency) dated 08/10/2023.

<sup>28</sup> Letter from the Public Security Judicial Directorate, Office of Transparency and Human Rights No. (12/1/2023/Transparency/45328).



3. An inmate in Ma'an Reform and Rehabilitation Center, and the Directorate of Public Security was informed that he was shackled, despite the existence of a medical recommendation not to shackle him; taking into account his health condition, as he suffers from tuberculosis, and in this regard, the National Center for Human Rights carried out a visit to the inmate in the isolation ward of Al-Bashir Hospital, and the Public Security Directorate responded that the inmate had been admitted to the ICU (isolation room) because he was suffering from tuberculosis, the supervising doctor recommended not to shackle him, and this was implemented<sup>29</sup>.

The number of suicide cases reached (3) cases inside reform and rehabilitation centers during 2023, which is a number equal to (4) cases in 2022, while (189) suicide attempts were thwarted in reform and rehabilitation centers during 2023, compared to 2022, when it reached (131) cases<sup>30</sup>.

The Center also monitored the role of reform and rehabilitation centers in raising the educational level of inmates in reform centers by enabling them to benefit from academic education and vocational training opportunities. It held (477) literacy courses, from which (11,197) inmates benefited, and (110) applicants for the general secondary exam took the exam<sup>31</sup>.

In the same context, the Public Security Directorate opened the "Omar Bin Abdulaziz" School, which teaches the Ministry of Education's curriculum to inmates inside Zarqa Reform and Rehabilitation Center, which provides teaching services to inmates from the seventh grade to the second secondary grade (literary), with a total of (100) inmates in the first stage,

<sup>29</sup> Letter from the Public Security Judicial Directorate, Office of Transparency and Human Rights No. (56/2023/Transparency/16762) dated 08/05/2023.

<sup>30</sup> Public Security Directorate letter No. (1/44/Cooperation) dated 23/01/2024.

<sup>31</sup> Public Security Directorate letter No. (1/44/Cooperation) dated 23/01/2024.

added that the responsible teaching staff are public security personnel who hold a first university degree (bachelor degree) and have passed the Ministry of Education's qualification courses for teachers and to teach the Ministry's curriculum<sup>32</sup>.

The center also indicates the Public Security Directorate's keenness to care for and follow up on the inmates and motivate them to engage in reform programs, as (25) inmates who had memorized the Holy Qur'an were honored, and (25) inmates were honored who passed high school, because of their insistence on learning, developing their knowledge and religious values, and correcting their behavior<sup>33</sup>.

#### Recommendations:

1. The Center reiterates its recommendation regarding removing legislative deficiencies related to the criminalization of torture and cruel and inhuman treatment and compensating victims. This is done by amending Article (208) of the Penal Code to ensure that the crime of torture shall not be included in the amnesty and statute of limitations, and criminalizes its attempt, in addition to explicitly stipulating the right of torture victims to compensation and establishing a special fund to support them and provide them with psychological and physical rehabilitation.
2. The Center reiterates its recommendation regarding taking the necessary measures from all parties to reduce the problem of overcrowding in reform and rehabilitation centers, including expanding alternatives to custodial sentences and alternatives to detention.
3. The Center reiterates its recommendation regarding conducting the necessary studies to determine the causes of suicide in order to reduce them according to social studies and a participatory approach between state institutions.

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.psd.gov.jo/ar>

<sup>33</sup> Public Security Directorate letter No. (1/44/Cooperation) dated 23/01/2024

### The right to access to justice and a fair-trial guarantees

It is one of the basic human rights guaranteed by international, regional and national conventions<sup>34</sup>, where Jordanian Constitution guarantees the right to a fair-trial in many of its articles through the adoption of several well-established principles, including: the principle of separation of powers, the independence of the judiciary, the presumption of innocence, and the principle of public trials.

The normative content of this right is based on monitoring the progress achieved in ensuring respect for the principle of the rule of law, and following up and monitoring some issues related to the right; represented by litigation before the administrative judiciary, access to a justice facility, legal aid, judicial detention, online court hearing, alternative punishments, permissions for criminal disputes, and the right to litigation.

In terms of legislative developments, the year 2023 witnessed amendments related to the axis, which we present as follows:

#### First: Non-custodial sentences for juveniles:

Instructions were issued amending the Instructions on the Basis for Implementing Non-custodial Sentences of 2023, issued pursuant to Paragraph (C) of Article (44) of Juvenile Law No. (32) of 2015, whereby Article (6) of the Instructions relating to the periods of implementation of non-custodial sentences was amended, whereby the court was authorized to increase the maximum working hours to which the juvenile is subject, to no more than (25) working hours; in order to implement vocational rehabilitation programs in accordance with the behavior monitor's report and the circumstances of the case.

#### Second: Online Court Hearing

1. Law amending the Civil Procedure Code of 2023 No. (14) of 2023: It included amending many articles contained in the Civil Procedure Code,

<sup>34</sup> Articles 8 and 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and Articles 27 and 101 of the Jordanian Constitution.

as the amended law included eighteen articles, and the most prominent of these amendments are those related to the right to online court hearing and at the same time the right to fair-trial guarantees:

- Amending Article (6) of the law related to methods of notification, as the amendment permitted notification by sending a text message, by e-mail, or by using one of the electronic means, in addition to permitting the notification of regulations, their annexes, memorandums, and pleadings electronically, and if the person sought resides in another court area in the Kingdom, it is required that he is unable to be notified using electronic means first before being notified by the court within whose jurisdiction he resides.
- Amending Article (11) of the law, whereby experts or witnesses can now be notified via text message, email address, or using one of the electronic means stipulated in the regulation. In the event that it is not possible to notify by electronic means, notification shall be made in accordance with the procedures specified for notifying opponents in this law.
- Amending Article (12) of the law related to notification by publication, as the amendment permitted notification on the websites of the most widespread local newspapers in the Kingdom.
- Amending Article (13) of the law relating to notification of those residing outside the country, adding the possibility of notifying him using an electronic means at the address declared by him in the case.
- Amending Article (15) of the law relating to the effects of notification, where electronic notification is considered to produce its legal effects from the date of receipt.
- Amending the articles related to the statement of claim, the procedures for submitting the claim, and the plea<sup>35</sup>, and stipulating the possibility of submitting them by electronic means. The amendments also stipulated that the plaintiff and defendant are obligated to update their contact information whenever there is a change in it at any stage of the case, otherwise the previously declared data shall be considered to be the correct data for notification purposes.

<sup>35</sup> Articles (56, 57, 59) of the Civil Procedure Code No. (24) of 1988, as amended.

- Amending both Article (71) and Article (182), so that it allows the court to hold hearings other than the first session of the trial in the absence of the parties to submit memorandums sent or deposited in paper or electronically with the clerk of the court, or to exchange lists, or to submit memorandums and pleadings, to submit memorandums and pleadings, or to issue preparatory decisions, provided that they are notified immediately upon their issuance in accordance with the notification procedures stipulated in the law.
- Amending Article (81) of the law, which relates to the procedures for giving testimony, whereby, upon the request of one of the parties and with the approval of the other party, the court is permitted to hear the statements of any witness using modern means of communication without his appearance before the court, whether the witness is inside or outside the Kingdom, in accordance with the regulation.

The Center appreciates these amendments that will reduce the duration of litigation, through developing the electronic regulation and employing modern technological means.

2. The law amending the Sharia Procedures Law of 2023, as the amended law included seven articles, and the most prominent of these amendments are those related to online court hearing, and at the same time the right to fair-trial guarantees:

Article (11 bis), as amended pursuant to the amendments, permits the court, the Sharia prosecution, and the family reconciliation, mediation, and reconciliation offices to use electronic means and modern technologies in their procedures, provided that it specifies the terms, conditions, and procedures for using electronic means

and modern technologies and storing data, information and documents shall be determined in accordance with a regulation issued for this purpose.

3. In its previous reports, the Center recommended the need to technically strengthen the remote trial regulation in courts, expand its scope, and address technical and logistical challenges while implementing fair-trial guarantees.

The Center commends the measures taken by the Ministry of Justice to technically strengthen the remote trial regulation in the courts and expand its scope, as the number of remote trial sessions held in the courts reached (133,581) sessions during 2023 compared to (72,918) sessions during 2022. (15) halls were also created in reform and rehabilitation centers during 2023, and (20) halls were created in the courts<sup>36</sup>.

According to this expansion, the total number of halls prepared for conducting remote trials has become as follows:

- The reform and rehabilitation centers have (48) halls.
- The courts have (54) halls, including juvenile courts.
- Juvenile detention centers have (3) halls.
- The Family Protection Department has (1) one hall.

**A table showing the distribution of halls prepared for conducting trials remotely**

| Reform and rehabilitation centers | courts including juvenile courts | Juvenile detention centers | Family Protection Department |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 48                                | 54                               | 3                          | 1                            |

<sup>36</sup> Ministry of Justice letter No. (3/6/2338) dated 04/02/2024.

### Legal assistance:

During 2023, the Center monitored an increase in the number of beneficiaries of compulsory and optional legal aid services in courts and public prosecution, reaching (2,222) beneficiaries, compared to about (1,580) beneficiaries during the year. The increase is a result of the amendments that occurred in the legal aid regulation during 2022<sup>37</sup>.

The number of requests for optional legal aid before the courts and public prosecution during 2023 was (872) requests, while the number of beneficiaries of optional legal aid before the courts and public prosecution during 2023 was (708) beneficiaries.

The Center emphasizes what was stated in its previous report on the necessity of reconsidering the legal aid regulation to ensure the comprehensiveness of the organization in accordance with the requirements of Articles (208) and (63 bis) of the Criminal Procedure Code No. (9) of 1961, as amended, providing legal regulation of compulsory legal aid and requests for legal aid submitted to the Minister of Justice by the competent official authorities or any of the relevant authorities.

The following tables showed the numbers of beneficiaries of legal aid at the courts and public prosecution for the period from 01/01/2023 until 31/12/2023:

**Numbers of beneficiaries of compulsory legal aid services in courts**

| Juvenile | Elderly | Women | People with disabilities | Jordanian | Non-Jordanian |
|----------|---------|-------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 452      | 4       | 50    | 0                        | 673       | 99            |

**Numbers of beneficiaries of compulsory legal aid services at the Public Prosecution**

| Juvenile | Elderly | Women | People with disabilities | Jordanian | Non-Jordanian |
|----------|---------|-------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 310      | 9       | 32    | 0                        | 662       | 84            |

**Numbers of beneficiaries of optional legal aid services at the Public Prosecution**

| Juvenile | Elderly | Women | People with disabilities | Jordanian | Non-Jordanian |
|----------|---------|-------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 57       | 1       | 23    | 0                        | 350       | 38            |

**Numbers of beneficiaries of optional legal aid services in courts**

| Juvenile | Elderly | Women | People with disabilities | Jordanian | Non-Jordanian |
|----------|---------|-------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 0        | 6       | 12    | 0                        | 303       | 16            |

<sup>37</sup> Ibid

### Litigation before the administrative courts:

The number of cases received by the Administrative Court reached (751) cases during 2023, compared to about (668) lawsuits during 2022<sup>38</sup>. This increase indicates the importance of taking into account the Centre's previous recommendations regarding the necessity of establishing administrative courts in the North and South regions, determining case fees according to clear principles, and not leaving the issue to the discretion of the president of the arbitrator Administrative or depending on the case.

### Judicial detention:

During 2023, the Center monitored a decrease in the number of judicial detainees, reaching (19,163) detainees, compared to approximately (37,850) detainees during 2022, and (20,070) detainees during 2021, as the following chart shows:

| Year                         | 2023   | 2022   | 2021   |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Number of judicial detainees | 19,163 | 37,850 | 20,070 |

In this context, the Center reiterates its emphasis on the necessity of adhering to the legal controls for detention stipulated in Article (114) of the Criminal Procedure Code No. (9) of 1961, as amended, and activating the use of alternatives to detention, as the number of decisions issued to impose alternatives to detention, whether issued by courts or public prosecution departments, reached (2279), according to the table that explains the nature of the alternatives imposed and their numbers<sup>40</sup>:

| Alternative   | Number of decisions |
|---|---------------------|
| Staying at home   | 5                   |
| Residence in the geographical area                      | 2                   |
| Electronic monitoring                                   | 146                 |
| Travel ban  | 2064                |
| Deposit a sum of money                                  | 4                   |
| Providing a judicial guarantee                          | 52                  |
| Prohibiting the defendant from going to specific places | 6                   |
| Grand Total   | 2279                |

### Alternatives to custodial sentences:

During 2023, the Center monitored a decrease in the number of rulings issued imposing alternatives to custodial sentences in 2023, reaching (3921) rulings, compared to about (4193) rulings during 2022. The following is a table that shows the nature and number of applied alternatives<sup>41</sup>:

| Alternative type  | Number of rulings in the case | Number of rulings in replacement requests | Total       |
|---|-------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Electronic monitoring                                   | 46                            | 83  | 129         |
| Prohibiting the defendant from going to specific places | 24                            | 6   | 30          |
| Community service                                       | 1145                          | 2139                                      | 3284        |
| Community monitoring                                    | 302                           | 176                                       | 478         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1517</b>                   | <b>2404</b>                               | <b>3921</b> |

<sup>38</sup> The annual report on the situation of the regular courts, the administrative judiciary, and the public prosecution issued by the Judicial Council of 2023, p. 31.

<sup>39</sup> Judicial Council letter (2/1/30/822) dated 2702/2024

<sup>40</sup> The annual report on the situation of the regular courts, the administrative judiciary, and the public prosecution issued by the Judicial Council of 2023, p. 78.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid, p. 76

**Disputing permission:**

The Center reaffirms its previous recommendation to reconsider Article (62) of the Law of the Regular Bar Association, as amended No. (11) of 1972, due to its incompatibility with the principle of equal litigation, in addition to the practical problems that result from maintaining this text, and the obstacle it poses to the right to litigation guaranteed to everyone without discrimination, and the full enjoyment of the guarantees of the right to a fair-trial.

**Right to litigation:**

Article (291) of the Jordanian Criminal Procedure Code, as amended, No. (9) of 1961, allows the Minister of Justice to submit a written order to the Director of the Public Prosecution to present a case file to the Court of Cassation due to the occurrence of a procedure in violation of the law or the issuance of a ruling or decision in violation of the law, the individual cannot submit a request for cassation directly to the judiciary, but must first submit it to the Minister of Justice, as article (291) of the Criminal Procedure Code also requires that a request for a retrial be submitted to the Minister of Justice first, and it is also taken into account that the text does not benefit except the defendant from this method of appeal.

In this context, the Center received many complaints that included problems that prevented individuals from submitting a request for a retrial or a request to overturn the ruling to the judiciary because the Minister of Justice rejected these requests without explaining the reasons. As well as, the Center calls for a reconsideration of these texts, which allow the Minister of Justice to consider requests for a retrial and annulment of the ruling, as they are not consistent with the principle of judicial independence contained in the Jordanian Constitution.

The number of cassation requests by written order received by the Minister of Justice during 2023 was (1106), the number of accepted requests was (359), the number of rejected requests was (625), and the number of applications under study was (122) applications. The number of requests for retrial received by the Minister of Justice was (188), the number of accepted requests was (24), the number of rejected requests was (152), and the number of requests under study was (12)<sup>42</sup>.

The tables show the number of cassation requests by written order and retrial requests:

**Number of cassation requests by written order received and dismissed during 2023**

| Received in 2023 | Dismissed from the received in 2023 | Dismissing of cassation | Cassation appeal |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 384              | 288                                 | 106                     | 182              |

**Number of requests for retrial**

| Received in 2023 | Dismissed from the received in 2023 | Request Accept | Reject |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------|
| 24               | 16                                  | 13             | 3      |

<sup>42</sup> Ministry of Justice letter No. (3/6/2338) dated 04/02/2024.

**Recommendations:**

1. The Center reiterates its recommendation regarding the establishment of administrative courts in the North and South regions, determining case fees according to clear principles and not leaving the issue to the discretion of the President of the Administrative Court or according to the case.
2. Reconsidering Article (62) of the Bar Association Law, as amended No. (11) of 1972, which requires a lawyer not to accept a power of attorney in a case against a lawyer or the Bar Council before approval by the President of the Bar Association.
3. The necessity of adhering to the legal controls for detention contained in Article (114) of the Criminal Procedure Code No. (9) of 1961, as amended, and activating the resort to alternatives to detention and alternative sentences to the custodial sentences.

## The right to nationality, residence, movement and asylum

### First: The right to nationality:

It is one of the basic human rights guaranteed by international and national standards. The normative content of the right to nationality is based on the right of every individual to enjoy the nationality of a specific country. Because this right is based on the importance of determining the legal status of the individual, including the rights he enjoys and the obligations that arise from him, in preference to foreigners. The importance and necessity of this right is evident, given that nationality is the criterion that distinguishes between human rights and citizenship rights, as the latter rights are considered a special type of human rights. If human rights are established for the individual due to his human characteristic, regardless of any discriminatory element, then the rights of the citizen are what are established for the individual due to the characteristic of nationality that links him to a particular country and distinguishes him from a foreigner.

This right is rooted in Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which stipulates that everyone has the right to a nationality, and no person may be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor the right to change his nationality. However, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights did not stipulate the right to nationality so explicitly. Rather, it stated in the third paragraph of its article (24) that (every child has the right to acquire a nationality).

The year 2023 witnessed the amendment of the second paragraph of Article (8) of the Nationality Law<sup>43</sup>, by abolishing the condition of the end of marital life in order to return to her Jordanian nationality if she marries a non-Jordanian and renounces her nationality, so that after the amendment it became as follows: "A Jordanian woman who married a non-Jordanian and obtained her husband's nationality may retain her Jordanian nationality unless she renounces it in accordance with the provisions of this law.

<sup>43</sup> Law No. (9) of 2023, a law amending the Jordanian Nationality Law, published in the Official Gazette, No. 5847 dated 03/01/2023.

She has the right to submit a request to the Minister of Interior to restore her Jordanian nationality in accordance with its provisions."<sup>44</sup>

The Center appreciates the government's response to its recommendation contained in its previous annual reports and believes that this amendment enhances women's rights, contributes to preserving family ties, and is consistent with Article (6/4) of the Constitution and Article Nine of the Constitution Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

- The instructions for implementing the Council of Ministers' decision regarding granting facilities to the children of Jordanian women married to non-Jordanians of 2014 remain without any significant amendment despite the Centre's repeated recommendations on the necessity of reconsidering lifting the reservation on Article Nine, Paragraph (2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which requires states parties to grant women a right equal to that of men to confer citizenship on their children.
- The National Center for Human Rights carried out a monitoring visit to the cities and villages in which the Bedouins live (Mafraq, Al-Ruwaished, Al-Safawi, Al-Khalidiyah, and Al-Mabrouka) and met with a large number of them, some of whom pointed out many of the difficulties and challenges that the Bedouins suffer from, the most prominent of which are:
  1. Registration of newborns. Previously, the nationality field was left blank and a phrase was written for the taxpayer to prove his nationality. However, at the present time, it is required to write any nationality in order to register the newborn.
  2. The identification card, called the residence card, expires at the beginning of 2024, and no mechanism for renewing the card has been identified at this moment.
  3. The Bedouins suffer from their inability to open a bank account, especially those working in commercial companies.
  4. Not getting health insurance.
  5. Inability to marry due to lack of registration in the Sharia courts.

<sup>44</sup> The old text included: "A woman who lost her Jordanian nationality through marriage may return it with a declaration prepared in the manner stipulated in this law within two years from the date of her husband's death or the annulling of her marriage."



### Second: The right to residence and movement:

Freedom of movement and residence is one of the basic human freedoms that falls within the scope of personal freedom. This right has a wide scope, as it includes the right to internal movement, choosing a place of residence, and freedom of external movement, such as travel or immigration, as well as freedom to return to the country<sup>45</sup>.

The year 2023 witnessed many developments related to this right:

1. On 07/05/2023, a Royal Decree was issued approving the Council of Ministers' decision including approval to suspend the implementation of Defense Law No. (13) of 1992 throughout the country.
2. The year witnessed the return of (6,000) people since the implementation of the tribal exodus (jalwa) in mid-2021.

### Third: Asylum:

Asylum is a legal status based on protection granted to a person who left his country for fear of persecution, abuse, or killing because of his political positions, opinions, gender, or religion. Asylum may also be imposed on people as a result of wars or natural and environmental disasters.

- The year 2023 witnessed the participation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the Global Refugee Forum held in Geneva,

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<sup>45</sup> Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates: "Everyone has freedom of movement and to choose his place of residence within the borders of every state," and "Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own country." He has the right to return to it. In the Jordanian Constitution, Article 9 stipulates: "It is not permissible to deport a Jordanian from the lands of the Kingdom."

A Jordanian may not be prohibited from residing in a certain place or prevented from moving, nor may he be required to reside in a specific place except in the circumstances specified in the law.

<sup>46</sup> Letter from the Minister of Interior No. 30/670/646, dated 04/01/2024

where the Kingdom's position was stated through a speech presented by His Majesty the Hashemite King Abdullah II bin Hussein, and he indicated in his speech the following<sup>47</sup>:

"Jordan hosts approximately 4 million refugees of different nationalities, including about 1.4 million Syrians. In total, refugees represent more than a third of our population of about 11 million people. Providing safe haven for refugees is an integral part of Jordanian national principles, especially in this turbulent region. We cannot ignore them. Because that contradicts the core of our identity. But Jordanians increasingly feel that the world is ignoring them and ignoring their efforts as hosts of refugees.

As serious crises compete for international attention, the focus on the plight of refugees and the countries hosting them declines, but the international community does not have the luxury of ignoring this issue. My friends, a few months ago, I spoke before the United Nations General Assembly and urged the world not to forget the Syrian refugees. Now, as we gather, we find ourselves dealing with another displacement crisis in the region. More than 1.9 million Palestinians in Gaza, many of whom are refugees, have been forced to flee their homes inside the Strip amid a continuing bombing campaign. With all eyes turned to Gaza, the international community must realize more than ever that temporary solutions are no longer possible, and that global crises require sharing responsibility in the long term. In turn, Jordan is pressing for a more coordinated humanitarian response in Gaza, and we provide support to our Palestinian brothers and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in every possible way, but our country still bears the heavy costs and burdens resulting from hosting the refugee communities living among us.

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<sup>47</sup> Excerpts from the speech of His Majesty the Hashemite King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein at the Global Refugee Forum held in Geneva on 13/12/2023, published on His Majesty's website As Abdullah Ibn Al-Hussein <https://kingabdullah.jo/ar/speeches>

To further clarify the size of this burden, the number of refugees registered with UNRWA in Jordan is 2.3 million, in addition to more than 730,000 others registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, there are about another million refugees who are not registered with either agency. So international partners have a vital role to play in dealing with this, and our response plan to the Syrian refugee crisis has received global recognition, yet it has never been fully funded. In fact, international funding needed to fulfill pledges is declining steadily, and so far this year we have only received about 22 percent of the response plan needs, which is the lowest level on record. The remaining needs are covered through Jordan's general budget, which has exacerbated the expenditure challenge and placed additional pressure on our depleted resources, especially water, at a time when we are working hard to deal with the dual consequences of the refugee crisis and climate change. In a country where the per capita share of water is one of the lowest in the world, meeting the water needs of citizens and refugees has become a serious challenge. One of the major projects, which we hope will alleviate this emergency, aims to desalinate Red Sea water from the Gulf of Aqaba, to be supplied to major population centers. We will remain committed to providing education to refugees in our schools, providing them with medical services in our hospitals, and providing them with access to opportunities to earn their livelihood, but the availability of sufficient funding is pivotal so that we can continue to provide basic services. In the absence of long-term commitments in flexible international financing, the living conditions of refugees and their host communities in Jordan will become increasingly fragile, and the risks they face will increase. The sharp decline in funding for key agencies such as the World Food Program and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is negatively affecting the level of services provided to refugees, including cash assistance, education and health care.

After reducing the support provided by the World Food Program this year to vulnerable refugees, the decline in food security and self-reliance has become a bitter reality for the vast majority of them, as 91 percent of them suffer from food insecurity, compared to 63 percent before the reduction in support. My friends, for many years, we and other host countries have provided shelter, education, health services, job opportunities and resources for refugees, despite the high cost that has come at the expense of our economic progress. This is a long-term commitment that we undertake on behalf of the international community. To the same extent, the international community cannot resort to short-term solutions and ignore this crisis to move on to dealing with the next one. Jordan has long warned of the dangers of leaving a lost generation behind, but instead of making progress in reaching a solution to the renewed and continuing to expand refugee crisis, despite the emergence of new refugee crises, we see interest in this crisis diminishing. "This cannot continue, and the international community cannot prosper if it turns its back on the most vulnerable groups."

#### **Palestinian refugees:**

The number of Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan is 10 official camps, recognized by UNRWA, and 3 unofficial camps, namely: Prince Hassan Camp, Madaba Camp, and Sukhna Camp, as the number of refugees inside official camps is 396 thousand people, which represents 17.4% of the total number of registered refugees in Jordan.

Jordan is the only Arab country that has granted full citizenship to all Palestinian refugees residing there and their descendants.

Article 3, Paragraph 2 of the Jordanian Nationality Law of 1954 stipulates the conditions under which Palestinians - that is, people with former Palestinian nationality - can obtain Jordanian nationality.

- The financial crisis of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) continues for the fourth year in a row, as a direct result of the decision of the previous American administration to stop aid and financial commitments to UNRWA, which threatened the agency's work because of the decision, especially the educational and health services that the agency provides to Palestinian refugees in Jordan and the region. On June 2, 2023, a conference was held at the United Nations headquarters to announce donations to UNRWA to try to solve the chronic financial problem it faces and to call for strengthening support for the agency concerned with assisting about six million Palestinian refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), which faces a chronic budget deficit, launched an appeal to collect \$1.6 billion from the international community to cover the expenses of its programs in 2023, the Arab countries called for more solidarity, especially after the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip.

#### **Iraqi refugees:**

The number of Iraqi refugees registered in Jordan with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reached 62,132 Iraqi refugees.

#### **Syrian refugees:**

More than thirteen years after opening the Jordanian borders to Syrian refugees, and hosting more than 1.4 million Syrians, Jordan is stuck facing the dilemma of continuing to host these refugees, who constitute a huge burden on the local economy, at a time when the international community's aid and support is declining.

- The year 2023 witnessed a decrease in the number of Syrian refugees in Jordan, by 0.742% from its beginning, until last July 31, by 4,908 refugees, as a report issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees indicated that the number of refugees registered with the Commission, as of the end of last July, was 656,762 refugees, compared to 661,670 refugees who were registered in the Kingdom at the beginning of this year.

In 2023, there were some developments in the Syrian refugee file, which we can summarize as follows:

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that 2,582 Syrian refugees in Jordan have returned to their country since the beginning of this year (2023).
- The period for correcting the conditions of Syrian workers and exempting employers and Syrian refugee workers from work permit fees and health certificate fees will continue until 31/12/2023.
- The Jordanian Ministry of Interior issued a decision deeming the security identity (security card) for Syrian refugees in the Kingdom valid until the end of December of this year.
- The Jordanian Ministry of Labor issued 3,730 work permits in "specific professions" for Syrian refugees from the beginning of 2016 until the end of 2023, according to the official spokesman for the Jordanian Ministry of Labor.

#### **Field monitoring visits to the camps**

The National Center for Human Rights team carried out a monitoring visit to Zaatari camp, and the results of the visit were as follows:

- The total area of the camp is 5,300 dunums and is inhabited by 84,244 thousand male and female refugees.
- There are 32 schools and 9 kindergarten centers inside the camp, and the number of male and female students inside the camp is 22,042.
- In terms of health, the camp has one hospital and 8 medical centers that provide services.
- The water problem still exists inside the camp; the camp has three wells that pump drinking water and it is delivered to the camp residents by transporting it in designated tanks and placing it in shared water tanks for the camp residents, without a water network pumping water into the refugees' caravans.

- The problem of power outages still exists, despite the presence of a solar energy field with a capacity of 12 megawatts, but the power reaches refugee homes only nine hours a day, and the problem of shared bathrooms is still unresolved.

The National Center for Human Rights team also carried out a monitoring visit to Azraq camp, and the results of the visit were as follows:

- The camp is inhabited by 45,362 people, the percentage of males is 49% and females are 51%.
- There are 15 schools inside the camp, in the morning and evening hours.
- The camp includes four commercial markets, in which there are 488 shops.
- There is also one hospital and three health centers in the camp that provide their services
- With regard to water, the problem still exists related to pumping water by drawing it from artesian wells and transferring it to shared tanks among the camp residents, without a water network that pumps directly to the refugees' caravans.
- The problem of electricity and its outages still exists, as it reaches refugees only nine hours a day despite the presence of solar energy inside the camp. The problem of shared bathrooms also still exists without there being private bathrooms for each caravan inside the camp.

The Center monitored the continuation of government efforts to provide services to Syrian refugees,

noting the repercussions of the Kingdom's hosting of Syrian refugees on sectors and infrastructure, which can be summarized as follows<sup>48</sup>:

- Impact on limited job opportunities, high housing and food costs, which is associated with increased poverty rates.
- Intensifying vaccination campaigns against infectious diseases, and putting pressure on the operational capacity within hospitals and public health centres, especially in the northern governorates.
- Providing educational services to Syrian students in Jordanian public schools, which led to increased pressure on infrastructure and supplies, as well as overcrowding, which necessitated the opening of schools in Syrian camps, the expansion of the construction of kindergartens in host Syrian communities and camps, and an increase in the employment of educational personnel.
- The rate of child marriage (females) has increased at the national level since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, due to the increase in the number of marriages of Syrian refugee women under 18 years of age. These percentages have played a role in increasing fertility rates and rates of violence against women and girls.
- Providing health care to Syrian refugee women, including maternity and childhood services, free of charge, similar to Jordanian women, and the repercussions of these services on the health sector.
- Increasing pressures on services, infrastructure and resources, which has contributed to creating challenges to the right to an adequate standard of living, especially by doubling the challenges in obtaining good housing in light of rising prices.

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<sup>48</sup> Report of the Second Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals 2022.

**Recommendations:**

1. Strengthening communication between Jordan, refugee organizations and human rights bodies in partnership with the Ministry of Planning to reduce the burdens of asylum on infrastructure and important sectors.
2. Cooperation with the European Union and international organizations.
3. The necessity of developing a comprehensive strategy for refugees and a plan for their programs and projects directed to them in a manner consistent with national priorities.
4. The necessity of communicating with the international community to continue supporting refugees and cooperating with host countries to provide the necessary assistance and help them overcome their difficult circumstances, as well as to end the refugee situation and return the refugees to their homeland.

### The right to elect and be elected:

One of the basic rights guaranteed by international and national conventions<sup>49</sup>, the normative content of the right is based on three main standards: (integrity of the electoral process, periodicity of elections, and justice in representation), in which every citizen, without any form of discrimination, has the right to participate in the management of public affairs, whether directly or through freely chosen representatives, and to elect and be elected in fair, periodic and secret elections and on an equal basis, stemming from the free expression of the will of the voters.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has strengthened the establishment of fundamental constitutional and human rights principles with regard to parliamentary elections, most notably: the principle of periodic elections and the people being the source of authority, as well as establishing the principle of separation of powers, as the legislator placed the authority to assess the criterion of necessity to extend the life of the House of Representatives or postpone the election date in the hands of the head of authority (His Majesty the King) in accordance with Article (68/1)<sup>50</sup>, which granted him exclusively the mandate to apply the rule of exception as a guarantee of the supremacy of the Constitution and the element of balance between the three powers; which led to the stability of the political regulation, strengthening legitimacy and respect for constitutional standards. It is also an act of and respect for international human rights standards related to the right to vote and run for office, foremost of which is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states in Article 21 that the will of the people is the source of authority, it is expressed in periodic fair elections held on the basis of secret ballot and freedom of electing.

Likewise, what is guaranteed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Article 25 thereof,

<sup>49</sup> Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article (B/25) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

<sup>50</sup> Article (68/1) The term of the House of Representatives is four solar years starting from the date of announcing the results of the general election in the Official Gazette. The King may extend the term of the Council by royal decree to a period of no less than one year and no more than two years.

which obliges states to guarantee the right of individuals to participate in the management of public affairs and the right to elect and be elected in fair elections, as the same covenant also affirmed the principle of periodic elections, as well as the principle of universal suffrage. It should be noted that Jordan has ratified this covenant and published it in the Official Gazette.

By reading Election Law No. 4 of 2022, we find that it ensured fair representation among all Jordanians of all sects and religions. The mixed electoral regulation was adopted (closed proportional list and open proportional list), whereby (41) seats were allocated to the closed proportional lists with a (threshold) percentage of (2.5%) and (97) seats are allocated to the local constituencies, with a (threshold) discount rate of (7%). They are elected according to the open local list. It was also fair to women and youth, as it reduced the age of the candidate to (25) years instead of (35) years, and required the participation of women and youth in the lists. It also allocated (18) seats for the women's quota, and the law adopted an increase in the number of seats for parties and alliances by (65%) as a minimum of the total seats in the House of Representatives, as the law stipulates the following:

1. Empowering women: The law increased the number of seats allocated to women to (18) at the level of local electoral districts, and required the presence of at least one woman among the first candidates on the general (party) list, as well as among the next three candidates.
2. Empowering youth: The law, specifically Article (C/10), reduced the age of the candidate to (25) years before (90) days from the day of voting. In addition to the presence of a young man or woman (35 years old or younger) among the first five candidates on the party list.
3. Encouraging political participation: The law does not require the resignation of a public sector employee running for elections in Article (B/11), as it is sufficient for the public employee to submit a request for leave without pay (90) days before the due date Voting, which is an incentive to participate in the electoral process, especially among young workers, as there is fear about the future of their work if they do not win the elections.

4. The law guarantees the representation of Christians (9 seats) and Circassians and Chechens (3 seats), without stipulating a maximum limit for their representation by granting them the right to run outside the seats allocated to them, while obligating those who are entitled to run for the allocated seats (quota) in the local constituencies.
5. Criminalizing some acts and increasing penalties: The law imposes penalties for crimes and electoral violations in Articles (60-66) thereof, one of these crimes is the use of political funds, the penalty for which is up to two years, and the fine cannot be replaced by imprisonment.
6. Enhancing integrity: Article (38) of the law indicates that the lock on the box must bear a sequential number, and that number must be included in the records of the electoral process. It also stipulated that the voter's place of residence be approved when drawing up a list of voters based on the text of Article (7/A/1) of the law, and that the personal card be approved as a single document for voting in accordance with what was stated in Article (4/M), as well as it also stipulated spending ceilings on the electoral campaign in Article (B/26), which were linked to the size of the electoral district and the number of voters therein.
7. Empowering the people of the desert: The law grants the people of the desert the right to run for office outside their constituencies, as stipulated in Article (9/C) of the law.

The House of Representatives approved, by the majority stipulated in Article (84/3) of the Jordanian Constitution<sup>51</sup>, a draft law amending the Election Law for the House of Representatives of 2024,

<sup>51</sup> Article (84/3) of the Jordanian Constitution: "Decisions of both councils shall be issued with the approval of two-thirds of the members' votes if the decision is related to the laws regulating elections, political parties, the judiciary, the independent body, and the Accounting, Integrity and Anti-Corruption Bureau, Nationality, and Personal Status, and the provisions of this paragraph shall be applied as of the next National Assembly to the Assembly that approves its addition."

which includes amending Article (49) of the Election Law (88) representatives voted on that project, the second paragraph (a) of Article (49) of the Election Law, after amendment, becomes as follows:

"Each of the lists that exceeded the (threshold) gets seats in proportion to the number of votes it obtained out of the total number of votes of the lists that exceeded the (threshold) in the district Local elections. If three lists do not arrive in districts with three or more competing seats, or two lists in districts with two competing seats, the Authority reduces the (threshold) by one percent, respectively, until the number of winning party lists reaches three lists in districts with a minimum of three competing seats, and two seats In the constituencies where there are two competing seats."

The Council of Ministers approved the electoral district regulation of 2023, in accordance with the Election Law, which required the issuance of a regulation that defines electoral districts geographically, and determines the number of seats for each, and the regulation has one purpose Determining the seats allocated for Christians, Circassians, and Chechens within the electoral districts in all governorates, these seats must be determined within the electoral districts therein, including the electoral districts of the northern, central and southern valleys, and the number of seats therein.

In 2023, the Independent Electoral Commission issued executive instructions regarding the accreditation of international and local observers of 2023 electoral process, issued in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (K) of Article (12) of the Independent Electoral Commission Law Elections No. (11) of 2012 and Paragraph (B) of Article (72) of the Election Law for the House of Representatives No. (4) of 2022. The National Center for Human Rights stated its observations on these instructions in an official letter sent to the Independent Election Commission.

### Jerash Mayor Elections 2023

In 2022, Local Administration Law No. (22) of 2021 was issued, stipulating that a council shall be formed in each governorate called (the Governorate Council), and that it shall enjoy legal personality and financial and administrative independence and shall be composed of secretly and directly elected members, as well as the election of mayors in the district governorates, and the Deputy Mayor of Amman for the capital governorate. By reading the law, we find that it achieved a kind of justice in representation, as it allocated seats for women in municipal councils.

The Center finds that some provisions contained in the Local Administration Law No. (22) of 2021 require amendment to be consistent with fair representation and strengthening the democratic approach in the country through the following:

Article (f/54) gave the authority to suspend the municipal council to the Minister of Local Administration and appoint a temporary committee to act in place of the municipal council in committing and insisting on a violation of the provisions of the legislation in force.

The Center believes that the authority to dissolve and stop the councils should be by a judicial decision, and the role of the executive authority is limited to the right to request the judiciary to dissolve the council.

In the event that the position of mayor becomes vacant for any reason, the vice president shall carry out his duties for a maximum period of four months, during which a president will be elected for the remaining period. The Center believes that the next candidate with the number of votes will succeed him, as is the case for members.

The Center also followed the course of the electoral process for the mayor of Bab Amman since the commission set the election date and published the preliminary voter lists, the appeals submitted, and the results of the appeals, as no appeal was filed against the independent commission's decision to accept applications to run for the mayor's seat.

Among the most prominent observations that the Center monitored during the electoral propaganda phase<sup>52</sup> was (the failure of candidates to adhere to the electoral propaganda dates set in accordance with applicable legislation, and the holding of internal elections for the clan or region before the start of the electoral campaign, and some candidates announce their candidacy for their clans before the date set for announcing the candidacy, in accordance with the legislation regulating the electoral process, direct propaganda for candidates through social media and various media before the period specified for the electoral propaganda phase, and the continuation of electoral propaganda via telephone messages to voters after the end of the electoral propaganda period (the period of electoral silence), placing electoral propaganda in places not designated for it in violation of the provisions of the law, and not placing advertising signs within the specified heights).

The most prominent observations monitored by the monitoring team on polling day<sup>53</sup> were (the committees' adherence to the time set for the start of the electoral process<sup>54</sup>, the availability of objection forms at the committees, the provision of ink in the boxes that were monitored, and the provision of isolation rooms to ensure privacy for voters and serve people with disabilities (short stature), and providing a paper list of voter lists (paper and electronic).

It was also noted that there were unauthorized persons entering the polling centers in some centers, the unpreparedness of some polling centers to receive persons with disabilities and the elderly, and the continuation of electoral propaganda in front of the polling stations voting, and the lack of clear instructions for voters to cast their vote or reach the polling station in some centers.

<sup>52</sup> Report on monitoring the electoral process for the mayor of Bab Amman 2023, published on the center's website.

<sup>53</sup> Report on monitoring the electoral process for the mayor of Bab Amman 2023, published on the center's website.

<sup>54</sup> The National Center for Human Rights issues its first statement on the course of the municipal elections. Website of the National Center for Human Rights.



The center also monitored some field observations, including<sup>55</sup>: (1) weak turnout at the ballot boxes<sup>56</sup>, (2) six impersonation attempts, (3) overcrowding in front of most polling stations, (4) witnessing a heavy presence of public security personnel in front of polling stations, (5) not providing environmental facilities in some polling centers for people with disabilities and the elderly, (6) not providing sign language interpreters and the deaf and dumb in all polling centers, (7) The use of mobile phones inside polling stations, (8) The lack of special rooms to verify the identity of women wearing the veil, (9) The lack of wheelchairs for people with disabilities and the elderly, (10) Lack of elevators in schools where the ballot box is on the second floor or the box is placed on the ground floor, (11) a voter voting outside the designated polling center, (12) preventing a female citizen from voting on the pretext that she is ineligible, despite the absence of a judicial ruling<sup>57</sup>, as the independent body was informed of all observations immediately, and the latter took the necessary measures regarding those observations.

On election day, the center received (11) complaints through the operations room prepared for this purpose, and many comments from citizens, which were dealt with in accordance with the rules and referred directly to the independent body and followed up on them after that. The Authority took the necessary action to address all observations immediately, and it was confirmed that the observation had been addressed by communicating with the person submitting the complaint or observation immediately upon receiving the independent Authority's response to the complaint.

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<sup>55</sup> Report on monitoring the electoral process for the mayor of Bab Amman 2023. It is published on the center's website.

<sup>56</sup> Statement No. (2) on the course of the municipal elections. National Center for Human Rights website.

<sup>57</sup> See Article (2/38) of the Local Administration Law No. (22) of 2021.

The Center hereby confirms its recommendations contained in the special report on monitoring the 2023 Bab Amman mayoral elections<sup>58</sup>, the most prominent of which are:

1. Amending the Local Administration Law of 2021 to ensure that it embodies the contents of the Jordanian Constitution, specifically Articles (120 and 121), and a representative percentage for persons with disabilities (quota).
2. Raising citizens' awareness to carry out their electoral duties and participate in the management of public affairs.
3. Preventing candidates from exploiting places of worship for propaganda, and adhering to electoral propaganda instructions.
4. Preparing polling stations for people with disabilities and the elderly, providing sign language interpreters and all facilitating arrangements.

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<sup>58</sup> Report on monitoring the electoral process for the mayor of Bab Amman 2023. It is published on the center's website.

### 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 conventions<sup>59</sup>, and regulated by a wide range of relevant national laws and regulations. The normative content of this right is based, as a basic condition for achieving the principles of transparency and accountability, as protecting this right is one of the most important enhancers of human rights protection, combating corruption, and contributing to the advancement of society economically, politically, socially and culturally, and the pillar of a democratic state, and an indicator of the extent to which the state is moving towards further strengthening rights and freedoms, which is necessary for accessing and exercising all human rights.

#### At the level of legislation and policies:

The year 2023 witnessed the adoption of the Cybercrimes Law No. (17) of 2023. The Center has followed up on the draft Cybercrimes Law of 2023 since it was submitted to the House of Representatives. The Center conducted a careful study of the draft law in all its dimensions within the framework of the Jordanian Constitution, specifically its fifteenth article, which guarantees the right to freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of the press and media. And also within the framework of international human rights standards that Jordan has ratified, most notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, specifically Article Nineteen thereof.

For the purpose of highlighting its legal position and to enhance the Center's approach to continuous communication with relevant parties, the Center met with the Legal Committee in the House of Representatives and expressed its observations on the proposed draft law, some of which were subsequently taken into account.

Later, the Center followed developments on the draft law and met with the Legal Committee of the Senate, which took into account a number of the Centre's observations, and the Center appreciates that.

The Center had emphasized the necessary positive developments in the draft cybercrime law by introducing some texts that addressed existing legal loopholes, the most prominent of which were: inclusion a text related to publishing a recording, photo, or video that the person is careful not to show or conceal from the public, which is a text that protects the right to the private life of individuals in the digital space. As well as including a text related to blackmail and electronic threats. In the same context, the Center presented the following regarding the draft cybercrime law of 2023:

**First:** With regard to the crime of defamation, slander and contempt, the general rules contained in Penal Code No. (16) of 1960, as amended are sufficient, in order to ensure the sufficiency of the existing texts in the Penal Code, to avoid legislative repetition, to ensure general consistency between this legislation, and to emphasize the establishment of non-arrest in this crime. If the text of this article is maintained in the Electronic Crimes Law, the penalty will be reduced in a manner consistent with Penal Code No. (16) of 1960, as amended to ensure no arrest.

**Second:** Controlling criminal acts and terms mentioned in some texts of the law, especially those related to hate speech, fake news, and character assassination.

**Third:** Abolition of the assumed liability contained in the text of Article (25) of the Cybercrimes Law, in accordance with the principle of the personal nature of punishment, which is one of the established principles of public penal policy.

**Fourth:** Adherence to the general rules in penal legislation, especially with regard to the rules of criminal contribution, and adopting the principle of punitive exclusivity in this context. The Center calls for reconsidering the text of Article (27) of the proposed draft law.

<sup>59</sup> Article (19) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stipulates the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and Article (15) of the Constitution.

In this context, the Center affirms its structural recommendations contained in its annual reports on the necessity of institutionalization an effective national regulation for legislation that aims to achieve communication between legislation and society. It is based on a set of foundations, most notably the partnership between all relevant parties within the framework of the legislative process, as well as the analysis of social, economic, cultural and political phenomena in society through impact studies of proposed legislation, and dealing with human rights legislation according to a legislative policy that adopts the review of the relationship of the consequences related to the one -score on the authority that includes the rights and freedoms as stipulated in the Jordanian and international standards of human rights<sup>60</sup>.

In this context, it is worth noting the meeting of His Majesty King Abdullah II with the President and members of the Board of Trustees after the adoption of the Cybercrimes Law. His Majesty stressed the independence of the Center and its important role in the field of protecting and promoting human rights, pointing to its powers to monitor human rights situations, including studying the effects of implementing this law on the ground.

The Center subsequently held a consultative session with all parties concerned and presented its mechanisms in the field of following up on the legislative effects of the implementation of the Cybercrime Law, leading to developing its recommendations in this context. To this end, the Center also launched a specialized hotline to receive complaints related to the cybercrime law.

The year 2023 also witnessed the House of Representatives and Senate discussing the draft law guaranteeing the right to access information of 2019, which has been on the Council's agenda since 2019. The Center presented its legal position on the draft law Indicating the Centre's appreciation for the positive developments included in the provisions of the law,

<sup>60</sup> Statement of the National Center for Human Rights on the draft Cybercrimes Law

No. 17 of 2023, published on the Center's website: <https://www.nchr.org/jo/ar>

Which were included in the provisions of the law, including the inclusion of a text related to proactive disclosure, the obligation to publish a range of information related to the authorities concerned with the application of the law, limiting exceptions related to requests for access to information, and shortening the period for responding to the request to fifteen days, providing assistance to the elderly and people with disabilities, and expanding the scope of the law to include every party that receives partial or complete funding from the government, and restructuring the Information Council to ensure pluralism and representation of civil society. At the same time, the Center stressed a number of observations, including the necessity of establishing guarantees and standards regarding the appointment and dismissal of some members. In addition to stipulating that the Council's decisions are mandatory and stipulating that in cases of urgency, the period should be reduced to (48) hours, in addition to specifying a fast path for journalists, which enables them to obtain information from its sources, given the nature of their work, which is based on speed and accuracy at the same time. Not excluding any information from the paragraph related to assessing the public interest from disclosing information, and not restricting this authority to the Information Council, as the judiciary is also the one with the inherent jurisdiction to evaluate this issue as well. Emphasizing that the law guaranteeing the right to obtain information has priority over other legislation and removing legislative inconsistency from the texts once and for all.

The same year also witnessed the discussion of (general policy for media and government communication) within the framework of a participatory approach, as this policy included several axes, most notably: communication with the public and the media, media legislation, media, social media, political, economic and administrative update and reports on freedom and development media, stressing that building a relationship based on trust and credibility with the public requires taking the initiative to make information available, interacting positively with media inquiries, and obeying the public and the media directly and periodically about the government's directions, plans and priorities, and communicating and dialogue with citizens about public issues.

### At the level of practices:

During 2023, the Center monitored the arrest of some individuals on the basis of participation in some vigils or on the basis of publications on social media sites, as the charges against the individuals revolved around assaulting public property, unlawful assembly, the crime of threatening to use force, participating in a riot, and the crime of using electronic means to publish anything that might incite discord, strife, societal peace, or incite hatred, and the crime of publishing false news that threatens societal peace and national security, as a result of what some marches witnessed of attacks and violations of the principle of peace,

some of them were arrested on charges related to using electronic means to spread false news that harms societal peace and national security, or incites sedition, strife, community peace, or inciting hatred in violation of the Penal Code and the Cybercrimes Law.

The center visited the detainees and took the necessary measures, in addition to monitoring the center and administratively detaining some individuals. Note that the vast majority of detainees have been released.

In a related context, the following is a table showing a group of related crimes<sup>61</sup>:

| Crime  | Number of Cases  |
|--|--|
| Carrying out actions or writings that would expose the Kingdom to the danger of hostile acts or disturb its relations with a foreign country, in violation of the provisions of Article (2/118) of the Penal Code. | Number of cases (1) and a non-liability ruling was issued and there was no arrest          |
| Disparaging an official body based on the provisions of Article (191) of the Penal Code  | (367) cases, of which (212) cases were convicted. There were no detainees.                 |
| Insulting based on the provisions of Article (195) of the Penal Code   | The number of cases was (170), 101 cases were convicted. The number of detainees was (36). |
| (Article 11, 16, 17) of the Cybercrime Law   | The number of cases was (3,330), and the number of detainees was (347 detainees).          |
| The crime of inciting strife based on the provisions of Article (150) of the Penal Code  | The number of cases was (93), and the number of detainees was (34).                        |

<sup>61</sup> Letter of the Jordanian Judicial Council No. 2/1/821, dated 27/02/2024. The following note was mentioned in the letter of the Judicial Council: "The number of detainees does not necessarily reflect the real number of those arrested for a specific crime, because there is no feature in the program used that allows the arrest decision to be attributed to the crime for which the arrest was made in the event that there are multiple crimes attributed to the defendant in the same case, as the regulation assigns the arrest decision to all the crimes assigned to him."

### Freedom of the press, audio-visual media, and news websites:

In 2023, the Center will monitor the Media Authority's continued blocking of some electronic publications. In this context, the Center confirms that international standards and best practices emphasize not registering electronic publications and only submitting a notification to the relevant authority in the event of their establishment. If they violate the provisions of national legislation, they are referred to the judiciary, and the blocking process constitutes a restriction on freedom of expression. In the same context, the Center also monitored the referral of a satellite media channel by the Media Authority to the Attorney-General.

In a related context, the number of complaints considered by the Media Complaints Committee emanating from the Audiovisual Media Law in 2023 amounted to eight complaints, compared to five complaints in 2022<sup>62</sup>. Despite the establishment of the committee since 2016, the number of complaints it has received is still limited, which requires that the Media Authority pay due attention to introducing this committee and for the Authority to play its role in raising awareness of it among individuals and stakeholders and its working mechanisms, providing all facilities to it, and ensuring the enhancement of its independence.

As for the statistics related to visual and audio media and news websites in 2023, as reported by the Media Authority, they were as follows<sup>63</sup>:

- The number of licensed electronic publications reached (148) new electronic publications; they varied between (15) electronic publications affiliated with licensed political parties, and (133) publications affiliated with companies. (11) electronic publications were blocked in accordance with the provisions of Article (G/49) of the Publications and Publishing Law for violating the provisions of Paragraph (A) of the same article, as they were considered unlicensed by the Authority, according to the letter of the Media Authority.

- No entity applied for a satellite broadcasting station license during 2023. In this regard, the total number of licensed satellite stations reached (19) stations, according to the Media Authority's letter.
- One radio broadcast station was licensed, while the total number of licensed radio stations was (39) radio stations.
- One radio rebroadcast station was licensed, and the total number of rebroadcast licenses was only two stations, while no entity applied for a rebroadcast license in 2022, and the total number of rebroadcast licenses was only one station, according to the Media Authority's letter.
- (231) films were monitored during 2023, and the Authority approved (229) films, while (2) films were not approved, as they included scenes that violate public values and morals, in accordance with the provisions of Article Four of the Audio-Visual Classifications Licensing and Monitoring Regulation No. (63) of 2004, as amended, according to the Media Authority's letter.
- The number of books that entered the Kingdom reached one million and forty-five thousand books. The Media Authority followed up on (342) titles, (282) titles were approved, while (60) titles were seized; they included violations of the provisions of the Press and Publications Law in force, specifically Articles (38 and 5) thereof for reasons mostly related to violating children's rights or hate speech according to what was stated in the Authority's letter.

According to the Media Authority's letter, no warnings were issued to any radio or satellite station or electronic publications, nor were books printed in the Kingdom referred to the judiciary, according to the Media Authority's letter.

- The Media Authority received a complaint against a media institution that was referred to the Public Prosecutor, but the Authority did not file a complaint against any institution according to its letter.

<sup>62</sup> Media Complaints Committee.

<sup>63</sup> Media Authority Letter No. (H A/317/20) dated April 14, 2024

### Publications and Publishing Cases

On another level, the number of publications and publishing cases of 2023 reached (46) cases. The following is a table that explains the mechanism for ending these cases:

| How to end   | Number |
|--|--------|
| Conviction   | 13     |
| Dropping by amnesty and challenging of the claim of personal right | 4      |
| Dropping the public right case                                     | 3      |
| Declaration of innocence   | 1      |
| Declaration of Non-Responsibility                                  | 16     |
| Challenging objection  | 1      |
| Cease prosecutions   | 7      |
| Total  | 46     |

In a related context, digital violence in general shall be considered one of the emerging issues facing many segments of society, including female journalists. Recently, there has been increased interest in the issues of digital violence against female journalists in particular at the international, regional and local levels.

In this context, and in the field of journalism and media, a specialized network was established to combat digital violence against female journalists in Jordan with the aim of combating and confronting digital violence directed at female journalists and media professionals. The number of members of the network currently stands at 193 members. This network conducted a study on digital violence against female journalists, and it was found that about 23.4% of the female journalists in the study sample were exposed to digital violence once, about 20.9% were exposed to digital violence twice, while about 13.9% were exposed to digital violence three times, about 4.5% were exposed to digital violence more than three times, and about 1.5% were exposed to digital violence repeatedly and many times<sup>64</sup>.

<sup>64</sup> According to information provided to the Center by the Network Against Digital Violence Against Women Journalists

The Center stresses the need to give digital violence in general the necessary importance in light of the spread of new forms of violence in the digital space, and in particular with regard to digital violence against female journalists, including providing awareness and educational programs targeting female journalists and media workers to raise awareness of the forms of digital violence and its impact, and providing the necessary information and tools to deal therewith, as well as providing psychological and legal support to Jordanian female journalists who are exposed to digital violence, including providing awareness and educational programs targeting female journalists and media workers to raise awareness of the forms of digital violence and its impact, and providing the necessary information and tools to deal therewith, as well as providing psychological and legal support to Jordanian female journalists who are exposed to digital violence, including providing the necessary guidance and resources to protect their rights and assist them in taking appropriate legal steps.

### The Right to Access Information

The number of complaints received by the Information Council during 2023 was three complaints<sup>65</sup>, while the number of complaints in 2022 was one complaint from a journalist, and the Council's decision was to accept the request and address the relevant party to respond to his request<sup>66</sup>, while the number of complaints in 2021 was three complaints, one of which was submitted by a journalist, compared to (14) complaints in 2020.

It is worth noting that the total number of complaints received by the Information Council since 2007 amounted to (84) complaints.

As for the number of requests for information, the number of entities that responded to the circular issued by the Information Council to provide it with the number of requests for information in 2023 amounted to (55) ministries and government institutions, of which (48) entities received requests for information and responded to them, while (7) entities did not receive any requests. The number of requests for information of 2023 was (3958), of which (218) were rejected, while (3740) requests were accepted<sup>67</sup>.

<sup>65</sup> Report on the work of the right to access information of 2023.

<sup>66</sup> Information Council Letter No. (M.M/T/13), dated 20/03/2023.

<sup>67</sup> Right to Information Action Report of 2023

The total number of requests for information in 2023 was (3930), of which (3795) were answered, and (135) were rejected<sup>68</sup>. While the number of requests in 2021 was (3834), of which (3550) were answered, and (284) were rejected, compared to 2300 requests in 2020. 2135 requests were answered, and 165 were rejected, compared to 8534 requests in 2019, of which 99 were rejected.

In terms of the nature of the information seeker, researchers were the most frequent group of people who submitted requests for information, accounting for 51%, followed by individuals, accounting for 46%, and journalists, accounting for 3%. In terms of the number of males and females, the percentage was 54% for males and 46% for females<sup>69</sup>.

Within the framework of enabling the exercise of the right to obtain information, the Center reaffirms the non-expansion of information classified as confidential by the law enforcement authorities, the establishment of clear and precise procedures for the classification process and procedures, and the acceleration of the approval of the information classification and archiving regulation.

In this context, and for the purpose of spreading awareness of the right to access information, a national training team for the right to access information was formed by the National Library Administration, which began training the parties concerned with implementing the law on these protocols, where a training program was prepared entitled “Institutionalization of Procedures for Enforcement of the Law on Ensuring the Right to Access Information/Document Management and Archiving” and during 2023, (25) training courses were implemented for the public sector and the armed forces. While during 2022, (14) training courses were implemented, during which (273) male and female trainees from public sector employees and members of the armed forces were trained.

The Center stresses the importance of these steps and the necessity of expanding the dissemination of the culture of the right to access information.

In order to provide further protection and promotion of this right:

1. The Center reaffirms the necessity of preparing a national media strategy aimed at promoting media freedoms and providing a legislative environment that guarantees freedom of the press and the media.
2. Amending the legislation related to freedom of expression and freedom of the press and media as a single legislative matrix to prevent contradiction and legislative duplication, including amending the Audiovisual Media Law in accordance with what was stated in the Center’s previous reports and amending the Electronic Crimes Law to ensure greater accuracy and specificity in defining criminal acts.
3. Limiting the blocking of electronic publications by the General Authority for Media and taking the necessary measures to identify the complaints committee emanating from the Audiovisual Media Law.
4. Continuing current efforts aimed at raising awareness of the right to obtain information among relevant parties and expanding this, especially after the approval of the law amending the law guaranteeing the right to obtain information.
5. Providing awareness and educational programs targeting female journalists and media workers to raise awareness of the forms and impact of digital violence, and providing the necessary information and tools to deal with it, as well as providing psychological and legal support to Jordanian female journalists who are exposed to digital violence, including providing assistance in taking appropriate legal steps.

<sup>68</sup> Information Council Letter No. (M.M/T/13), dated 20/03/2023.

<sup>69</sup> Right to Information Action Report of 2023

### The right to peaceful assembly

One of the basic human rights guaranteed by a number of international and national standards, as stated in Article (16/1) of the Jordanian Constitution, Jordanians have the right to assemble within the limits of the law. The international charters, treaties and international agreements ratified by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan<sup>71</sup> also stipulate the right to assemble, including marches, sit-ins, demonstrations and any public activities. This right is closely linked to the right to form associations and parties, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and some other political rights. For the purposes of preserving security, public order, and societal safety, this right may be subject to some rights specified by law.

The year 2022 did not witness any amendment to the Public Meetings Law No. (7) of 2004, as amended, despite the issuance of many recommendations to amend some of the articles contained therein<sup>72</sup>.

The year 2023 witnessed a number of sit-ins, marches, work stoppages, solidarity stands, speech festivals, gatherings and protests, the number of which amounted to (812) and the number of marches (433), according to what was reported by the Ministry of Interior<sup>73</sup>. The center monitored a number of them and will be listed in detail.

#### Protests demanding the right to work:

On 23/02/2023, the center monitored, via social media platforms, the intention of a number of unemployed people to carry out a march on foot from the Al-Marijamat area to the Royal Court, demanding their right to work, and all of them are holders of first-class university degrees (bachelor degree).

<sup>70</sup> Article (16/1) of the Jordanian Constitution

<sup>71</sup> Universal Declaration of Human Rights. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Arab Charter.

<sup>72</sup> Nineteenth Annual Report on the Status of Human Rights in Jordan, p. 52 Recommendations.

<sup>73</sup> Ministry of Interior Letter No. (30/670/8321) dated 08/02/2024

This march is an extension of previous sit-ins that were held at Al-hurriyah Circle in Dhiban, and the Qadaa Malih Triangle, and an attempt to head to the Royal Court on foot; in order to determine the location of the march so that it can be monitored directly by the monitoring team, one of the participants was contacted by phone, where he indicated that they were unable to do so due to security harassment and being prevented more than once from reaching the capital, Amman, near the American University, the Public Security officers arrested them and took them to the Madaba Governorate. There, they agreed to end the march and give them a month to try to solve the problem and find job opportunities for them in coordination with the relevant authorities. They indicated that in the event of no solution, they would resume their efforts towards the job within the agreed upon period by all available means and methods. The escalation will be according to the reality of the situation until their desired demand is achieved, which is to obtain a job opportunity in government departments, based on the Jordanian Constitution in Article (23) and the international conventions ratified by the Jordanian state, which is the right to work, and they have no other demands, this is what was stated by one of the participants in the march.

#### Protests demanding a return to work:

- A number of teachers from the Ministry of Education in the capital Amman and Irbid Governorate tried to hold protests either in front of the ministry or in front of the Irbid Governorate building, in protest against the retirement of a number of teachers, the arbitrary transfer of teachers, and opening the doors of the union in implementation of the court's decision, but they were unable to do so due to the security ban, according to what they said; and the center did not monitor any ban or arrest of anyone in front of it.
- Three young men from Ma'an Governorate attempted to commit suicide by jumping from the top of a communications tower in the center of Ma'an city, because they were dismissed from their jobs at one of the energy companies operating in the region.



### **Protests demanding the right to job security:**

The center monitored a sit-in by more than (200) employees working on the service purchasing regulation in the Water and Sanitation Department of Balqa Governorate/ in front of the building of the Water Department of Balqa Governorate to demand their appointment to the staff of the “Miyahuna” Company. Despite the demand for it for years, it has been ignored, without any justification, despite the fact that there is a significant shortage of vacancies in the company, which is covered through the services purchasing regulation .

### **Protests demanding the right to health:**

- The Center’s team followed up on the sit-ins of the retirees of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company in front of the company’s headquarters located in the capital, Amman, which were previously monitored by the Center. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company was addressed with the reasons for the sit-in, but the center has not yet received a response, in protest against the neglect of their demands, which lie in the Phosphate Mines Company’s commitment to the terms of the agreement concluded between it and the retirees on 24/10/2021, which includes not affecting health insurance, withdrawing health insurance from the current insurance company and returning it under the auspices of the Phosphate Company, for not carrying out the duties assigned thereto in securing a decent healthy life for the company’s retirees, as they have worked for the company for more than 25 years and all of the company’s work is dangerous professions.

### **Protests demanding the right to an adequate standard of living:**

- Dozens of licensed smart transportation application drivers staged a sit-in in front of the Land Transport Regulatory Commission, protesting what they described as “marginalization of their demands and rights.”

- On 11/07/2023, no less than 200 yellow taxi owners and drivers carried out a sit-in in front of the Immigrant Security Center building in the center of the capital, Amman, in line with the rest of the public transport drivers in the governorates of the Kingdom.
- The center followed up on the open sit-in carried out by the residents of Al-Thaghra village/ Al-Marigha district/ Ma’an governorate, demanding that drinking water be provided to them. The problem was solved and an internal water network was connected to each house, 50 houses, and a water collection tank was built within engineering specifications.

### **Labor Rights:**

- The center monitored a sit-in of no less than 50 male and female agricultural workers in front of the House of Representatives building/ Abdali to demand the activation of Agricultural Workers Regulation No. (19) of 2021.
- The center monitored a sit-in by workers at the iron industry factory in the Hashemite area in Zarqa Governorate, who went on strike for three consecutive days, demanding that employees’ working hours be adjusted during the month of Ramadan.
- The Center monitored the sit-ins of workers in the medical, support, administrative and accounting professions at Prince Hamzah Hospital/Amman, which lasted for two hours, due to the concerned authorities’ continued ignoring of their demands related to bonuses, despite the hospital director’s pledge to meet them, according to their claims.

### **Solidarity Stands with the Palestinian People in the War on (Gaza Strip):**

At the beginning of October 2023, Jordanian citizens across the Kingdom carried out many marches and solidarity stands with the Palestinian people due to the aggression launched by the occupying entity on the Gaza Strip, where the latter destroyed homes and hospitals and prevented food, medicine and fuel from reaching the residents of the Gaza Strip (a war of genocide). The center did not monitor any prevention of any solidarity stand, and the citizens achieved the full exercise of this right.

**Recommendations:**

The Center reiterates its previous recommendations regarding the right to peaceful assembly, especially:

- The Center reiterates its recommendation regarding defining the meeting mentioned in Article (2) of the Public Meetings Law, with a distinction between a public meeting and a private meeting, as the latter is not subject to the Public Meetings Law.
- The Center reiterates its recommendation to amend the Public Meetings Law No. (7) of 2004 and include restrictions on the authority of the administrative governor with regard to public meetings in accordance with the Jordanian Constitution and international standards.

### The right to establish and join political parties

It is one of the political rights guaranteed by international<sup>74</sup> and national<sup>75</sup> charters, as it shall be considered one of the constitutional rights guaranteed by the Jordanian constitution, which gave Jordanians the right to form political parties, provided that their goals are legitimate and their means are peaceful<sup>76</sup>.

The Center monitored the elements of the normative content of the right to political parties of 2023, based on the integration of legal protection for its components legally and in terms of practice and following up on the legal developments regulating the exercise of political parties of their right to establish and practice, represented by the continuation of political parties in adjusting their conditions according to the legal requirements and regulations and instructions issued pursuant to the new Law on Political Parties No. (7) of 2022, and the extent of the ability of political parties to form coalitions and achieve integration, in addition to measuring indicators of empowering women, youth and persons with disabilities in establishing and joining political parties, seeking to participate in managing public affairs, proposing programs and participating in elections, including nominating candidates for elections organized through independent legislation and a neutral supervisory body<sup>77</sup>.

#### Developments in the legislative regulation :

- The year 2023 witnessed the Higher Education Council approving the instructions for regulating the practice of student party activities in higher education institutions of 2023,

pursuant to the provisions of Articles (8) and (11) of the Regulation for Regulating the Practice of Student Party Activities, No. 68 of 2022<sup>78</sup>.

The year 2023 also witnessed the issuance of the Financial Contribution Regulation to Support Political Parties issued pursuant to Article (27) of the Political Parties Law No. (7) of 2022<sup>79</sup>.

The Center believes that the financial contribution regulation to support political parties is based on legal standards and foundations based on best practices in enhancing the role of licensed political parties, in accordance with the provisions of the law, in performing their role on the basis of citizenship, equality, and commitment to democracy and political pluralism, by providing a financial contribution to the parties from the public treasury funds, as the incentives that were set for parties in the event that party candidates win parliamentary, municipal and local administration elections are consistent with the concept of the party as stated in the law, and emphasize the parties' programming and their election on this basis, the extent of their spread throughout the Kingdom, and the party's participation in all types of elections.

The Center believes that the legal rules included in the financial contribution regulation to support parties have enhanced the role of parties and enabled them to engage in more national and purposeful political work and focus their programs on issues that affect the lives of citizens and provide solutions and visions regarding them that enhance the economic well-being of citizens and achieve social justice.

<sup>74</sup> 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.

<sup>75</sup> Political Parties Law No. (7) of 2022.

<sup>76</sup> 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 contravene the provisions of the Constitution.

<sup>77</sup> Definition of the Special Rapporteur on the right to peaceful assembly in his report on the right to peaceful assembly.

<sup>78</sup> Published in the Official Gazette No. (5868) dated 15/06/2023.

<sup>79</sup> Published in the Official Gazette No. 5855 dated 01/05/2023.

### Policies and Practices:

- The year 2023 witnessed the launch of the electronic platform for political parties on the website of the Independent Election Commission, which provides quantitative and qualitative indicators of the party situation in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in terms of: national legislative frameworks regulating party work, and guidelines for raising awareness and familiarizing parties with legal and administrative procedures. The electronic platform also included providing a list of the names and data of party members affiliated with licensed political parties, which is updated periodically.
- The year 2023 witnessed the launch of the “Strategic Planning for Political Parties” guide, which was prepared by the Independent Election Commission in cooperation with the Institute of Politics and Society. The guide contains many introductory and awareness materials and rules that will have a significant impact on institutionalizing party work in the future.
- The year 2023 witnessed the implementation of a number of courses, projects and meetings implemented by the Independent Election Commission through various awareness programs and tools targeting youth, women and persons with disabilities, based on the Commission’s keenness to implement Jordan’s vision, empower youth and women, enhance their participation in political and partisan life, integrate them into universities in dialogue and public work, and achieve a set of national priorities and concepts, the most important of which are democracy, party work, the rule of law, political participation, national identity, human rights, and respect for opinion and other opinions.
- The Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs implemented joint programs with the Ministry of Youth aimed at enhancing youth participation in political life and parties through the activities of youth centers. The program included holding training workshops that included introducing the electoral and party laws and awareness sessions on the importance of youth participation in public life and empowering youth with tools and mechanisms for participation in political life and engagement in parties.
- The Institute of Politics and Society implemented a training program aimed at empowering the category of politically active young men and women. The program aimed to build the capacities of 50 young men and women from all governorates on several topics that enhance their political and partisan participation, including: legislation regulating political life in Jordan, political theory and political economy, political parties and youth, skills for gaining support and mobilizing for elections, and women and politics.
- All Jordan Youth Committee implemented training programs in most of the Kingdom’s governorates to raise the capabilities of Jordanian youth in political life and party participation through the “Roles Awaiting Us” political and democratic empowerment project. Through the project, the Committee sought to invest in the energies of youth and enhance their participation in public life, politically, economically and socially, and to enhance their cultural stock.
- The Prime Ministry launched a series of dialogues with Jordanian youth under the title: (Modernization Visions: Youth as the Focus of Attention), in which hundreds of university students from various governorates participated, in implementation of the important roles mentioned in enabling Jordanian youth to participate politically in political parties and elections, as the reference documents for the three modernization paths constitute: the political life development regulation , the economic modernization vision, and the public sector modernization roadmap launched by His Majesty King Abdullah II, supported by His Highness Prince Hussein bin Abdullah II, the Crown Prince, at the beginning of the second centenary of the Jordanian state, with the aim of providing an enabling environment for youth and helping to activate their role. The electoral and political parties laws have also greatly enhanced the opportunities for political participation for women and youth, as the opportunity has become available to them to enhance their presence, participation and contribution through their presence in parties, running for parliament, and interacting with society.

- A civil society organization implemented a training program on: Training female academics on the party work regulation in universities, entitled: "Party Empowerment of Women in Universities," which came as an affirmation of the commitment to strengthening the status and vital role of women in society and empowering them in the academic and political sectors.
- The Center monitored the implementation by one of the civil society institutions concerned with studies of an intensive program for "exchange of experiences" under the title "Enhancing the chances of winning the political party in the parliamentary elections", in which more than (130) participants participated, including the Secretary-General and leadership cadres representing (25) registered and under-established political parties. It specifically targeted the first-tier leaders in these parties, and through it the experiences of Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan were presented.
- The Institute of Politics and Society implemented a project entitled "Politics Meter" which aimed to prepare the public space within universities for political movement, polarization and party activity by raising students' abilities to participate in parties and politics within their universities and local communities, and with the aim of bridging the gap and weakness in the level of political awareness and acceptance of political and electoral participation, especially in universities.
- The National Center for Human Rights organized a discussion panel on: The Financial Contribution Regulation to Support Political Parties issued pursuant to Article (27) of the Political Parties Law No. (7) of 2022, which brought together academics, representatives of political parties, and the relevant official bodies.

The panel reviewed the legal texts contained in the regulation and their implications for the position of political parties.

- On 24/03/2024, the National Center for Human Rights organized a discussion panel entitled: "Youth and the Challenges of Political and Party Life," which included representatives of political parties, members of the Royal Committee for Youth Empowerment, representatives of official bodies concerned with youth, and representatives of the private sector.

The discussions revealed the strengths and challenges facing young people in participating in political and party life.

- The existence of the supreme political will to support youth and provide a supportive legislative environment to empower youth in party participation and political life, in implementation of the high royal directives.
- Making national efforts to implement the objectives of the National Youth Strategy implemented by the Ministry of Youth in cooperation with the Independent Authority, which relies on implementing (7) axes, including youth, which include (the role of youth, youth and citizenship, youth and good governance...), and is based on regulation atic plans and programs for its implementation.

As for the challenges, they were as follows:

- Some party programs do not contain clear program plans for youth.
- The widening trust gap on the part of some party secretaries-general in the role of youth due to their lack of experience in political life.
- Lack of political and leadership experience among young people, which may make it difficult for them to compete with other members with more experience.
- The stereotype between societal culture and party affiliation.

- Poor awareness among political parties of concepts related to disability and mechanisms for effective communication with persons with disabilities
- Many party headquarters are not equipped with facilitation facilities for persons with disabilities.

**The discussion session concluded with a number of recommendations, including:**

- Implementing awareness programs for youth by all concerned parties, focusing on citizenship issues and spreading national patriotism.
- Strengthening the political role of women, youth and persons with disabilities in partisan and public life.
- Enabling parties to participate in various types of elections, by improving their programs, attracting voters and supporters, and helping them engage in public affairs issues and contribute to finding solutions for them.

**Licensing and Formation:**<sup>80</sup>

- The number of licensed political parties of 2023 reached (31) parties.
- The number of political parties that are under establishment of 2023 is (10) parties.
- Mergers between parties of 2023 are as follows:
  - a) The Flag Party and the Jordanian Al-Shahama Party under the name of Al'ard Almubarakaka Party.
  - b) The National Loyalty Party, the Aoun Party, and the National Charter Party under the name of the National Charter Party.
  - c) The Jordanian Future Party and the Jordanian Life Party under the name of the Future and Life Party.

- The number of members of political parties reached (62244) citizens, both male and female.
- The number of women was (27251), the number of youth was (23938), and the number of persons with disabilities was (36) members.
- A coalition of political parties was formed under the name "National Reform Gathering Coalition" with the participation of the following parties: Al'ard Almubarakaka Party, Jordanian Torch Party, Jordanian Shura Party, Jordanian Tomorrow Party, Jordanian Unionist Party, and National Constitutional Party).

**Recommendations:**

1. The necessity of relying on and relying on the Royal Discussion Papers as an ideological educational material adopted by political parties and civil society institutions in their educational and awareness programs, considering the discussion papers a fundamental pillar of the Jordanian state's thought, and expanding membership in political parties from all categories.
2. Continue national efforts aimed at enhancing the participation of women and youth in political life.
3. Continue to raise awareness of the regulation for organizing student party activities in higher education institutions.
4. Call on political parties to develop economic programs that advance economic growth in all areas, including providing job opportunities.

<sup>80</sup>Independent Election Commission letter No. (TH/5/4/172) dated 28/01/2024.

### The right to establish and join trade unions

One of the basic rights guaranteed by international<sup>81</sup> and national<sup>82</sup> human rights covenants. Professional and labor unions are considered among the most important sectors and institutions of civil society, as they represent broad segments of society. Their role goes beyond merely defending the interests of their members and the segment they represent. They are effective bodies that play a role in participating in managing public affairs and in effective guidance and awareness of economic, social and political development plans.

#### Legislation:

The year 2023 did not witness any development regarding amending the legislation regulating this right, despite the Center's repeated recommendations in its previous annual reports aimed at enabling individuals to exercise this right, which can be summarized as follows:

- Legislative and practical implementation of Constitutional Court Decision No. (6/2013) dated 01/09/2013, which allows the establishment of private unions for employees in any ministry, department, agency or government institution, even if they are employees subject to the civil service regulation.

<sup>81</sup> Article (4/23) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Everyone has the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests," and Article (8) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights states: "The right of everyone to form trade unions and to join the trade union of his choice, subject only to the rules of the organization concerned, for the promotion and protection of his economic and social interests... etc." and Article (22) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: "Everyone has the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests..."

<sup>82</sup> Article (2/16) of the Jordanian Constitution states: "Jordanians have the right to form associations, unions and political parties, provided that their goals are legitimate, their means are sound and their regulations do not violate the provisions of the Constitution." Article (23) states: "2). The State protects labor and establishes legislation for it based on the following principles: (and free union organization within the limits of the law).

- Removing the legislative obstacles to exercising the right to establish and join trade unions contained in Chapter Eleven of Labor Law No. (8) of 1996, as amended; the most prominent problem is the restriction of the right to establish new unions according to the decision to classify professions and the requirement to obtain prior licensing to obtain recognition of the legal personality of the union, which constitutes a legal basis that violates the essence of this right according to the Jordanian Constitution and international standards.

#### Professional unions:

Professional unions are among the most important national institutions that include all professional sectors. They are houses of expertise that play a fundamental role in providing support to their members in accordance with their laws and regulations.

Professional unions are established by a special law, and the main problem in this approach is not limited to violating international standards only, but is also related to the practical reality of enacting legislation; issuing such legislation is an embodiment of the government's will, starting from the submission of the draft law. Therefore, we do not find in this context the implementation of the text of Article (95/1) of the Jordanian Constitution, which allowed ten members of either the Senate or the House of Representatives to propose laws<sup>83</sup>.

The year 2023 witnessed the continuation of the phenomenon of increasing difficulties in financing the retirement funds of professional unions, as the Geologists Union<sup>84</sup> announced, among them, the cancellation of the retirement and social insurance regulation for geologists issued pursuant to Paragraph (e) of Article (55) of the Jordanian Geologists Union Law No. (47) of 1972, as amended, after the General Assembly of the Syndicate voted on 26/01/2024 to liquidate the Fund, which suffers from a financial deficit that prevented it from fulfilling its obligations towards retirees.

<sup>83</sup> Article (95/1) of the Jordanian Constitution: "Ten or more members of either the Senate or the House of Representatives may propose laws. Each proposal shall be referred to the relevant committee in the House to express its opinion. If the House decides to accept the proposal, it shall refer it to the government to draft it and submit it to the House in the same session or in the following session."

<sup>84</sup> For more information, see the official website of the Jordanian Geologists Union at <http://jga.org.jo>

The year 2023 also witnessed the amendment of the retirement regulation of the Engineers Association<sup>85</sup> Fund with the aim of enhancing its sustainability and fulfilling all obligations towards the Association's retirees, following an actuarial study<sup>86</sup> conducted by the Association. Among the most important amendments are: (A) Mandatory subscription to the retirement fund. (b) Distributing the financial burden of the fund between subscribers and retirees, and charging retirees ten percent of the retirement salaries of retirees and beneficiaries. (c) Deducting 50 percent from the practicing engineer. (d) Raising the retirement age for legal referral by "two years" for males and 3 years for females, gradually at a rate of six months each year.

The year 2023 also witnessed a financial deficit for the Doctors Association Retirement Fund estimated at (25) million dinars. The Association has begun to conduct an actuarial study by signing an agreement with the General Organization for Social Security to prepare it, which will be issued during 2024; this is to measure the revenues and expenses of the Doctors Syndicate Retirement Fund to ensure its sustainability and the continuity of work according to the Association's regulation for retirement and to fulfill its obligations towards the General Assembly of the Association.

#### **Trade Unions:**

Trade unions are effective social institutions and have a vital role in building and participating in order to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals,

which will implement decent work standards and combat poverty. They are also a refuge for workers of different genders, affiliations and professions to gather without discrimination.

The year 2023 witnessed the government's reversal of the abolition of the Ministry of Labor. The National Center believes that the continuation of the Ministry of Labor and the activation of its strategic role will preserve the balance of the labor market and implement the Jordanian labor standards stipulated in the Jordanian Labor Law and the Social Security Law.

The Center hopes to enhance the Ministry of Labor's supervisory role in inspecting violators of the law to protect workers who have refrained from engaging in union work because they are convinced that the union's role in defending the rights of its members is useless.

The number of labor unions is limited to (17) unions, compared to (58) employers' unions<sup>88</sup>, which would contribute to weakening the labor union movement.

The decision of the Tripartite Committee for Labor Affairs was issued to maintain the minimum wage at (260) dinars for the years 2023-2024, provided that the minimum wage will be reconsidered by the committee at the beginning of 2025 to recalculate it so that the minimum wage, which currently stands at 260 dinars, is increased by adding inflation rates cumulatively for the years 2022-2024<sup>89</sup>.

Despite the Labor Law being amended more than 12 times, the last of which was in April 2023<sup>90</sup>, and which the Center referred to in its previous annual reports, which came as follows:

<sup>85</sup> Amended retirement regulation for members of the Engineers Association No. (84) of 2023. See the Official Gazette No. (5899) dated 17/12/2023.

<sup>86</sup> To view the ninth actuarial study as stated in the financial report of the Engineers Retirement Fund of 2022, see the link: <https://www.jea.org.jo>

<sup>87</sup> Statements of the President of the Medical Association. See the website of the Jordanian Medical Association at: <https://www.jma.org.jo>

<sup>88</sup> To view the list of the seventeen labor unions, and the list of employers' unions, whose number reached (52) unions after the approval of the establishment of the General Union of Toy Traders, see the following link of the Ministry of Labor: <http://www.mol.gov.jo>.

<sup>89</sup> To review the decision of the Tripartite Committee for Labor Affairs regarding determining the minimum wage for workers in Jordan, see the Official Gazette No. (5855) dated 01/05/2023.

<sup>90</sup> To review the law, see Official Gazette No. (5573) dated 16/05/2019.



1. Depriving workers of benefiting from the tools for resolving collective disputes in Article (2)<sup>91</sup> through:

Amending the definition of collective labor dispute, whereby “a group of workers” was deleted from the original definition, which was as follows: Labor dispute is: any dispute that arises between a group of workers or a union on the one hand and an employer or employers’ union on the other hand regarding the application of a collective employment contract or its interpretation or related to working conditions and terms. The definition was limited to workers who have trade unions, especially since the vast majority of workers are deprived of trade union representation.

2. Depriving workers who do not have unions of the right to collective bargaining in Article (44)<sup>92</sup>, where the right of any group of workers “to initiate a labor dispute to defend its rights and interests” was “cancelled,” and this right was granted only to unions, knowing that the number of workers in Jordan who belong to labor unions does not exceed (60) thousand workers out of (2.5) million workers, and therefore those who are not affiliated or do not have unions are among the categories most vulnerable to the violation of their rights and interests.

3. Establishing restrictions on the formation of trade unions to defend their interests according to Article (98), which gave the Minister of Labor the authority to classify the industries and economic activities in which trade unions may be formed.<sup>93</sup>

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<sup>91</sup> Article 2: “A labor dispute is: any dispute that arises between the union on the one hand and an employer or employers’ union on the other hand regarding the application or interpretation of a collective employment contract or related to the conditions and terms of work. The definition is limited to workers who have labor unions, especially since the vast majority of workers are deprived of union representation.”

<sup>92</sup> Article (44): “A. Collective negotiation may be conducted between employers and the union regarding any matters related to improving the terms and conditions of work and the productivity of workers, provided that this negotiation is conducted upon the request of the employer or the union for a period not exceeding (21) days from the date of the written notification sent by the party wishing to conduct the negotiation to the other party, provided that the notice includes the subject of the negotiation and its reasons, and a copy thereof shall be sent to the Minister within a period not exceeding (48) hours from the date of its issuance.

4. The law granted the General Federation of Trade Unions the right to establish the internal regulations of the Federation and the unions together, and did not leave the union (whether the general body or the administrative body) any organizational role for the union, as they are merely a tool for implementing the instructions of the General Federation of Trade Unions, against which many complaints are directed by numerous labor groups, including independent workers’ unions, Article (100)<sup>94</sup>.

5. Giving the Minister of Labor the right to dissolve the union if certain reasons are available Article (116)<sup>95</sup>.

The Center reiterates that the aforementioned articles contradict the provisions of the Constitution, as Article (16) thereof recognizes the right of Jordanians to form associations, unions, and political parties, provided that their purpose is legitimate, their means are sound, and they have regulations that do not contradict the provisions of the Constitution. Article (23) also recognizes the right to free union organization, and Article (128) of the Constitution also stipulates that the laws issued pursuant to this Constitution to regulate rights and freedoms may not affect the essence of these rights or affect their foundations. It also violates international labor standards, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and Constitutional Court Decision No. (6/2013), which gave the right to all public sector workers to freely organize themselves into trade unions, but it is still suspended.

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<sup>93</sup> Article (98): “D. The Minister, through the Trade Union Registrar, shall classify the industries and economic activities in which trade unions may be established in accordance with the provisions of Paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Article, such that no industry or economic activity shall have more than one trade union representing them, taking into account Arab and international classifications.

<sup>94</sup> Article 100: “The General Federation of Trade Unions shall establish an internal regulation for the unions that does not conflict with the provisions of the applicable legislation, and it shall be ratified by the Registrar of Trade Unions and Employers’ Unions immediately upon its approval, provided that it includes the following matters...”

<sup>95</sup> Article (B/116) In the event of continued violation, the Minister, based on the recommendation of the Trade Union Registrar, may issue a decision to dissolve the administrative body. The decision shall be subject to appeal before the Administrative Court within thirty days from the date of notification.

**Demand for the establishment of new unions:**

The year 2023 did not witness any government initiative to issue a law regulating trade union work for public employees. Official restrictions in the Ministry of Labor indicate approval of the registration of the Union of Owners of Special Education Centers, bringing the number of employers' unions to (58) unions<sup>96</sup>.

**Recommendations:**

To protect the right to establish and join trade unions, the National Center for Human Rights emphasizes its recommendations contained in its previous annual reports, and also recommends the following:

- Amending the Labor Law to make it consistent with the provisions of the Constitution and international standards, and the importance of formulating consensual visions among all parties regarding the contents of the amendments before proceeding with their constitutional procedures.
- Reviewing the professional classification for forming trade unions, so that any labor group can organize itself with ease and convenience.
- Activating the role of the General Authority in the Association and raising the efficiency of its members, and establishing an investment unit in each Association to undertake the tasks of investing the Association's funds to achieve returns that guarantee its ability to fulfill its obligations while preserving the real value of its assets.

### The right to establish and join associations

One of the basic rights guaranteed by national, regional and international charters, the Jordanian Constitution stipulated the right of Jordanians to form associations and limited the role of the law to organizing the method of forming associations and monitoring their resources only. This was stated in the text of Article (2/16) that “Jordanians have the right to form associations, provided that their goal is legitimate, their means are peaceful and their regulations do not violate the provisions of the Constitution. The International Bill of Human Rights also guaranteed the right to form and join associations for all citizens<sup>97</sup>, and stressed that no restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right except those that constitute necessary measures in a democratic society<sup>98</sup>. The Arab Charter on Human Rights also guaranteed this right<sup>99</sup>.

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<sup>97</sup> 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 join an association.” Article (22) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states the following: “1. Everyone has 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 which are prescribed by law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or 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 legal restrictions on members of the armed forces and the police in the exercise of this right. 3. Nothing in this Article shall authorize States Parties to the International Labor Organization Convention of 1948 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize to take legislative measures which would prejudice, or to apply the law in such a manner as would prejudice, the guarantees provided for in that Convention.”

<sup>98</sup> See Articles (21, 22/2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

<sup>99</sup> Article (28) of the Arab Charter on Human Rights states: Freedom of assembly and freedom of peaceful assembly for citizens. Neither of these two freedoms may be exercised except as required by the requirements of national security, public safety, or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

The Center monitored the elements of the normative content of the right to establish and join associations of 2022, based on the integration of legal protection for its components legally and in practice, and through enforcing and strengthening the guarantees of its protection by tracking and monitoring a number of issues: guaranteeing the right of individuals to form associations with various legitimate objectives, which are required to be compatible with the requirements of society, providing guarantees for establishing associations and the right of each association to organize events and meetings, establish its bylaws, and freely access financial resources to implement its activities and form alliances and coalitions with other similar associations.

Developments in the legislative regulation regulating the right:

- The year 2023 did not witness any update to the legal regulation regulating the right to establish and join associations.

In this context, the Center reiterates its recommendations contained in its previous annual reports, which include amending the Associations Law so that it is consistent with the principles guaranteed by the provisions of the Jordanian Constitution and international standards<sup>100</sup>.

- The year 2023 witnessed the approval of the Council of Ministers of the reasons for the draft law on planning and international cooperation of 2023, which was published on the website of the Legislation and Opinion Bureau on 22/02/2023. The draft law included adding new tasks to the Ministry’s work, including: organizing the mechanism for obtaining foreign funding provided by donor and international bodies to associations and companies that do not aim to achieve profit and following up on it, without prejudice to the provisions of relevant legislation, developing the Kingdom’s economic policy, and supporting the formulation of national policies in coordination and cooperation with all relevant parties.

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<sup>100</sup> See the reports of the National Centre for Human Rights for the period 2008 to 2021. The right to establish and join associations.

The draft law comes in implementation of the executive program for modernizing the public sector, which stipulated in its legislative component the review of Planning Law No. 68 of 1971, and the introduction of amendments that ensure the integration of roles and responsibilities between all parties in managing government performance in a manner that ensures the connection with budget and resource planning.

**Policies and Practices:**

1. The year 2023 witnessed the continued demand of civil society organizations to amend the Associations Law by creating a single independent reference body responsible for registration, follow-up, monitoring and supervising the work of civil society organizations, setting governance policies for them, enabling and organizing initiatives, addressing the mechanisms for accepting foreign funding and its subsequent monitoring under the law, unifying the reference for government support, and using information and communications technology as a means of dealing with civil society organizations instead of the bureaucracy witnessed by the relevant ministries.
2. In the same context, civil society institutions continued to carry out their work and activities during 2023, and most efforts focused on preparing the Universal Periodic Review reports and announcing positions condemning the repercussions of the war on the Gaza Strip.
3. The year 2023 witnessed the launch of the “Takamul Platform” under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Development, which contains information for all associations in the Kingdom and registered under the applicable Associations Law. The platform provides associations with many services, including: the service of updating the national number, as a screen is available upon entering the platform that includes the new national number of the association, updating the data of the authorized person to enter the Takamul platform, updating the geographical location of the association’s headquarters (GPS), the service of entering and updating members of the general body and the administrative body of the association,

the service of entering and updating data of paid workers in the association and volunteers, the service of entering the annual report “financial and administrative”, the service of updating the names of the authorized persons for the association, the service of entering a notice of implementing events and activities for associations electronically, the service of electronic archiving of association documents, and the service of issuing an association information certificate, which contains all the association’s information, which will be linked electronically through (QR CODE).

4. During 2023, the center monitored a number of internal challenges and obstacles for associations, which are:
  - The control of an elite group of association members over most of the association’s activities and the absence of the principle of election.
  - The absence of good governance in the work of some associations is represented by the absence of a time frame for assuming leadership positions in the internal regulations of many associations and the means of empowering women and youth in them.
  - Many associations do not adhere to the geographical scope of their work specified in their internal regulations and practice activities and objectives different from the specialization for which they were licensed.
  - Some associations do not commit to providing the minimum wage to their employees, in addition to depriving them of registering with the Social Security and Health Insurance Corporation.

**Formation of associations:**

The legislation in force in the Kingdom still shows the reality of the situation of civil society institutions, which witness a multiplicity in the legal reference for supervising the work of civil society institutions, distributed among eight categories of components [associations, professional and labor unions, sports clubs, youth organizations, employers’ unions, chambers of commerce, industry, and companies that do not aim to achieve profit.

The number of associations registered in the Associations Register of 2023 reached (6513) associations distributed among the following ministries<sup>101</sup>:

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101 By email from the Center’s liaison officer at the Ministry of Social Development

### Number of associations according to the relevant ministries

| Competent Ministry                                 | Number |
|--|--------|
| Ministry of Interior                               | 1143   |
| Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation | 1      |
| Ministry of Culture                                | 766    |
| Ministry of Environment                            | 187    |
| Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs    | 215    |
| Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities                | 91     |
| Ministry of Social Development                     | 3850   |
| Ministry of Health                                 | 103    |

- The number of associations that were dissolved in 2023 was (364) associations<sup>102</sup>,
- The number of civil society institutions that received foreign funding of 2023 reached (170) institutions, including (116) associations and (54) non-profit companies to implement (324) projects<sup>103</sup>.
- The Center monitored the reasons for the dissolution of some associations, which are as follows:
  - Some associations stopped practicing their work for a year.
  - Failure to elect an administrative body for some associations in accordance with the provisions of the association's bylaws and the provisions of the law, regulations and instructions issued pursuant thereto, after the competent minister has exhausted the procedures set forth in Article (19) of the law.
  - Some associations retain or use donations or funding from non-Jordanians in violation of the provisions of Article (17) of the Law.
  - Some associations committed for the second time the violation for which they were previously warned and did not remove the violation based on Article (19) of the law.

<sup>102</sup> By email from the Center's liaison officer at the Ministry of Social Development

<sup>103</sup> Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation Letter No. 15/1/7/1206 dated 08/02/2024.

### **Recommendations:**

The Center reiterates its repeated recommendations in previous reports and adds the following recommendations:

1. The Center reiterates its recommendation to establish an institutional mechanism to maintain communication, consultations, dialogues and partnerships between government institutions, public bodies, civil society organizations and the National Assembly, operating under an independent body.
2. Implementing the objectives of transparent governments and the right to flow of information and access thereto. The Center recommends developing the current association registration regulation to include a digital descriptive index or directory as a computerized guide in which the institution is described digitally through some main determinants such as (specialization, specific work area, objectives, target group, and the nature of the activities it is permitted to practice within its jurisdiction and purposes).
3. The Center reiterates its recommendation to conduct a comprehensive survey of civil society institutions in all specializations and to survey the opinions of those who join them regarding the legal framework for legislative development, in line with political reforms and constitutional amendments, and human rights concepts, and in line with the vision of the National Human Rights Plan based on national consultation on volunteer work and developing a national plan for educating and training university and secondary school students and rehabilitating workers in the field.

## Second: Economic, social and cultural rights axis

### The right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living.

The right to development<sup>104</sup> and the right to an adequate standard of living<sup>105</sup> are among the rights guaranteed by international human rights covenants. They are inalienable rights and the basis for the implementation of human rights and the rights of peoples and states. These rights shall be an essential element for stability, human and social development, and increasing the life chances of some people in a society without decreasing the life chances of others at the same time and in the same society. It is a tangible increase in production and services that is comprehensive, integrated, and linked to the movement of society, influencing and being influenced, to form a comprehensive or ongoing development process that takes various comprehensive forms that include political, economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects and fields that aim to raise the human condition to a decent standard of living of well-being, stability and development.

<sup>104</sup> (M/22) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (M/1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, (M/1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights Resolution No. (D-4) 33 dated February 21, 1977 and Resolution No. (D-5) dated March 2, 1979, and Resolution No. (35/174) dated December 15, 1980, the Declaration of the Right to Development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly pursuant to Resolution (41/281) in January 1986.

<sup>105</sup> The right to an adequate standard of living is the essence of economic and social rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article (25), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article (11), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles (26/27), have guaranteed it as one of the rights to achieve human dignity.

Since 2022, the National Center has worked to integrate the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living, given their close interconnectedness when monitoring and evaluating both. Where the right to an adequate standard of living finds its purposes and contexts in the eleventh purpose of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals under the title “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”.

This purpose hereby represents the year 2030 in ensuring access to safe and affordable housing. This purpose has several objectives to implement, including ensuring that everyone has access to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, upgrading slums by 2030, and promoting inclusive and sustainable urban expansion for all without any discrimination.

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The normative content of the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living shall be based on the integration of legal protection of its components, legally and in practice, and through the enforcement and strengthening of guarantees for its protection by tracking and monitoring a number of important issues, namely: the economy and unemployment, water security, food security, climate change, the tourism sector and sustainable development indicators.

### First: Developments during 2023:

The year 2023 witnessed the launch of the Jordan Development Portal platform<sup>106</sup>, which provides statistical indicators to measure the extent of implementation of the sustainable development purposes and enables users to obtain the latest official data according to the administrative divisions of the Kingdom, through a tool to monitor the sustainable development purposes distributed over several different sub-topics according to the topic related to each purpose as a sector (education / health / gender / labor market / macroeconomics / public finance sector / tourism). The portal database also contains indicators from national sources from surveys conducted by the Department of Statistics, in addition to administrative records from ministries and other official bodies. It also contains indicators from international sources (United Nations database). All indicators shall be available within time series in addition to their descriptive data as a unit of measurement and some detailed data according to the list of sustainable development purposes. The portal enables the user to extract two types of analysis: A. Quantitative analysis: which allows visualization, comparison, export and sharing of data on sustainable development indicators. Report Generator: which enables the user to extract detailed information about the availability of sustainable development purposes data, in addition to creating a report in the form of a time series or a report on the latest available data.

- Continuing work to implement the objectives of the executive program for the Economic Modernization Vision for the years (2023-2025)

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<sup>106</sup> It is an interactive platform prepared by the Department of Statistics, aiming to enable the user to obtain the latest official data, both quantitatively and qualitatively, according to the administrative divisions of the Kingdom, through a tool for monitoring sustainable development goals prepared by the Department of Statistics, which can be viewed on the website of the Department of Statistics.

as a translation of the government's commitment to implementing the Economic Modernization Vision as a fundamental pillar in the comprehensive modernization project led by His Majesty King Abdullah II with its three political, economic and administrative tracks, this program includes initiatives, projects, legislation and priority procedures in various development sectors, which all relevant ministries and institutions will work to implement within the time frames stated therein, as the program document is a starting point for subsequent executive programs, paving the way for achieving the goals related to growth, creating job opportunities, investment and partnership with the private sector. The priorities program is a living and flexible document that is subject to annual review and evaluation in accordance with the government's economic developments and priorities. It includes a specific time frame for implementation, clear indicators for measuring performance, and an electronic regulation for monitoring achievement.

- Continuing to implement the government's indicative executive program (2021-2024).

The Government's Indicative Executive Program for the years 2021-2024 is Jordan's medium-term national development plan and includes a comprehensive vision and methodology for dealing with economic, social, political and reform issues for various sectors according to the program's time frame and clear tools for measuring achievement. It has been prepared in light of the circumstances associated with the Corona pandemic, and thus took into account its effects and directed resources to enable Jordan to deal therewith. The government is committed to conducting periodic reviews of the program, including any developments and updates on the epidemiological situation and the economy in the regional and global frameworks. The axes of the indicative executive program also reflect Jordan's commitment to integrating the requirements for achieving the sustainable development agenda within the integrated national framework of national development plans. The program covers seven main axes that include twenty-four development sectors, and is implemented and monitored by more than one hundred entities, ministries, official and civil institutions, and the private sector.



The program was prepared through a participatory approach with all relevant ministries and government institutions, based on references, plans and economic developments, taking into account the participation of the private sector and civil society institutions in development and the integration of roles. The outputs of the government's meetings with the private sector and civil society institutions, and the observations of the representatives' interventions in the confidence-granting sessions, were included as much as possible.

- The axes of the government's indicative executive program (2021-2024) and the most important links with the sustainable development purposes.
- Continuing to implement structural, economic and financial reforms within the framework of the 2018-2022 Reform Matrix, which was extended to 2024 in light of political and economic developments and the repercussions of the Corona pandemic, and updating it to include a set of new reforms and procedures aimed at accelerating the pace of economic growth, improving the business environment, developing government services, raising the competitiveness of the national economy, and creating the job opportunities required to employ Jordanians. The following shall be the most important pillars of this matrix:
  - Public Finance: Improving the management of government revenues and public debt, and directing government spending towards investment projects with high added value and employment of labor.
  - Developing the public sector and government services: Raising the efficiency of the public sector, improving the level of government services, and achieving results-oriented government management.
  - Improving the business environment: applying the best practices of good governance, reducing the costs of doing business, and developing competition laws to ensure market freedom and protect individuals and companies from any practices that violate competition laws.
- Promoting investment and exports and facilitating trade: Creating an attractive and stimulating environment for local and foreign investment and supporting national industry, which also contributes to increasing and diversifying exports and developing the infrastructure of the digital economy.
- Access to finance: Developing the credit infrastructure, diversifying sources of financing for small and medium-sized enterprises, stimulating the capital market to increase its contribution to the economy, and improving policies, legislation and procedures that ensure increasing financial inclusion.
- Labor market: Addressing labor market imbalances to improve access to jobs, especially for women, while ensuring a decent, safe and accessible work environment for them.
- Strengthening social protection: Developing social protection programs, improving and expanding support for the poor, supporting poor families in the face of rising living costs, improving and expanding the coverage of social safety nets, continuing to introduce improvements to the targeting mechanism to deliver support to those who deserve it, and enabling support recipients to engage in the labor market, production, and self-reliance.
- Transport Sector: Raising the efficiency of public transport services and expanding them to contribute to the development of other sectors, enhancing the private sector's contribution to managing, improving and expanding public transport services, developing road infrastructure, developing multiple modes of transport, and promoting safe behavior in transport.
- Energy Sector: Developing the financial sustainability and legislative framework for the sector, developing a competitive electricity market, ensuring the efficiency of the electricity grid, addressing cost challenges and contractual obligations, enhancing energy security, improving efficiency of use, and reducing the cost of electricity.

- Water and Agriculture Sector: Supporting the financial sustainability of the water sector, reducing energy consumption in this sector, developing its governance, developing a strategy for redistributing water resources, developing the water tariff structure, improving the efficiency of government services to the agricultural sector, increasing its added value through the introduction of technology, and improving farmers' access to financing.
- Tourism sector: Improving the legislative and competitive environment for the sector, improving and facilitating entry into and movement within the Kingdom, diversifying the tourism product, attracting new categories and segments of tourists, in addition to implementing measures to confront the repercussions resulting from the Corona pandemic.
- Continuing to implement the National Social Protection Strategy (2019-2025) within three main axes: the decent work axis, the social services axis, and the financial and in-kind social assistance axis with the aim of moving from the concept of social care to social protection, and moving from providing jobs in the public sector and supporting goods to empowering citizens. Establishing a Public-Private Partnership Projects Unit in the Prime Ministry to drive economic growth, contribute to creating job opportunities, and implement infrastructure and public services projects through a clear partnership in the infrastructure, utilities, and services sectors.
- Continuing to implement the objectives of the Government's Economic Priorities Program (2021-2023), which aims to enable the national economy to recover in light of the challenges resulting from the Corona pandemic and its repercussions, by adopting priority policies, reforms and projects that seek to focus efforts on returning the national economy to the required path for recovery and starting growth through three main objectives of the Government's Economic Priorities Program (2021-2023), which are:

enabling the private sector to create the required job opportunities to employ Jordanians and increase and stimulate local and foreign investment and increasing the volume of national exports of goods and services.

The program aims, in part, to implement the government's economic work priorities (2021-2023), to make a qualitative change in the investment environment and business practice in the Kingdom, by adopting a number of legislative and executive priorities that will enhance the competitiveness of the national economy, stimulate local investment, and attract foreign investment.

#### Development Challenges:

##### First: Unemployment and the Economy

The unemployment rate reached 21.4 during the fourth quarter of 2023, a decrease of 1.5 points compared to the fourth quarter of 2022.

The unemployment rate for males reached 18.9% during the fourth quarter of 2023, compared to 29.8 for females<sup>107</sup>.

The table below shows the unemployment rate for Jordanians for the period 2019-2023

**Unemployment rates for Jordanians from 2019-2023**

| Year | Unemployment rate |
|------|-------------------|
| 2019 | 19.1              |
| 2020 | 23.2              |
| 2021 | 24.1              |
| 2022 | 22.8              |
| 2023 | 21.4              |

- The continued increase in the challenges facing the axis of structural and economic reform that Jordan was exposed to during 2022 and its impact on a group of different internal and external factors, including its geopolitical location, in addition to the repeated resort to Jordan, followed by the consequences of the Israeli aggression in Gaza in late 2023.

<sup>107</sup> Department of Statistics website: <https://dosweb.dos.jo/ar/category>

Since Jordan's economy relies mainly on several sectors, including services, trade and tourism, these broad sectors have been affected since the beginning of the Zionist aggression on the Gaza Strip, and the tourism and services sectors were the most affected, and this had repercussions on the Jordanian economy and labor market and curbed real growth rates in the gross domestic product.

#### **Water Security:**

Water is an essential part of the wheel of economic, social, political development and national security to maintain adequate water supply rates for citizens and other uses and to expand the coverage of sanitation services. Jordan is one of the poorest countries in the world in terms of per capita share of fresh and renewable water, as Jordan is classified as the second poorest country in the world in terms of water resources.

The Jordanian legislator has given water resources special importance under the regulatory legislation and has given them legal protection (criminal and civil) to prevent any attack on them, whether it is an attack that affects these resources qualitatively or quantitatively, directly or indirectly, especially in light of the scarcity of water resources<sup>108</sup>.

- The per capita share is less than 100 cubic meters annually, and it is expected that the per capita share in Jordan of annual renewable water resources will decrease from 61 cubic meters to 35 cubic meters in 2040 "if available water quantities remain at their current levels," according to the National Water Strategy<sup>109</sup>. The global absolute scarcity rate is 500 cubic meters annually per capita<sup>110</sup>.

<sup>108</sup> From the general or specific legislation related to water facilities and in force: Penal Code No. (16) of 1960 represented by the following articles (Article 546 / 457 / 458 /) Economic Crimes Law (Article 3) Jordan Valley Development Law No. 19 of 1988, as amended (Articles 31 and 38).

<sup>109</sup> The strategy launched by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation for the years (2023-2040).

<sup>110</sup> The strategy launched by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation for the years (2023-2040).

This is due to "a population increase that coincides with a decrease in the amount of water available from current sources," despite "a significant increase in the amount of treated water expected." Jordan's per capita share is "well below" the scarcity rate, and its water sector faces "a major challenge in bridging the widening gap between demand for water and available sources due to population growth and the recurring influx of refugees as a result of instability in some neighboring countries".

In addition, "activities related to economic development and the expansion of agricultural areas all constitute an important factor in the increasing demand for water to meet development needs."<sup>111</sup>

The "State of the Country 2023" report issued by the Economic and Social Council revealed the need to take measures related to reducing the water problem in the Kingdom, focusing on achieving the goals of raising the efficiency of water use, and seeking to obtain rights to shared water. The recently issued report, entitled "The Fourth Industrial Revolution 2023," stressed the importance of adopting water desalination in Aqaba and proceeding with the establishment of desalination projects as a strategic option to solve the water problem in Jordan using modern technology.

The report concluded that it is necessary to develop radical solutions to the problem of water loss in its legal and technical aspects, in addition to addressing other challenges represented by intermittent pumping, increasing the individual's share in domestic uses, and depletion of groundwater. It pointed out that the water deficit is expected to increase from 64 million cubic meters in 2022 to 85 million in 2026 as a result of the increase in demand for water, and stressed the role of the National Desalination Carrier Project, which is expected to start operating in 2027, in bridging the expected deficit until 2035.

<sup>111</sup> The official page of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

This is in addition to its role in contributing to reducing pressure on groundwater, as it will provide 300 million cubic meters of desalinated water from the Red Sea, covering Jordan's drinking water needs. It recommended the need to continue and strive to obtain rights to shared water with neighboring countries, considering that this contributes to alleviating the stifling water crisis<sup>112</sup>.

“Several international references have indicated that water scarcity levels are measured and countries are compared to each other, including the Water Stress Index, one of the indicators of the sixth purpose of the Sustainable Development Purposes”. This indicator “classifies Jordan among the most water-stressed countries; this stress is expected to increase due to the increase in demand for water and the increase in population compared to the available water resources, which are also affected by climate change factors<sup>113</sup>.” The government is still addressing the existing challenges facing Jordan in this regard. Considering that the water crisis in Jordan is a priority and despite the magnitude of the challenge facing Jordan in this sector, it does not receive the attention that rises to the level of the challenges posed and reflected in various sectors. Indicators of the increasing severity of water stress in Jordan cannot be dropped, which ranks it as the second poorest country in terms of water in the world, and which urges taking measures in the water sector and the need to adopt them quickly; to preserve the water, food and health security regulation alike.

On 15/02/2024, the National Center for Human Rights implemented a discussion panel entitled “Water and Food Security and Strengthening Independence.”

The session aimed to formulate a national legal vision for the highest interests and national priorities in the issues of water security and food security.

Among the challenges that the discussion panel highlighted and that face water security in Jordan are the following: (1) Geopolitical influences: Jordan’s geographical location and political situation affect its water share from the Yarmouk River (2) Increase in irrigation water prices and increased costs of raw materials, (3) Slow implementation of the national carrier project, (4) Irresponsible consumption by citizens, attacks on water networks, and illegal drilling of artesian wells, (5) The shortage of water resources in Jordan, and the shrinking and erosion of agricultural areas; as a result of many factors, some of which are natural and others are human: such as migration and asylum, which increases the burden on water resources (6) The lack of balance between population and resources, in addition to the increasing climate change and its impact on the sectors of agriculture, water, environment and agricultural land.

The discussion session concluded with a number of recommendations, including:

(1) Visiting the inspection of illegal artesian wells, (2) educating citizens to reduce irresponsible consumption of domestic water, (3) establishing central enclosures to treat industrial and natural wastewater in all regions of the Kingdom, (4) updating water networks, monitoring water basins, and stopping excessive pumping from them.

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<sup>112</sup> 2023 State of the Country Report issued by the Economic and Social Council.

<sup>113</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: <https://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/642/ar>

### Food Security:

The right to adequate food shall be one of the fundamental human rights guaranteed by international and regional human rights conventions. These charters are based on the second goal of the Sustainable Development Purposes, which is to end hunger and promote sustainable agriculture. Food security is defined as the state in which all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and their different food preferences. The term food regulation refers to the set of activities involved in food production, processing and transportation. We can note that food security is a comprehensive national goal, while the food regulation is an integrated approach. This aspect has received royal attention, so that Jordan can achieve complete food security, away from the repercussions of the stage and its consequences, and the challenges facing the world in this regard, so that Jordan can be a model case in achieving effective food security through which it can achieve a policy of self-sufficiency. Accordingly, the government has taken many practical steps and procedures regarding food security, the most important of which is the decision of the Council of Ministers on the Food Security Council Regulation of 2023<sup>114</sup>, which came as a result of the countries of the world, including Jordan, being affected by international food crises and climate change, with the aim of providing information and data related to food security and issuing reports on it in the Kingdom according to the indicators adopted in the National Food Security Strategy, in order to review and approve national strategic policies and plans related to food security and monitor their implementation.

National efforts to achieve the goal of “complete elimination of hunger<sup>115</sup>”:

<sup>114</sup> Official Gazette No. (5874) Page (3655) dated 19/08/2023

<sup>115</sup> For more information, see the Second Voluntary Review Report of the Sustainable Development Purposes 2020, p. 61.

- Working to encourage and support family farming in rural areas with the aim of enhancing national food security for the poorest groups in the countryside and desert through projects that aim to increase the income of poor rural families and create job opportunities through paid loans and providing water for livestock breeders in the desert and supporting agricultural land reclamation projects in rain-fed areas.
- Continuing to implement the objectives of the National Food Security Strategy (2021-2030), which aims to achieve four main axes centered around ensuring the availability of food, improving access to food, enhancing food stability and optimal use, in addition to strengthening food security governance.
- Continuing to monitor the safety, security and quality of locally produced and traded food products at all stages of the food production chain (from farm to table) in accordance with the highest international standards in the field of food safety and security.
- Continuing to provide direct support to food-insecure families through monthly cash and/or food support.

It is worth noting here that the second voluntary review report of the Sustainable Development Purposes revealed the challenges and risks facing the achievement of the purpose, which are as follows<sup>116</sup>:

- Inadequate sources of financing for capital projects within the general budget and from donors.
- The increasing agricultural risks resulting from climate change and fluctuating water quantities.

<sup>116</sup> For more information, see the Second Voluntary Review Report of the Sustainable Development Purposes 2020, p. 61.

- The continuous decline in the area of agricultural holdings as a result of urban encroachment and fragmentation of ownership, the continued encroachment on forest lands, and the high costs of improving and rehabilitating forest and pasture lands.
- Population increase, high unemployment rates, and loss of jobs for household heads due to the repercussions of the Corona pandemic.
- The worsening deficit in water resources and the weakness of water storage capacity.

On 15/02/2024, the National Center for Human Rights implemented a discussion session entitled “Water and Food Security and Strengthening Independence.” The session aimed to crystallize a national legal vision for the supreme interests and national priorities in water security issues. The most prominent challenges that the discussions concluded were the following: (1) Food security crises and shifts in global markets (2) The erosion of rainfed agricultural areas in Jordan as a result of desertification. (3) The disparity in national productivity between grains and vegetables. (4) Food waste from locally produced or imported foods that are wasted during the food supply chain. (5) The lack of agricultural plans that work on studying the soil to know its quality and the type of crops suitable for its nature, the absence of agricultural diversity, and reliance on traditional agriculture.

The discussions resulted in a number of recommendations, including:

- (1) Developing new methods for innovation in the agricultural sector and investing in the cultivation of turmeric and medicinal plants, (2) Establishing agricultural schools in various governorates of the Kingdom, (3) Establishing projects to recycle surplus agricultural products by converting them into fodder protein, (4) Training workers in the agricultural sector, specifically in peripheral areas, on how to prepare projects to market agricultural products, (5) Developing infrastructure (land and fertilizers) for the grain and seed sector, (6) Use of technology in agriculture,

(7) The need to pay attention to the future of agriculture in high-altitude areas that depend on groundwater wells, especially in light of the results of studies that predict a decline in their productivity and the drying up of some of them, and the extent of the impact of this on water and food security. (8) To expand the use of treated water in agricultural areas in the Jordan Valley that still use fresh water in groundwater agriculture. (9) Work to empower rural women by creating income-generating job opportunities and implementing development projects. (10) Finding the necessary solutions to address the problem of plastic in the Jordan Valley. (11) Raising the capacities of workers in the agricultural sector in the areas of obtaining financing and marketing products. (14) Supporting projects aimed at recycling surplus agricultural products by converting them into animal feed protein and organic fertilizers.

#### **Tourism Sector**

The tourism sector shall be one of the sectors that support the budgets of countries and achieve large revenues that help in development processes in various other sectors through its contribution to the national economy. It is noteworthy that until the third quarter of 2023, the tourism sector was heading towards recovery in light of the improvement of indicators, most notably the increase in the number of tourists coming to Jordan and the government’s work that was being carried out to re-attract tourists more and achieve the numbers recorded by the tourism sector in 2019.

The Economic Modernization Vision launched by His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein in June 2022 came as a result of the national economic workshops. The vision, which will be implemented in three stages over the next 10 years, addressed 8 economic engines and 366 initiatives in various sectors. The “Jordan as a Global Destination” engine was one of these engines, which aims to consolidate Jordan’s position as a major destination for tourism and film production, and to achieve this goal, the vision included a set of initiatives specific to the tourism sector that are directly linked to the tourism and travel development index<sup>117</sup>.

<sup>117</sup> Economic Modernization Vision: 2022

The year 2023 witnessed the Ministry of Tourism developing solutions to support the tourism sector in light of circumstances such as the Corona pandemic and the aggression on Gaza. In order to protect the Jordanian economy from any negative repercussions that may result from such situations, the following were represented:

1. Doubling the cadres of the Department of Antiquities in the main archaeological sites and activating the operations room around the clock.
2. Increasing the rate of security checks by the tourist police for tourist groups.
3. Motivating tourists to spread messages about their safe tourism experiences through social media sites from different tourist sites (Jerash, Petra, Madaba, Jabal al-Qalaa and Aqaba).
4. Promoting Jordan as a safe country for tourists through global platforms, social media platforms and external tourism offices.

The main challenge facing the sector is the security deterioration in neighboring countries, which leads to a decrease in the number of tourists coming to the entire region, in addition to:

1. Lack of integrated programs and experiences in the sites.
2. There are challenges that prevent the design of an integrated path for the visitor from the moment he arrives at the site until the end of the trip.
3. Difficulty in providing some services in some locations within city centers, such as parking lots and buses, as well as in some locations due to the topography of the location.

4. Difficulty in providing some services such as electricity, water and sewage networks in some tourist areas.
5. Investors' lack of interest in providing attractive quality tourism services near tourist sites.
6. The lack of readiness of local communities in terms of awareness and training to engage in tourism work and appreciate the importance of this sector as an economic tributary is positively reflected from the economic point of view.

The Center stresses the importance of continuing national efforts to develop the tourism sector, which is considered a vital part of the Kingdom's economy, and that joint cooperation between all parties will contribute to overcoming the crisis until the sector regains its prosperity and in order to protect the Jordanian economy from any negative repercussions that may result from the situation in the Gaza Strip and the state of escalation in the Arab region.

#### **Numbers of tourists and their nationalities<sup>118</sup>**

The year 2023 witnessed the issuance of a report entitled "The Reality of the Tourism Sector in Jordan: Between the Beginning of Recovery and the Region's Turmoil," to shed light on the sector's figures and provide a reading to measure the potential impact on its performance and contribution to economic growth. The most important points in the report:

- The total number of workers in the sector last year was 58 thousand, with expatriate workers accounting for 20 percent of the total sector workforce, according to data from the Ministry of Tourism.
- The number of socially insured tourism establishments in 2022 reached about 6,000, employing 55.5 thousand socially insured workers, constituting 4 percent of the total insured in the Kingdom.

<sup>118</sup> Knowledge is Power Report entitled "The Reality of the Tourism Sector in Jordan: Published on the Jordanian Strategies Forum website 2023

The report indicated that the total number of tourists increased by 90.2 percent in 2021 and 114.1 percent in 2022, while their number during the nine months of last year amounted to about 5.01 million tourists, i.e. a percentage slightly higher than the level of the entire year 2022.

The report indicated that the tourism sector in Jordan is characterized by high diversity in terms of the destinations coming to the Kingdom, as it is noteworthy that there is a great similarity between the percentages of tourists from Jordanians 25.7 percent, foreign countries 27 percent, Gulf countries 20.3 percent, and other Arab countries 27.1 percent.

- The report revealed that tourism income during the nine months of last year reached 4.83 billion dinars, which is close to what it achieved during 2022, in which tourism income increased by 101.8 percent compared to the previous year to reach about 4.9 billion dinars, while 2021 recorded a growth of 96.4 percent compared to 2020. It is noteworthy that the ratio of tourism income to national exports has increased steadily to reach 58.7 percent in 2022 and 77 percent for the nine months of last year. However, this ratio has not yet reached its levels recorded in 2018, which amounted to 94.5 percent, and 2019, which amounted to 96.1 percent.

The report indicated that Jordanian expatriates constitute the largest source of tourism income, 32.4 percent of the total income, followed by income from other Arab countries, 23 percent, then the Gulf countries, 17.8 percent, with the three sources constituting 73.3 percent of the total tourism income during the nine months of last year.

Income from non-Arab countries (European countries, the United States of America, and Asian countries) constituted 24 percent of total tourism income in 2022, and 26.7 percent during the nine months of last year.

In terms of the purpose of tourism, tourism for the purpose of “visiting relatives and friends” came first with a percentage of 36.3 percent of the total tourism income, then “vacation and entertainment” with 16.1 percent, “passenger transport” with 14.6 percent, and “study” with 12.3 percent.

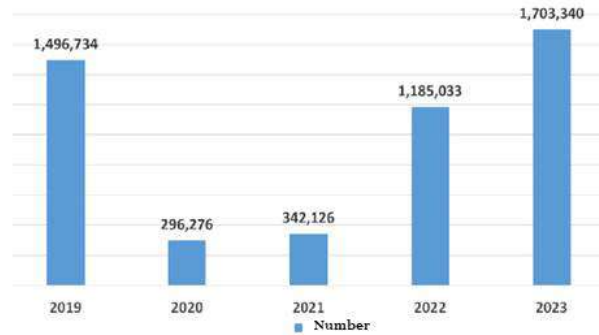
- The report explained that there are no official estimates of the tourism sector’s contribution (added value) to the GDP, noting that the ratio of tourism income to nominal GDP reached 14.3 percent in 2018, 15.2 percent in 2019, 14.2 percent in 2022, and 18.3 percent in nine months of last year, indicating that these percentages are not the actual contribution of tourism income to the gross domestic product.
- It explained that the contribution of tourism income to the GDP depends on the “added value”, as the forum conducted an analysis of the percentage of added value produced by the tourism sector (as a percentage of tourism income), indicating that assuming that the added value is estimated at 30 percent, the contribution of the tourism sector to the GDP will be about 4.5 percent.
- The report indicated that the tourism sector employs between 55.5 and 58 thousand direct job opportunities according to figures from the Social Security Corporation and the Ministry of Tourism. However, these figures are lower than reality, because they do not include workers in the informal sector, or workers in other sectors that serve the tourism sector indirectly. Therefore, the decline in the sector’s revenues will negatively affect jobs and high unemployment rates. The report indicated that the percentage of Jordanian and Arab tourists amounts to about 75 percent of the total tourism income, and it is seasonal tourism from which the income is not expected to be greatly affected.



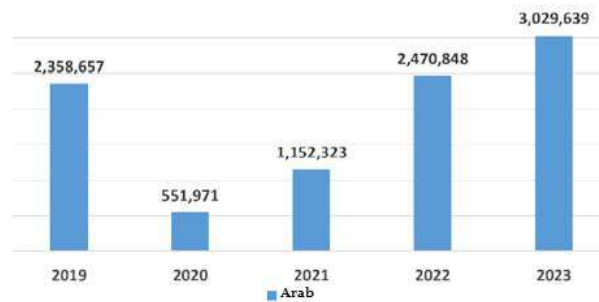
Likewise, the tourism income from transporting passengers, studying, or medical treatment is not expected to be greatly affected, indicating that most of the travel cancellations for the categories coming for the purpose of “vacation and entertainment” were largely from foreigners (and some Arabs).

The report concluded that if the war on the Gaza Strip continues, its impact will be largely concentrated on tourism income from visitors coming for the purpose of “vacation and entertainment,” noting that the establishments operating in this field are the largest employer in the tourism sector.

Number of foreign tourists to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan during the years 2019-2023



Number of Arab tourists to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan during the years 2019-2023



### Climate change:

Climate change shall be one of the most prominent challenges of our time, due to its negative impacts on various development sectors. The most important of these impacts are water scarcity, drought, and serious changes in sea level, plant life, and mass extinctions of animal and plant groups. It also affects human societies. Climate change is mainly caused by human activity increasing the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which is trapping more heat.

The legislative framework for climate change represented by Climate Change Regulation No. (79) of 2019 is one of the comprehensive legislative frameworks for regulating the response to climate change. The year 2023 also witnessed the continuation of the national efforts announced by the Ministry of Environment since 2020 to address the impact of climate change through its national plans that fall within six sectors (water, energy, waste, transportation, agriculture, and tourism). On the economic level, the government's executive indicative program 2021-2023 included green growth as one of its main axes, in addition to working to harmonize the environmental and climate dimension within the economic reform matrix.

According to future studies and forecasts, climate change is causing a challenge in causing radical changes to water resources in Jordan, including:<sup>119</sup>

- Decreased availability of water resources: Climate change will reduce surface water availability by 15% by 2040.

- More frequent and prolonged droughts and more heat waves: The number of consecutive dry days will increase, especially in the western region where rainfed agriculture is currently available.
- Increased evaporation: More water will be evaporated from plants, water bodies and lost through seepage.
- In addition, there are indirect consequences of the impact of climate change on the water sector on related sectors and development priorities in Jordan in the agricultural sector, represented by the rise in temperature, decrease in rainfall, shift in the rainy season and heat waves. These risks are likely to lead to many impacts on the agricultural sector, such as reducing the productivity of rainfed and irrigated crops and livestock, in addition to the fact that it will lead to a decrease in soil fertility and the area allocated for agriculture and livestock.

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<sup>119</sup> Environment and Climate Change Sector Report/Jordan Strategy Forum 2022.

**Recommendations:**

- The necessity of working on developing a general strategy for the tourism sector with a long term, and improving the reality of tourism products and marketing them effectively.
- The need to expedite the implementation of the national carrier project, as it has become an urgent necessity, as it is necessary to work on desalinating seawater and developing a strategy for the importance of using technology to confront water challenges, determining the amount of wasted water and addressing this important issue, and taking measures to treat and reuse water in agriculture and industry, to confront the impact of climate change on the water sector “which are the most important water supply projects that will achieve stability in the medium term.”
- Accelerating the enforcement of laws and legislation related to attacks on water resources, especially the drilling of illegal wells in light of the presence of a group of illegal wells not registered with the Ministry of Water.
- Raising citizens' awareness of reducing irresponsible consumption of domestic water, rehabilitating networks, increasing sewage networks, and increasing control over artesian wells.
- Focus on expanding and enhancing water harvesting plans that may contribute to increasing the stock.
- The importance of implementing water reuse and recycling projects in industrial complexes, given their role in reducing their dependence on groundwater.

, which revolved around forcing the worker to take unpaid leave, forcing the worker to submit his resignation, overtime demands, reducing the worker's wages, withholding the worker's passport, not paying wages, using the worker in work that is clearly different in type from the work agreed upon, the lack of occupational health and safety standards in the institution, not paying the minimum wage, and terminating of service for a fixed term employment contract, an oral contract, or the absence of a contract, failure to grant a certificate of experience, failure to give a month's notice to the worker, forced labor for the worker, and other complaints. (4,566) complaints were resolved and legal measures were taken in their regard in the interest of the workers<sup>134</sup>.

| Legal measures taken against industrial, commercial and service institutions and establishments |  |        |
|---|--|--------|
|   | Violations   | Number |
| Violations and warnings   | Warnings according to legal articles   | 5237   |
|   | Work warnings according to the text of Article (12)  | 152    |
|   | Warnings of the Domestic Workers Directorate   | 18     |
|   | Violations related to inspection, based on the provisions of Article (12) of the Labor Law | 3076   |
|   | Violations under other legal provisions  | 2092   |
|   | Violations under defense orders and notifications issued                                   | 52     |

#### Protests and Sit-ins

In 2023, the Ministry of Labor dealt with 50 labor disputes, 41 of which were resolved through direct negotiation between workers and employers in 2023, compared to 40 disputes in 2022. One labor dispute was referred to the Conciliation Council in 2023, while 3 disputes were referred thereto in 2022. One labor dispute was resolved through the Minister's direct intervention in 2023, compared to (5) disputes being resolved in 2022. No labor dispute was referred to the court in 2023, compared to one labor dispute being referred in 2022.

| Table showing the number of labor disputes and the action taken during the years 2020-2023 |      |      |      |      |
|--|------|------|------|------|
|  | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 |
| Number of labor disputes   | 50   | 50   | 45   | 41   |
| Number of labor disputes resolved by direct negotiation                                    | 41   | 40   | 40   | 38   |
| Number of labor disputes resolved by resorting to the Conciliation Council                 | 1    | 3    | 2    | 2    |
| Number of labor disputes resolved through the intervention of the Minister                 | 1    | 2    | 2    | -    |
| Number of labor disputes referred to the courts  | 0    | 1    | 1    | -    |

<sup>134</sup> Ibid

The number of labor strikes in 2023 reached (22) strikes, of which (21) strikes were resolved, compared to (18) strikes resolved in 2022.

| Table showing the number of labor strikes resolved during the years 2019-2023 |      |      |      |      |      |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| Years   | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 |
| Number of labor strikes resolved  | 21   | 19   | 20   | 11   | 22   |

The number of collective labor contracts deposited in 2023 amounted to 46 collective contracts, from which 267,195 workers benefited, compared to 47 collective contracts signed in 2022, from which 263,123 workers benefited<sup>135</sup> at the time.

| Table showing the number of workers' contracts and their beneficiaries during the years 2019-2023 |        |        |        |         |        |
|---|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| Years   | 2023   | 2022   | 2021   | 2020    | 2019   |
| Number of collective labor contracts deposited  | 46     | 47     | 45     | 49      | 56     |
| Number of beneficiaries of collective labor contracts   | 267195 | 263123 | 115231 | 1603791 | 281526 |

#### Child labor:

Despite the national efforts made by various official and unofficial bodies to reduce the phenomenon of child labor, the year 2023 witnessed the continuation of this phenomenon, especially in the craft sectors.

During the year 2023, the workers in the Inspection Department for Combating Child Labor/Ministry of Labor carried out (17,256) field visits to workplaces in various governorates in the Kingdom, which revealed (507) cases of child labor. The field visits of the inspection committees and the Child Labor Combating Department affiliated with the Ministry of Labor revealed the existence of factories and places that are still employing children, in violation of applicable national legislation and international human rights standards. As a result, 259 warnings and 242 violations were issued to employers<sup>137</sup>.

| Table showing the number of child labor cases dealt with and the action taken during the years 2019-2023. |      |      |      |      |      |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of cases   | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 |
| Number of child labor cases   | 507  | 520  | 1187 | 503  | 467  |
| Number of warnings  | 259  | 142  | 433  | 265  | 295  |
| Number of employer violations   | 242  | 160  | 104  | 79   | 250  |

<sup>135</sup> According to the official letter received by the National Center for Human Rights from the Ministry of Labor dated 30/01/2024.

<sup>136</sup> According to the official letter received by the National Center for Human Rights from the Ministry of Labor dated 30/01/2024.

<sup>137</sup> Ibid

### Preventing Human Trafficking

The number of cases (human trafficking crimes and labor cases) that were dealt with and investigated by the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit/Public Security in 2023 was (212) cases, compared to (214) cases in 2022. While the number of cases that were classified as human trafficking cases in 2023 amounted to (43) cases, compared to (36) cases in 2022, and the number of cases that did not rise to the level of human trafficking suspicion in 2023 and were classified as labor cases amounted to (169) cases, compared to (178) cases in 2022, and the number of victims of human trafficking crimes in 2023 amounted to (58) victims, compared to (62) victims in 2022, while the number of perpetrators of human trafficking crimes in 2023 reached (92) perpetrators, compared to (71) perpetrators in 2022<sup>138</sup>.

| Statistics of human trafficking cases of 2023 |                 |            |            |              |        |
|---|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------|
| Type of crime                                 | Number of cases | Victims    |            | Perpetrators |        |
|   |                 | Male       | Female     | Male         | Female |
| Sexual Exploitation                           | 4               | 0          | 8          | 6            | 4      |
| Sexual exploitation of children               | 2               | 0          | 3 juvenile | 3            | 2      |
| Organ removal (kidney)                        | 18              | 17         | 3          | 47           | 0      |
| Organized begging                             | 1               | 1 child    | 0          | 1            | 1      |
| Forced labor (domestic labor)                 | 12              | 0          | 20         | 9            | 9      |
| Forced labor (child labor)                    | 6               | 6 juvenile | 0          | 8            | 2      |
| Total   | 43              | 24         | 34         | 74           | 18     |
| Grand Total                                   | 43              | 58         |            | 92           |        |

On the other hand, the year 2023 witnessed the approval of the National Strategy to Prevent Human Trafficking for the year 2023-2026. The strategy includes four axes, namely prevention, protection, initial investigation and prosecution, and partnership and international cooperation. It emanates from twelve strategic purposes and a number of sub-purposes, and includes an executive plan to achieve these purposes. In order to provide more protection for victims of human trafficking, in 2023, the National Referral Mechanism and Unified Procedures for Dealing with Cases of Human Trafficking were approved. The year 2023 also witnessed the issuance of the amended regulation of the Shelter Regulation for Victims and Those Affected by Human Trafficking Crimes<sup>139</sup> No. (46) of 2023, which will provide protection and shelter for victims of human trafficking. In addition, at the beginning of 2023, the regulation of the Human Trafficking Victims<sup>140</sup> Assistance Fund No. (6) of 2023 was issued, issued pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph (c) of Article (14) of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law No. (9) of 2009; in order to provide the necessary assistance to the victims.

<sup>138</sup> According to information obtained from the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit/Public Security Directorate, dated 03/01/2023.

<sup>139</sup> Published on page 3664 of Official Gazette No. 5875 dated 16/08/2023.

<sup>140</sup> Published on page 513 of Official Gazette No. 5840 dated 01/02/2023.

## Occupational Safety and Health

The year 2023 witnessed the launch of the Occupational Safety and Health Strategy for the Prevention and Reduction of Work Accidents and Injuries for the years 2023-2027, which aims to contribute to raising the level of occupational safety and health and reducing work accidents and injuries in establishments.

This strategy comes as a continuation of the integrated national efforts seeking to advance the occupational safety and health regulation in the public and private sectors, and confirms the Social Security Corporation's keenness, in cooperation with all partners, to enhance the protection of the working class and maintain the safety of workers in establishments by obligating them to provide the requirements and conditions of occupational safety and health and its tools in the workplace, which contributes to enhancing the culture of occupational safety to reach a safe work environment, free of accidents and injuries.

The strategy revolved around four objectives: developing a positive culture of occupational safety and health, providing a safe work environment, developing the capabilities, skills and knowledge of cadres working in work injuries, safety and occupational health, in addition to developing the infrastructure and technology for occupational safety and health at the national level. In order to achieve the four objectives, the strategy has developed a number of initiatives that can be applied and measured according to clear targets. It will work to implement major initiatives to improve the performance of occupational safety and health in the Kingdom's facilities, in addition to working to raise the capabilities of workers in the field of occupational safety and health, in addition to providing advice on implementing best practices for safety measures in the workplace, and reducing as much as possible the exposure of workers to risks and injuries<sup>141</sup>.

<sup>141</sup> For more information, see the Occupational Safety and Health Strategy for the Prevention and Reduction of Work Accidents and Injuries through the following link: <https://www.ssc.gov.jo/safetystategy>

The National Center sees the need to disseminate the strategy to all establishments in the public and private sectors and follow up on its implementation, and work to reactivate the Occupational Safety and Health Institute affiliated with the Ministry of Labor, to expand the holding of public health and safety courses, and create training in the institutes affiliated with the Vocational Training Corporation to educate beneficiaries about the dangers of each profession, especially the dangerous ones and ways to prevent these risks, and intensify coordination between the concerned parties, as well as increase the effectiveness of inspection and control and intensify them on business establishments.

## Recommendations:

The National Center for Human Rights emphasizes the recommendations contained in its previous reports, in addition to the following recommendations:

- The Center reiterates its recommendation to work on providing the necessary funding for the Human Trafficking Victims Assistance Fund, to perform its role in the best possible way.
- Review the regulatory legislation, procedures and violations taken against employers as a result of their violation of the Labor Law, and working to increase the penalties.
- Disseminate the occupational safety and health strategy to prevent and reduce work accidents and injuries to all establishments in the public and private sectors and follow up on its implementation.
- Work on creating training courses in the institutes affiliated with the Vocational Training Corporation to educate beneficiaries about the dangers of each profession, especially the dangerous ones, and ways to prevent those dangers.

## The right to education

One of the basic rights guaranteed by international and national covenants, the Jordanian Constitution guaranteed the right to education in Article (3/6) thereof<sup>142</sup>, and both the Child Rights Law No. (17) of 2022 and the Education Law No. (3) of 1994 stipulated compulsory and free education. The international standards ratified by Jordan guaranteed this right, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>143</sup>, and the Convention against Discrimination in Education of 1960<sup>144</sup>, and the fourth goal of the Sustainable Development Goals is to promote equal access to quality education for all.

The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights defines the right to education as a human right in itself and an indispensable means of realizing other human rights. Education, as an empowering right, is the main tool by which economically and socially marginalized adults and children can lift themselves out of poverty and have the means to participate, fully participate in their societies, and education has a vital role in promoting human rights and democracy, and protecting the environment<sup>145</sup>.

<sup>142</sup> Article (6/3) of the Jordanian Constitution states that “The State shall guarantee work and education within the limits of its capabilities and shall guarantee peace of mind and equal opportunities for all Jordanians.”

<sup>143</sup> Article (26) Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles (13) and (14) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

<sup>144</sup> Adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 14 December 1960, at its eleventh session, date of entry into force 22 May 1962.

<sup>145</sup> For more information, see Comment No. (13) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1999 at the following link: <https://hrlibrary.umn.edu/arabic/cescr-gc13.html>

The normative content of the right to education is based on the integration of legal protection of its components, legally and in practice, and through the enforcement and strengthening of its protection guarantees by tracking and monitoring a number of issues during the year 2023, including following up on developments in the legislative regulation regulating the right to education, policies and practices, the educational process and its environment, educational loss, kindergartens, literacy, and higher education.

### In terms of legislation:

The year 2023 did not witness any amendments to the Education Law. On the other hand, the year 2023 witnessed the issuance of many regulations and instructions related to the right to education, the most prominent of which were:

- The regulation for establishing and licensing private and foreign educational institutions<sup>146</sup> No. (87) of 2023, issued pursuant to Paragraph (a) of Article (32) of the Education Law No. (3) of 1994.

This regulation aims to facilitate the procedures for licensing private and foreign educational institutions, in line with the vision of economic modernization as part of sectoral licenses, and to regulate the work of these institutions by specifying their obligations and rights, and the fees that the institution must pay, in addition to regulating and supervising the work of educational institutions for people with disabilities, and regulating the relationship between private schools and their teachers on the one hand, and between the private school and the student’s guardian on the other hand, in a manner that preserves the rights of all.

- Amended Regulation of the Scientific Research Regulation for the Development of the Educational Process<sup>147</sup> No. (79) of 2023, to be read with Regulation No. (47) of 1997, known as the original regulation . This amendment aims to enhance scientific research to develop the educational process.

<sup>146</sup> Published on page 6352 of the Official Gazette No. 5899 dated 17/12/2023

<sup>147</sup> Published on page 5898 of the Official Gazette No. 5894 dated 16/11/2023



Which falls within the tasks of the Educational Planning and Research Department linked to the Secretary-General for Administrative and Financial Affairs at the Ministry of Education.

- The regulation for the recognition of non-Jordanian higher education institutions and the equivalence of their certificates<sup>148</sup> No. (55) of 2023, issued pursuant to Paragraph (e) of Article (4) of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Law No. (17) of 2018.

Pursuant to this regulation , a committee<sup>149</sup> called the Committee for Recognition of Non-Jordanian Higher Education Institutions shall be formed in the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, headed by the Minister and with the Secretary-General as Vice-Chairman as a member.

Under the regulation, the Recognition Committee undertakes a number of tasks and powers, including the recognition of non-Jordanian higher education institutions in accordance with the standards and bases specified by instructions issued by the Minister for this purpose. The Committee also undertakes the preparation of lists of non-Jordanian higher education institutions that are recognized, and any amendments thereto, provided that these lists and their amendments are published on the Ministry's website.

The regulation also stipulated the formation of a committee in the Ministry, called the Committee for the Equivalency of Non-Jordanian Certificates. The Equivalency Committee shall assume many tasks and powers, including the equivalency of non-Jordanian certificates according to standards and bases that are consistent with the National Qualifications Framework in the Kingdom, determined pursuant to instructions issued by the Minister for this purpose.

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<sup>148</sup> Published on page 4363 of the Official Gazette No. 5881 dated 17/09/2023.

<sup>149</sup> The committee includes the director of the directorate and four faculty members from Jordanian higher education institutions, who hold the rank of professor, chosen by the minister, for a period of two years, renewable once, provided that they are specialized and experienced and represent different fields of knowledge.

- Regulations for Regulating the Practice of Academic Work in Official Universities and University Colleges<sup>150</sup> No. (94) of 2023, issued pursuant to Paragraph (d) of Article (35) of the Jordanian Universities Law No. (18) of 2018.

This regulation aims to identify the educational institutions to which the provisions of this regulation apply, regulate the practice of academic work in these institutions, and define the tasks and powers of the Committee for Regulating the Practice of Academic Work.

- Student Support Fund Regulation in Public Universities, No. (81) of 2023, issued pursuant to Paragraph (l) of Article (4) of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Law No. (17) of 2018.

This regulation aims to determine the provisions related to the management of the Student Support Fund established in the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and to stipulate the aspects of spending from it, and all matters related thereto, and to determine the provisions related to benefiting from grants and loans allocated for this purpose.

The regulation also aims to determine the cases of exempting beneficiaries or their sponsors, as appropriate, from the amounts due, and granting the Fund's Management Committee the authority to reconsider these exemptions if it is proven that their reasons are no longer valid.

- Amended Instructions for School Trips and Visits Instructions No. (2) of 2023<sup>151</sup>.

This amendment aims to amend and specify the times for conducting internal and external trips for students, specify the places to which trips are permitted and the places to which visits are prohibited, organize overnight trips, their times, and procedures for approving them, and other regulatory materials that aim to preserve the health and safety of students.

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<sup>150</sup> Published on page 6383 of the Official Gazette No. 5899 dated 17/12/2023

<sup>151</sup> Published on page 1592 of the Official Gazette No. 5849 dated 02/04/2023

- Amended instructions for the General Secondary Education Certificate Examination Instructions<sup>152</sup> No. (3) of 2023.

The amendments added new conditions for the categories of “those holding a Jordanian passport and the identification card for children of Jordanian women” to apply for the general examination, such that they must have spent three years of study after successfully completing the tenth grade or its equivalent, provided that they are not less than 21 years old.

The new instructions confirmed that applying for the general examination in any subject offered in the general examination program and for any branch of the track will be in accordance with the curricula approved in educational institutions and the school books to be used to teach regular students.

The instructions introduced the term “subscriber who raised the general total”, which is the subscriber who applies to participate in the general examination for the purpose of raising the general total, and who, according to the grade sheet, achieved a mark of 50% or more of the total mark for each of the subjects required in the track, and a percentage rate of no less than 60%.

Therefore, the participant is allowed to repeat one or more subjects and the highest mark in any subject he repeated will be calculated for him, with the exception of “the participant who raised the general total” for whom the most recent mark will be calculated. The subscriber and the “subscriber who raised the general total” will be issued a statement of marks with the new general total, and obtaining the statement of marks with the new general total does not cancel the statement of marks with the previous general total, regardless of the result.

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<sup>152</sup> Published on page 2963 of the Official Gazette No. 5870, dated 02/07/2023.

- Artistic and Cultural Activity Instructions No. (5) of 2023<sup>153</sup>.

These activities aim to promote Arab and Islamic culture, develop sound physical, mental, social, health, psychological and behavioral skills, develop practical experiences for students, provide opportunities to explore talents, integrate students with disabilities into cultural activities, develop and enhance life skills for students, and other purposes.

#### **The educational process and its environment.**

The number of schools in the Kingdom until the end of 2023 amounted to approximately (7505) schools, compared to (7315) schools in 2022, of which (4062) are public schools, (48) other public schools, (3234) private schools, and (161) schools affiliated with the International Relief Agency.

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<sup>153</sup> Published on page 3705 of the Official Gazette No. 5875, dated 16/08/2023.

**Table showing the number of schools in the Kingdom during the period from 2019 to 2023** <sup>154</sup>

| Education Sector | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Public schools   | 3911 | 3941 | 4015 | 4053 | 4062 |
| Private schools  | 3345 | 3441 | 2943 | 3093 | 3234 |
| UNRWA            | 169  | 169  | 169  | 169  | 169  |

The total number of students in all schools in the Kingdom for the academic year 2022/2023 reached (2,274,340) male and female students, and the number of Jordanian students for all authorities reached (2,016,184) students, of whom (1,833,683) male and female students in the primary stage, while the number of Syrian students in various schools in the Kingdom reached (163,629) male and female students, while the total number of classes in all schools in the Kingdom reached (93,223) classes.

On the other hand, the total number of teachers working in all schools in the Kingdom during the academic year 2022/2023 reached (145,393) male and female teachers, of whom (44,134) were male teachers and (101,259) were female teachers. The total number of administrators in the Kingdom's schools reached (36,683) administrators, of whom (12,419) were male administrators and (24,264) were female.

**Table No. (1) shows the total number of students, schools and teachers in all education sectors of 2022/2023** <sup>155</sup>

| Educational statistics of 2022-2023 |                          |                      |                            |                                |         |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| Data<br>Supervisory<br>authority    | Ministry of<br>Education | Private<br>education | Other<br>public<br>schools | International<br>Relief Agency | Total   |
| Total Students                      | 1584684                  | 555141               | 20175                      | 114340                         | 2274340 |
| Total Primary Students              | 1284081                  | 419121               | 16141                      | 114340                         | 1833683 |
| Total Kindergarten Students         | 65693                    | 96202                | 176                        | 0                              | 162071  |
| Jordanian students                  | 1383201                  | 517098               | 19914                      | 95971                          | 2016184 |
| Syrian students                     | 149182                   | 12827                | 121                        | 1499                           | 163629  |
| Total teachers                      | 96228                    | 42866                | 2030                       | 4269                           | 145393  |
| Male teachers                       | 35749                    | 4635                 | 1681                       | 2069                           | 44134   |
| Female teachers                     | 60479                    | 38231                | 349                        | 2200                           | 101259  |
| Number of schools                   | 4062                     | 3234                 | 48                         | 161                            | 7505    |
| Total classes                       | 60464                    | 29068                | 758                        | 2933                           | 93223   |
| Total people, kindergarten stage    | 2992                     | 5558                 | 5                          | 0                              | 8555    |

<sup>154</sup> According to the statistical reports of the Ministry of Education for the years 2019-2022 <https://moe.gov.jo/reports>

<sup>155</sup> According to information obtained from Queen Rania Al Abdullah Center for Information Technology dated 20/12/2023.

On the other hand, the academic year 2023/2024 witnessed the start of work on implementing the classification of students after the ninth grade into the academic and technical vocational tracks, as about 18 thousand students joined for the first time in the vocational track for the tenth grade<sup>156</sup>, distributed over 6 branches: engineering, business administration, information technology, hospitality and hotels, beauty, and agriculture. Four majors will be added to the second level in the academic year 2024-2025, namely: construction and facilities, tourism and travel, creative media, and arts and design.

This track is a response to the vision of economic modernization, which included special priorities for vocational and technical education within an executive action plan that was launched in the current academic year 2023/2024, as it is scheduled to contribute to achieving the highest quality standards in vocational education outcomes, as this program gives students in universities the opportunity to change traditional classical education patterns. The new technical vocational track BTEC will attract more outstanding students than ever before, at levels 1 to 7, with levels 1 to 3 being taught in secondary schools and levels 4 to 7 offered at universities.

### School Environment

The repercussions of the Corona pandemic continue to cast their shadows on the educational process and its environment for the fourth consecutive year since its spread, as it had many effects that the Center addressed in its previous reports<sup>157</sup> for the years 2020-2022, the most prominent of which are:

<sup>156</sup> Press release by the spokesperson for the Ministry of Education, Ahmed Al-Masa'fa, to Ammon News Agency on 03/09/2023. <https://www.ammonnews.net/article/792294>

<sup>157</sup> For more information, see the National Center's reports on the status of human rights for previous years at the following link: <https://www.nchr.org.jo>

- Continuing to operate the two-shift regulation in approximately 800 public schools, based on the reverse migration from private schools to public schools due to the epidemic and exceptional circumstances that contributed to the transfer of nearly a quarter of a million male and female students to public schools during the Corona pandemic<sup>158</sup>.
- Continuing to transfer of students from private schools to public schools due to the difficult economic conditions suffered by parents, and the high fees in private schools.
- Continuing to rent schools, the number of which in 2022 reached approximately (763) schools<sup>159</sup>, to meet the demand for public schools and provide study seats for students in areas witnessing overcrowding and provide schools in some areas where there are no schools affiliated with the Ministry of Education.

There is overcrowding in many classrooms in some schools where the number of students in one classroom reaches 50 students, depending on the area of the classroom<sup>160</sup>, which is not in line with the school building codes<sup>161</sup> that the Ministry of Education began working on implementing in early March 2022, which stipulated that the maximum number of students in a classroom should be 36 students<sup>162</sup>.

<sup>158</sup> Press release by the spokesperson for the Ministry of Education, Ahmed Al-Masa'fa, to the Swiss News Agency, affiliated with the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, dated 24/08/2023. <https://www.swissinfo.ch/ara/reuters>

<sup>159</sup> According to the statistical report of the Ministry of Education for the year 2021/2022

<sup>160</sup> Ibid

<sup>161</sup> For more information about school building codes, please refer to the Jordanian National Building Council at the following link: <https://jnbs.gov.jo/Pages/viewpage.aspx?pageID=130>

<sup>162</sup> The National Building Codes have specified the area that must be allocated to the student, so that the area allocated to the student on the plot of land should not be less than (4 x 2) square meters, and (2 x 2) square meters in the school yard.

The school building codes<sup>163</sup> that the Ministry has begun to apply to newly established schools are an advanced regulation for modern, contemporary schools that include everything related to the school, such as playgrounds, classrooms, their area, educational resource rooms, security and safety, laboratories, health facilities, and everything related to facilitating student movement in the school, especially for people with visual disabilities, as these codes will provide computerized floor indicators and ramps to facilitate the movement of students using crutches and wheelchairs.

The National Center for Human Rights hopes to work on implementing all school building codes in all schools in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to address the problem of overcrowding in schools and provide a safe, inclusive, healthy, attractive and exciting educational environment for students, given the important role the educational environment plays in achieving the goals of the educational process alongside the teacher and the curriculum, and in a way that contributes to achieving the fourth goal of the Sustainable Development Goals, which is based on achieving good, equitable and comprehensive education for all.

**Educational loss:**

The academic year 2023/2024 witnessed the Ministry of Education continuing to implement its plan to address educational loss, as a plan was adopted that differs from what was followed in previous years, which relied on compensating the student for what he lost in terms of lessons and knowledge during the Corona pandemic period through a program that was presented to the student two weeks before the start of the semester.

This year's program relied on implementing measures to compensate for the loss, through a therapeutic intervention program that will continue for 3 years to complete the previous program,

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<sup>163</sup> School Buildings Code No. (53/2022) in accordance with the attached instructions for licensing private and foreign schools and institutions for people with disabilities.

where 13 measures were identified to address the loss in the subjects of mathematics and Arabic language, the most prominent of which are: expanding the learning time, as the Ministry has brought forward the current academic year to 20/08/2023, i.e. an increase of 10 school days in the first semester and 10 school days in the second semester.

The plan is based on targeting students in grades four to nine in public schools and other schools affiliated with them, so that the educational loss is addressed and students are compensated throughout the year in the mathematics curriculum from fourth grade to the ninth grade, as educational materials have been identified to be given to the student on a daily basis during the first ten minutes of the class, to complete the lesson according to the requirements of the regular curriculum, two weekly lessons were also determined from the weekly study schedule for the Arabic language from the fourth grade to the ninth grade, through which the teacher gives the student the educational loss program in the Arabic language<sup>164</sup>, and other procedures based on designing remedial activities for the Arabic language and mathematics, in cooperation with the National Center for Curriculum Development, in cooperation with the National Center for Curriculum Development, training teachers on program implementation skills before the start of the new academic year, and monitoring and diagnosing students' levels after implementing remedial measures that would bridge the gap between reality and hope in the educational process.

**School drop-out:**

The problem of school dropouts remains a challenge for the Ministry of Education, despite the development of many preventive and awareness programs to reduce it. The academic year 2022/2023 witnessed a decrease in the number of school dropouts, as it reached (9560) dropouts from the basic stage, at a rate of (0.0052), compared to (11689) dropouts from the primary stage in the year 2021/2022 amounted to (0.0064) of the total number of primary stage students, which requires the Ministry of Education to reconsider the programs and plans followed and to combine efforts between all concerned parties.

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<sup>164</sup> According to information obtained from the media spokesman for the Ministry of Education, Dr. Ahmed Al-Masa'fa dated 30/01/2024.

During 2023<sup>165</sup>, a coordination committee was formed with the participation of members from ministries and official and non-official institutions to prepare a national guide for procedures to reduce school dropout. The guide aims to establish a procedural definition for school dropout, truancy and absenteeism, and steps to follow up on absent children, so that cases of absence, truancy and school dropout are followed up, and procedures for implementing preventive and therapeutic activities, to reduce cases of absenteeism, dropout and school dropout. The guide also aims to establish procedures for coordination between the Ministries of Education and Interior and relevant authorities in taking measures to reduce school dropout.

The National Center for Human Rights hopes to expedite the completion of this guide and work to circulate it to all schools to work and implement what it contains to reduce school dropout.

In its previous report for 2022, the National Center for Human Rights highlighted the main reasons that drive students to drop out of school and presented a set of recommendations to address them<sup>166</sup>. In addition, the National Center believes that solving the problem of school dropout at the primary level requires integrated efforts by the school community and the local community.

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<sup>165</sup> In accordance with the text of Article (16/A) of the Child Rights Law No. (17) of 2022.

<sup>166</sup> For more information, see the National Center for Human Rights report for 2022, pp. 84, 85, at the following link: <https://www.nchr.org.jo>

### Kindergartens

Kindergartens still face many challenges and problems that prevent all children of this age group<sup>167</sup> from joining them. The number of kindergarten classes for the first and second stages (KG1 – KG2) in the Kingdom for the academic year 2022/2023 reached (8555) classes, including (2992) classes in public schools and (5) classes in other public schools, (5558) classes in the private sector, compared to (7458) classes in the year 2021/2022, including: (2750) classes in public schools, (5) classes in other public schools, and (4703) classes in the private sector.

The total number of students enrolled in kindergartens for the first and second stages for the academic year 2022/2023 reached (161,895) boys and girls, including: (65,693) boys in public schools classes, and (96,202) boys in classes affiliated with the private sector, compared to (140,928) boys and girls for the academic year 2021/2022, including (67,907) boys in public school classes, and (73,021) boys in classes affiliated with the private sector<sup>168</sup>.

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<sup>167</sup> For more information, see the National Center for Human Rights report for 2022, pp. 85,86, at the following link: <https://www.nchr.org.jo/ar>

<sup>168</sup> According to the information obtained by the Center from the Queen Rania Al Abdullah Center for Information Technology dated 20/12/2023.

**Table showing the number of kindergarten classes for the first and second stages (KG1-KG2) in the Kingdom for the academic year 2020-2023<sup>169</sup>**

| Year \ Subject  | 2019/2020   | 2020/2021   | 2021/2022   | 2022/2023   |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of kindergarten classes in the public sector       | 2005        | 2610        | 2750        | 2992        |
| Number of kindergarten classes in the other public sector | 6           | 6           | 5           | 5           |
| Number of kindergarten classes in the private sector      | 6286        | 3839        | 4703        | 5558        |
| <b>Grand total</b>  | <b>8297</b> | <b>6455</b> | <b>7458</b> | <b>8555</b> |

**Table showing the number of students in kindergarten for the two stages (KG1-KG2) in the Kingdom for the academic year 2020-2023**

| Year \ Subject   | 2019/2020     | 2020/2021     | 2021/2022     | 2022/2023     |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Number of children enrolled in kindergartens in the public sector  | 42481         | 67461         | 67907         | 65693         |
| Number of children enrolled in kindergartens in the private sector | 102708        | 52367         | 73021         | 96202         |
| <b>Grand total</b>   | <b>145189</b> | <b>119828</b> | <b>140928</b> | <b>161895</b> |

The Center emphasizes what was stated in its previous report for the year 2022 regarding the need to intensify efforts to include all children in the age group (4-5) years in kindergartens and to make the second kindergarten stage mandatory, due to the great importance of the pre-school education stage (kindergarten), as they are crucial years that witness the development of the child's language and personal and social abilities, and pave the way for the basic education stage.

<sup>169</sup> According to the data of the Educational Management Information Regulation - Ministry of Education.

## Higher Education

The academic year 2023/2024 witnessed the start of the implementation of the gradual plan to determine the number of students admitted to the specializations of medicine and dentistry in public universities for the years 2023-2024 and up to 2027-2028. In the academic year 2023-2024, only (1000) students were admitted to the major of human medicine, distributed among the public universities, the University of Jordan with (200) students, Yarmouk University with (150) students, Mutah University with (150) students, Jordan University of Science and Technology with (200) students, Hashemite University with (150) students, and Al-Balqa Applied University with (150) students.

During the academic year 2025/2026 and beyond, only (640) seats will be allocated in the human medicine major in all official Jordanian universities. There will also be a reduction in the number of seats decided for admission to the dentistry major by (20)% for the year 2025/2026<sup>170</sup>.

These decisions come within the framework of keenness to control the quality of the outputs of the Jordanian higher education sector, especially in these two important specializations, and to reduce the number of graduates in these two majors to limit the expansion of unemployment among them in the future.

On 29/02/2024, the Center held a discussion session entitled: "Education: The Performance and Skills Gap" with the aim of understanding the current reality and providing solutions. The discussions revealed a number of challenges facing the educational process as follows:

- The first challenge: a quantitative challenge represented by the number of students that exceeds the capacity of universities, and maintenance for which no allocations are made in the university budget.

- The second challenge: a qualitative challenge, which is that the public sector does not absorb graduates, and graduates do not have the skills that qualify them for the labor market.
- The third challenge: a financial challenge represented by the weakness of universities' resources and their suffering from high indebtedness.
- The fourth challenge: A technological challenge related to the ability of universities to keep pace with digital development in the education sector.
- The fifth Challenge: An educational gap of nearly a year and a half occurred during the Corona pandemic and its repercussions, which had an impact on the decline in the level of students, with reference to the existence of problems in the subjects of Arabic and mathematics.

The discussion panel concluded with a number of recommendations, including:

- Focusing on the partnership between Jordanian universities and the entrepreneurship sector.
- Preparing an analytical study of the requirements of the Jordanian labor market, to link them to university education inputs.
- Forming a national committee by the concerned authorities to identify the reasons for the decline in students' level in school education stages and analyzing the outcomes of international studies and tests and measurement indicators.
- Conducting educational meetings, courses and seminars for school students to help them choose the most appropriate university specialization for them.

<sup>170</sup> For more information, see the following link: <https://alghad.com/Section-187>



### Recommendations:

The National Center for Human Rights emphasizes its recommendations contained in its reports on the right to education to ensure that individuals actually enjoy this right, and adds the following recommendations:

1. Working on providing academic support programs for students who face difficulties in academic achievement, after relying on the diagnostic approach to meet the needs of each student.
2. Working to provide study sections for students in areas that witness overcrowding and providing schools in some areas where there are no schools affiliated with the Ministry of Education.
3. Working to implement all school building codes in all schools in the Kingdom, both modern and ancient, to address the problem of overcrowding and provide a safe, inclusive, healthy, attractive and exciting educational environment for students.

### The Center recommends taking the following steps to reduce and minimize school dropout rates:

1. Working on evaluating the reasons that lead to school dropout, and identifying the economic, social, and educational factors that contribute to this problem, and specific to each student.
2. Working to activate academic support programs for students who face difficulties in academic achievement, after relying on the diagnostic approach to meet the needs of each student.
3. Strengthening life skills that enhance academic achievement and provide students with the necessary skills to face challenges.
4. Working to provide motivational programs and activities to enhance students' desire to attend school.
5. Strengthening communication between the school and parents to monitor student development and address any issues that may lead to dropout.
6. Working on organizing guidance and counseling programs for students to help them identify their goals and guide them towards an appropriate educational path.
7. Improving the quality of teaching and using innovative and attractive teaching methods for students.
8. Providing educational programs that focus on developing professional skills and preparing for integration into the labor market.
9. Improving the attendance and absence monitoring regulation to detect students who have a higher tendency to drop out of school.

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<sup>171</sup> For more information, see Instructions for Organizing the Remedial and Deepening Classes Program in Public Schools No. (15) of 1977.

## The Right to Health

One of the fundamental rights guaranteed by international and national charters and regulated by a number of laws, the most important of which is 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 the integration of legal protection of its components legally and in practice, and through the enforcement and strengthening of guarantees of its protection by tracking and monitoring a number of issues, namely: monitoring developments in the legislative regulation regulating the right, and 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 the years 2023-2025, health insurance, food and medicine, and the reality of health services in hospitals and comprehensive health centers:

The year 2023 witnessed the continuation of the Public Health Law No. (47) of 2008, as amended, and the issuance and amendment of a set of relevant regulations and instructions, such as:

- The Center monitored the issuance of instructions to determine the locations and areas of private medical laboratories for the year 2023<sup>172</sup>. These instructions came for the purpose of regulating the opening of private medical laboratories in commercial and residential places during the period after the implementation of these instructions.
- The instructions specified the areas and measurements of the locations of private medical laboratories in commercial places, provided that the distance between the laboratory and any existing medical laboratory is not less than (100 m). The instructions also specified the areas and measurements of the locations of private medical laboratories in residential places, provided that the distance between the laboratory and any existing medical laboratory is not less than (250 m).

<sup>172</sup> Published in the Official Gazette No. (5896), page (6152), dated 30/11/2023

The area of the internal laboratory must not be less than (90 m<sup>2</sup>), and the ceiling must not be less than 2.5 meters. The instructions also regulate the conditions for transferring private medical laboratories from one place to another.

- The Center monitored the issuance of an amended regulation for the Civil Health Insurance Regulation No. (72) of 2023<sup>173</sup>. This amended regulation came to clarify the mechanism for deducting the allowance stipulated in Paragraph (c) of Article (7) of this regulation, which stipulated that the deduction shall be made from the subscriber's salary or allowances as appropriate and shall be transferred to the Fund at the end of each month from the Ministry of Finance or the Social Security Corporation. However, if the subscriber does not receive a retirement salary, the allowance shall be paid in advance for a period of no less than one year.
- The Center monitored the issuance of amended instructions for the instructions for the circulation and dispensing of medical supplies in hospitals and health centers affiliated with the Ministry of Health for the year 2023<sup>174</sup>, whereby Article (18) of the original instructions was amended by adding paragraphs (g) and (h), the most prominent contents of which were: The Minister may issue a protocol for implanting and replacing the external cochlear implant, and for maintaining and updating the protocol when necessary. The costs of medical supplies and the cochlear implant are covered according to the health insurance categories and the applicable instructions.
- The Center monitored the issuance of the Regulation for the Practice of the Profession of Healing Therapy No. (65) of 2023<sup>175</sup>, This regulation came to regulate a new type of treatment, which is the profession of physiotherapy, which is a natural treatment that uses physical means to treat patients, including electricity, water, thermal forces, and therapeutic exercises. The regulation includes the conditions for licensing practitioners of the profession of psychiatric treatment and the conditions and documents required submitting an application to receive the service.

<sup>173</sup> Published in the Official Gazette No. (5890), page (5436), dated 01/11/2023

<sup>174</sup> Published in the Official Gazette No. (5890), page (5454), dated 01/11/2023

<sup>175</sup> Published in the Official Gazette No. (5885), page (5127), dated 05/10/2023

- The Center monitored the issuance of the Remote Health and Medical Care Regulation No. (51) of 2023<sup>176</sup>. According to this regulation , remote health and medical care services include providing a set of services, namely: medical and health consultation by providing advice to the patient, medical diagnosis, medical or health cooperation, prescribing treatment to the patient, monitoring the patient’s vital signs, following up on the patient’s condition, referring the patient, requesting medical examinations, and dispensing or re-dispensing medications. Provided that remote dispensing or re-dispensing services may only be established, operated or provided by public sector pharmacies or licensed pharmacies. The regulation also requires that the person responsible for dispensing medications be a licensed pharmacist. The regulation also sets out the conditions for providing the service to the patient and the conditions for the Ministry’s approval to provide the service. Provided that the Medical Liability Law and the legislation regulating each profession apply to service providers with regard to legal and moral liability.
- The center monitored the issuance of instructions for dealing with inmates of correctional and rehabilitation centers who are on a food or drink strike<sup>177</sup>. These instructions regulate the mechanism for dealing with inmates of correctional and rehabilitation centers who are on a food or drink strike, in terms of defining the problem, i.e. the strike, reporting the strike, monitoring it, mechanisms for dealing with the striking person, and the responsibilities placed on the shoulders of individuals in public security and employees of the Ministry of Health, including doctors and nurses in reform centers.
- The Center monitored the issuance of instructions for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in civil health insurance of 2023<sup>178</sup>. These instructions included the inclusion of the category of persons with disabilities who obtained the identification card issued pursuant to the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities No. 20 of 2017, provided that the person with a disability does not have any other health insurance. The instructions specified the validity period of the card as three years from the date of issuance, for a subscription fee of only one dinar.
- The Center monitored the issuance of an amended regulation for the Nursing and Midwifery Licensing Regulation No. (38) of 2023<sup>179</sup>. This amended regulation for the Nursing and Midwifery Licensing Regulation for 2019 came by amending Article (6) of the original regulation by adding a new paragraph to it stating that the applicant for a license to practice the profession is exempted from taking the Nursing Council exam, anyone who obtained a scientific certificate in nursing and midwifery before the date of 01/05/2019, provided that he has practiced nursing or midwifery with one of the accredited bodies after obtaining the first scientific certificate for a period of no less than two years, with the necessity of fulfilling the remaining conditions stated in the regulation .
- The Center monitored the issuance of amended instructions for the instructions for the inclusion of individuals from among citizens in civil health insurance of 2023<sup>180</sup>.

<sup>176</sup> Published in the Official Gazette No. (5879), page (3935), dated 31/08/2023

<sup>177</sup> Published in the Official Gazette No. (5875), page (3702), dated 16/08/2023.

<sup>178</sup> Published in the Official Gazette No. (5873), page (3372), dated 01/08/2023

<sup>179</sup> Published in the Official Gazette No. (5870), page (2955), dated 02/07/2023

<sup>180</sup> Published in the Official Gazette No. (5862), page (2549), dated 31/05/2023

These amended instructions for the instructions for the inclusion of individuals from among citizens in civil health insurance for the year 2007, came by canceling the text of paragraph (b) of Article (3) of the original instructions and replacing it with the new text, which states that the amount of the annual subscription for the first, second and third age categories stipulated in paragraph (a) of Article (3) of the instructions shall be covered in accordance with the following: Deduction from the subscriber's retirement salary and transferring it to the fund at the end of each month, or payment in advance in cash or electronically for a period of no less than six months for those who do not receive a retirement salary.

- The Center monitored the issuance of instructions for issuing health certificates to practitioners of crafts, industries and businesses that affect public health of 2023<sup>181</sup>. These instructions came to regulate the issuance of health certificates by the Ministry of Health to all those who practice crafts, industries and businesses that affect public health after conducting the necessary medical examinations. This is under the legal responsibility of the worker and the employer for the necessity of issuing such health certificates as long as they practice crafts, industries and businesses that affect public health. Provided that a committee (crafts, industries and businesses that affect public health) shall be established in the Ministry, one of whose first tasks shall be to identify these businesses, set the necessary health conditions for their practice, issue the relevant certificates and supervise them, provided that the validity period of the health certificate shall be one year, which shall be renewed upon its expiration, mandatorily.
- The Center monitored the issuance of epidemiological control instructions and the implementation of the International Health Regulations of 2023<sup>182</sup>. These instructions came for the purpose of combating infectious diseases.

<sup>181</sup> Published in the Official Gazette No. (5858), page (2265), dated 16/05/2023

<sup>182</sup> Published in the Official Gazette No. (5851), page (1832), dated 16/04/2023

Preventing the spread of the disease at the national and international levels, protecting against it, combating it and confronting it at the national level and international cooperation, by taking measures in the field of public health in a manner commensurate with the potential risks facing global health. Provided that the implementation of these instructions is guided by international health regulations and by what ensures the protection of the dignity of citizens and residents in the Kingdom and the rights and freedoms of individuals. Pursuant to these instructions, the Health Regulations Committee was formed in the Ministry of Health to ensure the proper implementation of these instructions. The powers and responsibilities of this committee were defined, and the instructions gave the committee the authority to report any public health emergency that causes international concern, or any events that may cause international spread, as well as to consult with the World Health Organization regarding any emergency health event. The instructions also organized the principles of health procedures for citizens and expatriates upon arrival to and departure from the Kingdom, including inspection, examination, isolation of the infected person, and other procedures.

- The Center monitored the issuance of the guiding table for calculating continuing professional development hours<sup>183</sup>. This table shows the group of continuing professional development activities, the hours calculated for each activity, and the required documents. For example, participation in reviewing clinical cases, presenting patients' cases, and studying the case for two hours and a maximum of four hours annually, with the necessity of having a certificate of participation, and so on.
- These activities are divided into groups: professional practice activities related to the nature of work, published scientific research, and self-development activities outside the specialization.

<sup>183</sup> Published in the Official Gazette No. (5848), page (1426), dated 16/03/2023

- The Center monitored the issuance of instructions for exemption from the Jordanian Medical Council exam for a physician who has obtained a specialty certificate according to a training program for the year 2023<sup>184</sup>. These instructions came to set a set of conditions for the purpose of exempting a physician who has obtained the highest specialty certificate from outside the Kingdom from the exam stipulated in the Jordanian Medical Council Law. These conditions are: The physician must have been trained according to a progressive and accredited training program at the medical institution in which he is trained, and the physician must have passed the specialty examination required in the country in which he is trained, and must also have a license to practice the specialty profession in the country in which he is trained, and the license must be valid for a period of 3 years. All of this is in accordance with the terms and procedures contained in the instructions.
- The Center monitored the issuance of an amended regulation for the renewal of licenses for health professionals No. (1) of 2023<sup>185</sup>. The amended regulation for the renewal of licenses for health professionals of 2018 amended Articles 4 and 11 thereof, so that the period of the license issued to practice the profession was extended until 01/01/2026, in the event that its period expires before this date.

The year 2023 also witnessed the launch of the Ministry of Health's strategy for the years 2023-2025<sup>186</sup>,

<sup>184</sup> Published in the Official Gazette No. (5840), page (533), dated 01/02/2023

<sup>185</sup> Published in the Official Gazette No. (5833), page (1), dated 02/01/2023

<sup>186</sup> Axis one: Improving the level of primary health care services. Axis two: Improving the level of secondary and tertiary care services. Axis Three: Increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of human resources. Axis Four: Developing and increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of infrastructure management and provision and ensuring its sustainability. Axis Five: Expanding insurance coverage and increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of financial resources management. Axis six: Increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of digital transformation and information technology. Axis seven: Improving readiness and response to crisis and disaster management, the effects of asylum and climate change. Axis eight: Maximizing good governance and the oversight role of the Ministry of Health.

which is based on providing an integrated health regulation that enhances the health of the individual and society and provides safe preventive, therapeutic, rehabilitative and palliative health services with justice, quality and efficiency.

The strategy consists of (8) main axes that are in line with the executive program of the Economic Modernization Vision, and aims to improve the level of services provided to citizens and justice in their distribution. The main axes on which the strategy is based are as follows:

- In 2023, the national measures taken by the Ministry of Health to advance the health sector and improve the services provided to citizens continued, especially during the recovery phase from the repercussions of the Corona pandemic, through:

- **Government hospitals**

Expansion of kidney departments in (3) hospitals, namely: Dr. Jamil Al-Tutanji Hospital, where the number of beds in this department was increased from (11) beds in 2022 to (19) beds<sup>187</sup>, and Al-Shuna Al-Janubiya Hospital, where the number of beds in this department was increased from (7) beds in 2022 to (11) beds<sup>188</sup>, and Al-Ramtha Hospital, where the number of beds in this department was increased from 13 beds in 2022 to 30 beds<sup>189</sup>, so that its capacity became 60 beds<sup>190</sup>.

- **Field Hospitals**

Re-operation of Sheikh Zayed Field Hospital/Aqaba to include a children's department with a capacity of 20 beds.

<sup>187</sup> Monitoring visit to Dr. Jamil Al-Tutanji Hospital on 20/01/2024 to assess the reality of health, treatment and preventive services provided to citizens in the kidney department.

<sup>188</sup> Monitoring visit to Al-Shuna Al-Janubiya Hospital on 29/01/2024 to check the reality of health, treatment and preventive services provided to citizens in the kidney department.

<sup>189</sup> Monitoring visit to Al-Ramtha Hospital on 31/01/2024 to assess the health, treatment and preventive services provided to citizens in the kidney department.

<sup>190</sup> Al-Mamlaka TV, for more please see: <https://www.almamlakatv.com/news/133001>

#### ▪ Health Centers

Opening of six comprehensive health centers: Hanina First Health Center, Al-Faisaliah First Health Center in Madaba Governorate, Al-Mashare' Comprehensive Health Center in the Northern Jordan Valley, Aqaba Comprehensive Health Center, Deir Al-Kahf Health Center, and Al-Samak Health Center in the Capital Governorate. The rehabilitation of Princess Basma Comprehensive Health Center has also been completed, and it currently provides health services around the clock<sup>191</sup>.

#### ▪ Preventive Health

The center carried out a number of monitoring visits to the Ministry of Health and recorded a set of measures taken by the Ministry of Health in 2023; to limit the spread of diseases of both types: communicable and non-communicable, the most prominent of which are the following:

- **Continue to supervise the implementation of infection control policies and procedures that must be followed at the national level in hospitals and health centers in the public and private sectors.**
- **Continuing epidemiological monitoring of communicable diseases and taking the necessary preventive measures to limit the spread of these diseases.**

Despite this, the year 2023 witnessed an increase in the number of people infected with some communicable diseases; The number of cases of hepatitis A increased to (158) cases compared to (38) cases in 2022, the number of cases of hepatitis B increased to (78) cases compared to (3) cases in 2022,

<sup>191</sup> Jordan News Agency "Petra", for more information please see: <https://petra.gov.jo>

<sup>192</sup> Ministry of Health letter No. 44/2/1656 dated 02/11/2024

and the number of cases of food poisoning increased to (969) cases compared to (326) cases in 2022. The number of malaria cases increased to (45) cases compared to (44) cases in 2022, the number of chickenpox cases increased to (17,582) cases compared to (6,912) cases in 2022, the number of cutaneous leishmaniasis cases increased to (103) cases compared to (38) cases in 2022, and the number of suspected measles cases increased to (1,317) cases compared to (457) cases in 2022. The number of non-epidemic meningitis cases increased to (491) cases compared to (367) cases in 2022, the number of epidemic meningitis cases increased to (4) cases compared to one case of epidemic meningitis in 2022, the number of brucellosis cases decreased to (323) cases compared to (437) cases in 2022, and the number of cases of brucellosis decreased to (323) cases compared to (437) cases in 2022, and the number of cases of schistosomiasis decreased to (24) cases compared to (28) cases in 2022. The number of swine flu cases H1N1 decreased to (41) cases compared to (228) cases in 2022. In addition to the decrease in cases of HIV infection to (104) cases, including (48) cases for Jordanians, and (56) cases for non-Jordanians<sup>193</sup>, compared to the registration of (112) cases, including (63) cases for Jordanians, and (49) cases for non-Jordanians in 2022.

<sup>193</sup> Ministry of Health letter No. 44/2/1656 dated 02/11/2024

### Number of people infected with communicable diseases for the years 2022-2023

| Disease name              | Number of cases in 2022 | Number of cases in 2023 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Hepatitis A               | 38                      | 158                     |
| Hepatitis B               | 3                       | 78                      |
| Food poisoning            | 326                     | 969                     |
| Brucellosis               | 437                     | 323                     |
| Malaria                   | 44                      | 45                      |
| Schistosomiasis           | 28                      | 25                      |
| Chickenpox                | 6,912                   | 17,582                  |
| Cutaneous leishmaniasis   | 38                      | 103                     |
| Suspected measles         | 457                     | 1,317                   |
| Epidemic meningitis       | 1                       | 4                       |
| Non-epidemic meningitis   | 367                     | 491                     |
| Seasonal influenza (H1N1) | 228                     | 41                      |
| HIV                       | 112                     | 104                     |

It is worth noting that in order to achieve the third goal of the Sustainable Development Purposes, which includes eliminating the following epidemics: AIDS (HIV), tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases, and combating hepatitis, waterborne diseases and other infectious diseases by 2030.

During 2023, the Ministry of Health worked through the National AIDS (HIV) and Sexually Transmitted Diseases<sup>194</sup> Program's counseling center and hotline to continue providing the necessary treatment to Jordanian and refugee AIDS (HIV) patients on a monthly basis, numbering approximately (400) people living with HIV<sup>195</sup>, and to continue providing counseling and voluntary testing services to contacts of people living with HIV and the groups most vulnerable to infection. Activating the role and services of counseling centers in the Kingdom's governorates<sup>196</sup>, and continuing to provide the seasonal influenza vaccine in the sexually transmitted diseases clinic for those living with HIV.

In the same context, the year 2023 witnessed the holding of the first scientific conference on the occasion of World AIDS Day under the title "National Response to AIDS (HIV): Challenges and Aspirations", which concluded that the most prominent challenges facing people infected with HIV are:

1. People with HIV are more likely to develop other sexually transmitted diseases, such as syphilis and gonorrhea.
2. Difficulty accessing treatment. People living with HIV may find it difficult to access treatment, especially if they live outside the Kingdom or in governorates far from the capital, Amman, since the Ministry of Health's counseling center through which treatment is provided is located in the capital, Amman.

<sup>194</sup> The Ministry of Health established the National AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Program Counseling and Hotline Center in mid-1999. The center was updated and equipped with support from Impact, funding from USAID, and Family Health International (FHI), for the following objectives: 1. Responding to all communications and inquiries about AIDS (HIV), 2. Awareness and advice on AIDS (HIV) and sexually transmitted diseases, 3. Encouraging youth groups with risky behaviors to undergo a private and confidential examination by doctors and specialists, 4. Follow-up and care for patients health-wise, psychologically and socially. 5. Improving the epidemiological monitoring process of the disease.

<sup>195</sup> Official email of the National Center Liaison Officer at the Ministry of Health on 25/01/2024.

<sup>196</sup> In all health directorates affiliated with the Ministry of Health in all governorates of the Kingdom.

3. Exposure to stigma and discrimination. People living with HIV are often exposed to stigma and discrimination, which can negatively affect their physical and psychological health.
4. Not following up with people living with HIV regarding periodic examinations or ensuring their commitment to treatment. It is important for people living with HIV to undergo periodic examinations to ensure the health of their immune regulation and that they are committed to their treatment.

The conference participants came out with the following recommendations:

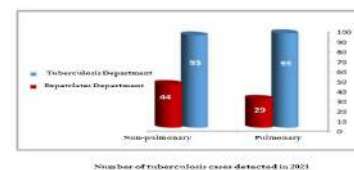
1. The need to work on increasing awareness about HIV/AIDS.
2. Working to improve access to HIV treatment.
3. Providing psychological and social support to people living with HIV.

In this regard, the National Center sees the need to take the necessary measures to address the challenges faced by people living with HIV in Jordan, increase awareness, improve access to treatment, and provide psychological and social support.

It is worth noting that the number of visitors to the Expatriates Department during 2023 reached a total of (302,808) visitors, and the number of visitors to the Tuberculosis Department was (8,522) visitors, including: (124) cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, including: (95) cases of pulmonary tuberculosis among Jordanians, (29) cases of pulmonary tuberculosis among non-Jordanians, and (137) cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, including: (93) cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis among Jordanians,

and (44) cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis among Jordanians<sup>197</sup>.

| Visitors                | Number of visitors | Number of detected tuberculosis cases |               |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
|                         |                    | pulmonary                             | non-pulmonary |
| Tuberculosis Department | 8,522              | 95                                    | 93            |
| Expatriates Department  | 302,808            | 29                                    | 44            |



The Center emphasizes the continuation of national efforts to take all preventive and therapeutic measures to prevent and stop the increase in the spread of these communicable diseases. In this regard, it is recommended that the Ministry of Health intensify preventive and educational measures, in addition to conducting free and frequent examinations for patients, especially in remote areas, to avoid the transmission of infection and the spread of communicable diseases.

<sup>197</sup> Letter from the Ministry of Health/Directorate of Chest Diseases, Expatriates' Health and Occupational Health/Human Rights Department No. (p. 2/217/Human Rights/41) dated 08/01/2024.



▪ **Health Insurance:**

The National Center monitored in 2023 the decision of the Jordanian Medical Association Council<sup>198</sup> to stop receiving insurance cases, with the exception of emergency cases, cancer patients, and kidney failure patients, and to continue providing services to patients in cash and according to the effective pricing for the year 2021, starting from the morning of Saturday, September 2, 2023. In order to preserve the rights of beneficiaries of private health insurance, this decision requires every doctor to write a medical report and provide patients with a financial receipt to review with the various insurance agencies. On August 22, 2023, a meeting was held at the Ministry of Health, headed by the Minister of Health, in the presence of the Governor of the Central Bank, the President of the Medical Association, representatives of the Association Council, representatives of the Jordanian Federation of Insurance Companies, the National Association for Consumer Protection, the Jordanian Health Insurance Association, the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions, and the Medical Bill Payers Committee. During the meeting, and based on the agreement of the concerned parties, the decision of the Minister of Health was approved to form a committee headed by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Health for Administrative and Technical Affairs and with the membership of all concerned parties<sup>199</sup> to develop the necessary recommendations on the mechanisms for implementing the Doctors' Cooperative Fund regulation. In addition to reviewing the doctors' fees list in preparation for its approval according to the rules and in a manner that achieves the aspirations of all parties and is consistent with the development in the medical sector, especially what the currently applied fees list did not address with regard to medical procedures. The Association agreed to postpone the decision to stop receiving patients,

<sup>198</sup> Which came in implementation of the decision of the General Authority of the Cooperative Fund for Private Sector Physicians in their meeting held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023.

<sup>199</sup> Representatives of the Governor of the Central Bank, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Social Security Corporation, the Medical Association, the Jordanian Federation of Insurance Companies, the National Society for Consumer Protection, the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions, the Jordanian Health Insurance Association, and the Health Insurance Administration.

which was scheduled for September 2, 2023, until the completion of the committee's work, which was set for December 2, 2023 as the date for completing its work. The Minister of Health stressed the government's keenness to reach an agreement that satisfies all parties and serves the interests of the country and citizens, and to adopt dialogue as the basis for resolving any existing dispute between all parties.

▪ **Food and Drug:**

The year 2023 witnessed a decrease in health supervision of food establishments and factories by the Jordan Food and Drug Administration<sup>200</sup>, as approximately (64,849) inspection visits were carried out in 2023, distributed as follows: (64,749) inspection visits to food establishments and factories compared to (86,474) inspection visits in 2022, and (100) inspection visits to pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical facilities compared to (187) inspection visits in 2022; in order to ensure that food establishments, factories and restaurants spread throughout the Kingdom comply with public health and safety requirements. These inspection visits resulted in issuing (36,489) warnings, including (36,484) warnings to food establishments and factories and (5) warnings to pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical facilities, compared to (47,499) warnings in 2022.

In 2023, (1,535) food establishments, factories and pharmacies were referred to the judiciary, including (1,505) referrals to food establishments and (30) referrals to pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical establishments, while (632) food establishments and factories were closed, distributed as follows: Closing (567) food establishments and factories, and closing (65) pharmaceutical establishments, compared to closing (602) food establishments and factories, and closing (76) pharmaceutical establishments in 2022, as a result of seizing quantities of spoiled, expired and damaged food materials; in addition to the non-compliance of these food establishments and factories with public health and safety requirements<sup>201</sup>.

<sup>200</sup> Jordan Food and Drug Administration Letter No. (1/114/7821) dated 21/02/2024.

<sup>201</sup> Jordan Food and Drug Administration Letter No. (1/114/7821) dated 21/02/2024.

On the other hand, Jordan Food and Drug Administration reduced the prices of 638 drug types in 2023, compared to reducing the prices of 847 drug types in 2022, most notably antibiotics and chronic disease medications such as: digestive regulation medications, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart, arteries, lipids, cancer medications, antibiotics, in addition to psychiatric medications<sup>202</sup>.

The Center also monitored the closure of (65) pharmacies by Jordan Food and Drug Administration in 2023, out of approximately (4,693) pharmacies<sup>203</sup> operating in the Kingdom, after it was found in possession of counterfeit medicines, expired medicines, smuggled medicines, unauthorized medical supplies, the presence of medicines of unknown origin, and the presence of medicines not in their original packaging. In addition to non-compliance with prices, non-compliance with the conditions for dispensing medicines that are not dispensed with a prescription, non-compliance with the conditions for opening a pharmacy, practicing work without obtaining the necessary licenses, the presence of an unqualified person on duty in the pharmacy, and purchasing medicines from a party other than the one licensed to sell sedatives and restricted use medicines without a prescription. In addition, the Medical Devices and Supplies Directorate issued two warnings to factories operating in this field, and transferred (58) institutions, factories and shops to the judiciary, and closed (26) institutions, factories and shops operating in this field from production until their conditions are rectified<sup>204</sup>.

<sup>202</sup> Jordan Food and Drug Administration Letter No. (1/114/7821) dated 21/02/2024.

<sup>203</sup> According to the website of the Jordan Pharmacists Association.

<sup>204</sup> Jordan Food and Drug Administration Letter No. (1/114/7821) dated 21/02/2024.

In this regard, the National Center recommends the continuation of national efforts aimed at effective inspection and control operations by the Ministry of Health and Jordan Food and Drug Administration; to ensure that all food establishments, factories and restaurants spread throughout the Kingdom comply with public health and safety requirements.

▪ **The reality of health services in hospitals:**

Despite the national efforts made by the Ministry of Health to develop and improve the health and medical services provided to citizens, the National Center team, after carrying out a number of field visits to hospitals and health centers in 2023<sup>205</sup>, noted that some hospitals and health centers are still suffering from a number of problems that hinder the achievement of their goals. The Center confirms the observations contained in previous reports, in addition to the following:

1. There is a shortage of specialist doctors in most government hospitals, such as cardiology, vascular, blood and arterial specialization, neurosurgery, brain and kidney surgery, etc.
2. Lack of specialized and independent clinics in some comprehensive health centers such as gynecology and obstetrics, pediatrics, ENT, ophthalmology, and dermatology, in addition to specialist doctors.
3. The disparity in the level of quality of services between hospitals and comprehensive health centers.
4. The need of many comprehensive health centers for the electronic linkage program (Hakeem).

<sup>205</sup> Field visits were carried out to a number of hospitals and comprehensive health centers, and the Ministry of Health was provided with detailed reports on the progress of these visits.

5. The need of Al-Shuna Al-Janubiya Governmental Hospital to equip the operating room to meet the requirements of orthopedic surgeries.
6. The need of Al-Shuna Al-Janubiya Governmental Hospital for the following devices: an Endoscopic Surgery device, and a Stone Crushing Machine (ESWL).
7. The need of Al-Shuna Al-Janubiya Governmental Hospital to rehabilitate the septic tank related to sewage.
8. There is no fire extinguishing network in the Al-Shuna Al-Janubiya Governmental Hospital.
9. The need for Al-Shuna Al-Janubiya Governmental Hospital to rehabilitate the water well that feeds the hospital.
10. The lack of environmental facilities in some hospitals and health centers necessary for people with disabilities and the elderly.
11. The need for medical and nursing staff to be trained in the methods and ways of providing health services to people with various disabilities.

#### **Recommendations:**

The Center reaffirms its recommendations contained in its previous reports, in addition to the following:

1. Take more effective measures and policies to screen arrivals to ensure they are free of diseases, in addition to implementing the necessary health education campaigns.
2. The need to take the necessary measures to address the challenges faced by people living with HIV in Jordan, increase awareness, improve access to treatment, and provide psychological and social support.
3. The necessity of reconsidering the Doctors Syndicate Law, especially Article (N/35) thereof, which entrusted the authority to determine wages to the Doctors Syndicate Council, provided that it be amended by explicitly stating the formation of a committee that includes all concerned parties to undertake the task of reviewing and determining wages, similar to the committee formed for the purposes of pricing medicines.
4. The necessity of reaching satisfactory agreements for all parties among the members of the committee concerned with determining doctors' wages, which was formed by His Excellency the Minister of Health, by developing a fair wage regulation for doctors.
5. Focus on effective inspection and control operations by the Ministry of Health and the General Organization for Food and Drug; to ensure that all food establishments, factories and restaurants spread throughout the Kingdom comply with public health and safety requirements.
6. Continue to provide the necessary environmental facilities in various hospitals and health centers for people with disabilities and the elderly.

## The Right to a Healthy Environment

One of the human rights guaranteed by many international, regional<sup>206</sup> and national covenants, which is regulated by Environmental Protection Law No. (6) of 2017 and a number of regulations and instructions; in order to protect the ecological regulations that provide health and well-being to humans.

The normative content of the right to a healthy environment is based on the integration of legal protection of its components legally and in practice, and through the enforcement and strengthening of guarantees for its protection by tracking and monitoring a number of issues, namely: developments in the legislative regulation, desertification, the water problem, fires and their impact on the environment, climate change, the green economy, and control and inspection.

In terms of legislative developments, the year 2023 witnessed the approval of a number of environmental legislations, the most important of which are:

1. Instructions for the management, handling and trading of spent batteries for the year 2023<sup>207</sup>, for the purposes of regulating the sector of managing, handling and trading spent batteries and disposing of them in environmentally safe ways. These instructions include the following:
2. Submitting the draft regulation for monitoring, managing and supervising waste within agricultural, pastoral and forest lands and waste resulting from the agricultural sector of 2023 to the Prime Minister's Office to proceed with the procedures for its issuance according to the rules<sup>208</sup>.

<sup>206</sup> 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 Convention on Climate Change of 1993, the Convention on the Conservation of 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.

<sup>207</sup> Published on page 5257 of the Official Gazette No. 5886 dated 16/10/2023.

<sup>208</sup> Information obtained from the Ministry of Environment - National Center Liaison Officer on 21/01/2024.

Within the framework of the Center's mandate to monitor, receive and follow up on complaints until cases of violation are resolved, the Center received (4) complaints related to the right to a healthy environment during the year 2023, where it followed up on them and took the necessary measures of monitoring, verification and follow-up with the relevant authorities, and they came as follows:

1. The first complaint includes a number of transport trucks dumping organic fertilizer (manure) near the Al-Mudawwara area/ Ma'an district/ Al-Jafr district, where there are farms under construction. The dumping of this material causes a foul odor, and as a result, the residents of the area, especially children and the elderly, are exposed to cases of suffocation and difficulty breathing, in addition to the spread of skin rashes among them. Many flying insects also spread, which leads to the spread of many diseases. The center has addressed the Ministry of Local Administration in this regard, and the complaint is still under consideration (under follow-up).
2. The second and third complaints revolve around the transfer of high-voltage power lines in the Shafa Badran area from empty areas to residential neighborhoods, which negatively affects the health of citizens living in that area. In addition, this decision will negatively affect the value of real estate in the areas through which the aforementioned power lines will pass. The center's team carried out a fact-finding visit and concluded that no violation was proven. Accordingly, the complaint was filed.
3. The fourth complaint deals with violations committed when a factory was built on the Zarqa River, and the fact that the culvert built below the factory did not conform to the standard building specifications, which caused water to flood the areas adjacent to the factory repeatedly. The center contacted the Ministry of Local Administration in this regard, and the complaint is still under consideration (under follow-up).

The year 2023 also witnessed the continuation of national efforts to enhance the right to a healthy environment, including<sup>209</sup>:

1. Launching the Ministry of Environment's strategy for the years 2023-2025, which comes amidst national modernization programs at various economic, administrative and political levels, in response to the acceleration of changes that require taking serious measures to confront environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development and green growth. In light thereof, the Ministry of Environment's new strategy is the result of ongoing efforts to protect the natural environment in partnership with national institutions, civil society organizations, and international organizations closely related to the environment. This strategy focuses on a set of key objectives, including green growth, protecting biodiversity, leading climate action, improving local environmental quality, managing waste in safe and sustainable ways, and promoting environmental awareness<sup>210</sup>.
2. Continuing to operate and expand the national network for monitoring ambient air quality in Jordan.
3. Continuing to operate the mobile laboratory to measure nine pollutants in the ambient air.
4. Issuing 4 air quality reports, the Ministry of Environment has developed a set of effective policies and procedures capable of reducing air pollution by monitoring the levels of concentrations of gaseous air pollutants and suspended particles in the Kingdom through the national network for monitoring ambient air quality, which currently consists of twenty-seven fixed monitoring stations distributed across eight governorates, and to develop this network, the Ministry has implemented the electronic regulation project to monitor pollutant concentrations in the air in the major cities with the highest population densities in the Kingdom (Amman, Zarqa and Irbid),

<sup>209</sup> Figures and statistics obtained from the Ministry of Environment - National Center Liaison Officer, dated 21/01/2024.

<sup>210</sup> The website of the Jordanian Ministry of Environment, dated 1/21/2024, at the following link: <https://www.moenv.gov.jo>

This project included the establishment of twelve fixed monitoring stations distributed as follows: seven stations in the capital, Amman, three stations in the city of Zarqa, and two stations in the city of Irbid, in addition to a mobile laboratory to monitor the quality of the surrounding air. The project started operating on 01/05/2014. In order to expand the national network for monitoring ambient air quality, the Ministry of Environment electronically linked the Aqaba city station, in cooperation with the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority, as well as Hasa station in Tafilah Governorate, in cooperation with the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company.

All ambient air quality monitoring reports emphasize the following recommendations:

1. The necessity of working on preparing a national strategy to combat air pollution and monitor ambient air quality in the Kingdom, or preparing a sectoral environmental strategy that includes issues of combating air pollution and monitoring ambient air quality.
2. Continuing to monitor the ambient air quality at current monitoring sites, increasing the number of stations to cover all areas not covered by continuous monitoring and including them in the national monitoring network, in order to identify areas exposed to pollution and study its sources, including border areas, and implement Air Quality Control procedures that control air quality within national specifications, and maintain its quality from deterioration in matching areas.

<sup>211</sup> The Ministry of Environment monitors ambient air quality in Jordan through a national monitoring network consisting of twenty-seven monitoring stations distributed in eight governorates (the capital Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Mafraq, Balqa, Tafilah, Kerak, and Aqaba), in addition to a mobile laboratory to monitor ambient air quality. Ambient air quality monitoring reports and monitoring results can be viewed through the Ministry's website, the online Ambient Air Quality Index website, and the global Ambient Air Quality Index website.

3. Treating crude oil before entering the refining processes or replacing the types of fuel used with cleaner types and accelerating the implementation of the fourth expansion project of the Jordanian Petroleum Refinery to produce fuel with low sulfur levels, which includes establishing a unit to remove sulfur from crude oil before refining it.
4. Replacing heavy fuels that contain a high percentage of sulfur, currently used in some industries or in some power generation stations, with cleaner fuels that lead to lower emissions of pollutants.
5. Applying the concept and principles of cleaner production and using environmentally friendly technology in all development facilities as much as possible.
6. Encouraging and supporting universities and scientific research centers to conduct research related to air pollution and reduce negative impacts on the environment.
7. Continuing to implement the national project to monitor water quality in Jordan and increasing the number of monitored sites to 138 sites.
8. Afforestation of a total of (8) thousand dunums and a total number of (600) thousand trees, implemented with the Ministry of Agriculture in the field of forests. The Ministry also worked to plant approximately (13) thousand dunums in pasture lands and a total number of 627 thousand seedlings<sup>212</sup>.

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<sup>212</sup> Figures and statistics obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Agricultural Information and Statistics - dated 08/02/2024.

### **Desertification**

The percentage of desertified area in Jordan reached about 81% of the total area, and the percentage of the area threatened by desertification reached about 16%, of 2023, which requires the development of plans that are compatible with the various areas affected by desertification, especially those with rainfall less than 200 mm<sup>213</sup>.

### **Water Problem**

The Ministry of Environment seeks to protect the environment and preserve ecological and biological regulation by establishing and enforcing legislative frameworks, preparing strategies and policies, spreading environmental culture, and shifting towards a green economy, through building supportive institutions, to contribute to achieving sustainable development and reducing pollution and the negative effects of climate change according to a participatory approach. In line with the message and mission of the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry, in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society, has continued to implement a program to monitor and evaluate the quality of various water sources in the Kingdom, through the "National Project for Monitoring Water Quality in Jordan<sup>214</sup>," which is considered one of the pioneering projects that has been ongoing since 1986 and the first of its kind in Jordan in terms of its comprehensiveness. This project is of particular importance as it provides, through its various activities, vital and necessary information about the quality of water from its various sources in the Kingdom and its suitability for various uses.

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<sup>213</sup> Figures and statistics collected from the Ministry of Agriculture.

<sup>214</sup> The project plan for the year 2023 included studying and evaluating the quality of water in each of the following: the main sources of raw groundwater (before treatment), the main torrents and valleys, the main dams, the main sewage treatment plants, and the industrial wastewater resulting from some of the main industrial activities in the Kingdom, with the aim of demonstrating the extent of their compliance with the requirements of the relevant local specifications and demonstrating the extent of the possibility of reusing them for various purposes; according to the foundations and standards of environmental protection. The project began in 1986 by monitoring only fifty-one (51) drinking water sites. The project's work plan was expanded over the past years to include in 2023 (138) one hundred and eighty-three sites from which instantaneous samples were collected periodically.

This helps decision-makers in the Ministry of Environment, technical directorates in the center and governorates, and some other concerned ministries to take appropriate decisions in this regard. It is one of the most important technical tools for implementing the legal requirements of the Ministry of Environment in monitoring water quality in normal and emergency situations and enhancing environmental control over various water sources. The project also complements the efforts of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation by completing the elements of environmental control and expanding its scope<sup>215</sup>.

The objectives of the monitoring program of the national project for monitoring water quality in Jordan are as follows:

1. Determining the most important physical, chemical (organic and inorganic) and microbial properties of water from different sources in the monitored sites.
2. Analyzing and evaluating the quality of water in its various sources to verify its quality and demonstrate the extent of its compliance with the requirements of the relevant Jordanian technical regulations and standard specifications and demonstrate the extent of its suitability for various uses in accordance with the approved environmental protection principles and standards to reduce the negative impacts on the limited water resources in the Kingdom.
3. Documenting the change in the quality of water resources within the time frame and determining the general trend of the change in water quality. To achieve this purpose, a website for the Environmental Information Bank Regulation was created.
4. Identifying the most important causes of changes in water quality, whether this change is negative or positive.
5. Identifying pollution indicators for emergencies when necessary.

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<sup>215</sup> Information collected from the Ministry of Environment.

### **Fires and their impact on the environment**

The year 2023 witnessed a decrease in the number of fires that affected dry grasses, forest trees, fruit trees and agricultural crops in most regions of the Kingdom, as the number of fires that occurred in 2023 reached (29) fires, and the areas of forests and woodlands that were exposed to fires in 2023 reached (781) dunums, while the number of trees burned in 2023 reached (16117) trees<sup>216</sup>.

### **Climate Change**

At the 2020 Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions Annual Conference, NHRIs from all regions pledged to work individually and collectively to advance human rights-based climate action, while the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions Strategic Plan 2020-2022 identified climate change and human rights as a priority theme. The United Nations Human Rights Council also recognized the importance of the role of national human rights institutions in this area through resolution 51/31 at its fifty-first session in October 2022. The United Nations General Assembly also adopted a resolution on 19 December 2023 recognizing the vital contribution of national human rights institutions to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. The resolution also highlights the important role of national human rights institutions in monitoring, reporting and advising government bodies and other stakeholders on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and promoting the implementation of international human rights obligations.

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<sup>216</sup> Figures and statistics collected from the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions participates in supporting the work of the National Initiative for Human Development on climate change, and in 2023 obtained observer status for international climate negotiations. During the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 28), the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions organized a hybrid seminar between individuals and through the National Initiative for Human Development, on the topic (Climate Change and Human Rights - The Role of National Human Rights Institutions), in which the National Center for Human Rights participated, and which included the following topics:

- The overall objective of the symposium was to present and discuss the main aspects of the work of national human rights institutions on climate change and discuss them collectively, in addition to identifying ways to support current and future work in this area.
- Facilitate the exchange of knowledge, awareness and good practices on the work of NHRIs in the area of climate change and human rights.
- Consider ways in which NHRIs that have not yet done so can be supported to do so.
- To present specific aspects of the negotiations taking place at COP28 and support NHRIs to consider the relevance of these discussions to their work.
- Consider some of the challenges faced by national human rights institutions when working on climate change and how they can be addressed.
- Thinking about ways to develop and cooperate in working in this field, in the context of multiple demands and pressures on limited resources.

The year 2023 also witnessed many important government practices related to the topic of climate change, including<sup>217</sup>:

1. Working within the “Climate and Refugee Interconnected Initiative” team, implemented by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, an initiative launched by His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein during the 27th Conference of the Parties to Climate Change, by working with international bodies to provide financial support for adaptation and increasing the resilience of refugee-hosting countries most affected by the negative effects of climate change<sup>218</sup>. The initiative was supported by 58 countries - the Islamic and Arab world, in addition to Britain and Spain.
2. Issuance of the Fourth National Communication Report on Climate Change.
3. Launch of the National Climate Investment Mobilization Plan. The National Climate Investment Mobilization Plan was launched in Jordan with the aim of stimulating sustainable economic growth and enhancing resilience to the impacts of climate change. The importance of the National Climate Investment Mobilization Plan lies in enhancing the balance between economic growth and environmental conservation, as the plan includes a set of objectives represented in enhancing sustainability in the energy and water sectors by encouraging the use of renewable energy, improving water use efficiency, developing climate infrastructure, and enhancing sustainable agriculture by supporting sustainable agricultural practices and smart agricultural technologies that reduce the effects of climate change on agricultural production, raising climate awareness and education, and enhancing cooperation with international bodies to exchange knowledge, expertise, and financial support to implement the plan through coordination between the government, the private sector, and civil society.

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<sup>217</sup> Information obtained from the Ministry of Environment.

<sup>218</sup> The Ministry of Environment’s Strategic Plan 2023-2025, submitted and published on the website of the Jordanian Ministry of Environment, dated 06/02/2024, at the following link: <https://www.moenv.gov.jo>



4. Preparing and publishing guidelines for the private sector on voluntary reporting of climate-related information and projects and introducing them to the monitoring, reporting and verification regulation. The Ministry of Environment has developed guidelines for the private sector on voluntary reporting of climate-related information to the monitoring, reporting and verification regulation that it launched in 2021. These guidelines, issued by the Ministry, and within a specialized guide for this purpose, pave the way for preparing voluntary reports, enhancing transparency, and accelerating Jordan's progress towards its goals set in the Nationally Determined Contribution Document, especially in the area of conditional commitments. To this end, the Ministry has identified climate-responsive projects for the preparation of measurement, reporting and verification reports that will be included in the regulation, including that these projects be included in the Nationally Determined Contributions document, or the Local Adaptation Plan.
5. Achieving the indicator for entering climate-responsive capital projects data into the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification regulation (MRVS) within the Inclusive and Transparent Climate-Responsive Investments Program (R4P), which the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) regulation, which was developed in cooperation between the Ministry of Environment in Jordan and the World Bank, is an important achievement that contributes to enhancing Jordan's ability to face the challenges related to climate change and achieve sustainable development. This regulation aims to provide a comprehensive and effective framework for monitoring and documenting environmental data periodically and systematically, and to provide transparent and reliable reports on the level of achievement and progress in the field of climate change, as it contributes to enhancing transparency in Jordan's efforts in climate change.

Jordan has become a leader in addressing global climate change, by establishing a comprehensive Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) regulation to track and report progress on climate change mitigation, and a registration regulation to handle carbon stocks. The measurement, reporting, verification and recording regulation s, supported by the Partnership for Market Readiness, were the first of their kind in a developing country.

6. Completion of building the Monitoring, Review, and Learning Framework for the water, agriculture and food security, biodiversity and ecosystems, and coastal zone management sectors. And to start completing the framework to include the seven sectors included in the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change in Jordan, 2022, namely health, urban development, and socio-economic development. This plan represents the first document for adaptation to climate change in Jordan and the main pillar through which the Ministry of Environment deals with the issue of adaptation to climate change within the national framework of development policy. This document was prepared by adopting a clear vision for adaptation and identifying the measures that must be addressed in various sectors, and to guide institutions from various sectors such as governmental and academic bodies, civil society organizations and the private sector to implement adaptation initiatives and develop partnerships and harmony among them, in order to achieve the desired adaptation goals<sup>219</sup>.
7. Holding the third "Local Youth Climate Change Conference", and the participation of a youth delegation within the Jordanian delegation at the Conference of the Parties (COP 28).
8. Launching the Green Finance Strategy.

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<sup>219</sup> Executive Summary of the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan in Jordan - 2022, published on the website of the Jordanian Ministry of Environment.

9. Starting the implementation of the readiness project concerned with activating the partnership between the public and private sectors and enhancing the role of the National Committee for Climate Change.
10. Signing the agreement for the project “Design, Supply, Installation, Operation and Receipt of Solar Photovoltaic Cell Regulations to Operate Surface Water Pumps in the Agricultural Sector” between the Ministry of Environment and the Royal Scientific Society, which is concerned with implementation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, and forming the project’s steering committee. The project of designing, supplying, installing, operating and receiving solar photovoltaic regulations will be implemented; to operate surface water pumps only in the agricultural sector, numbering 500 agricultural units in the Jordan Valley region by the Ministry of Environment and in partnership, and implemented by the Royal Scientific Society and funded by the European Union to replace inefficient water pumps that operate on traditional energy (diesel fuel) with pumps that operate on solar energy in order to increase the effectiveness of energy conservation and the efficiency of its use and the use of renewable energy. In addition to contributing to the development of a green, environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive economy and enhancing coordination and sustainable management of resources in the energy, water and agriculture sectors, the project will contribute to reducing the consumption of electricity for water pumps, as the amount of energy that will be produced by photovoltaic regulations amounts to about 5,500 megawatt hours annually, and improving the social status of farmers by reducing the costs of energy used for traditional pumps, thus reducing the financial burden on farmers.
11. Starting the implementation of the project “Policy Analysis and Recommendations on Mitigation of Short-Lived Climate Pollutants in Jordan”, funded by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and implemented by the Ministry of Environment in cooperation with the Climate Action Network (CAN). The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) plays an important role in Jordan’s efforts to address the challenges of climate change and improve air quality through studies and policy development. This coalition has invested in three major projects aimed at developing relevant policies and programs, including targeting the improvement of solid waste management, especially reducing methane emissions, which is one of the most important gases that contribute to climate change in the waste sector. Thanks to these efforts, this alliance is expected to contribute to enhancing environmental sustainability and creating a healthier and more prosperous environment for citizens.
12. Starting the implementation of the “Project to Help Jordan Achieve the Targets of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) for the Waste Sector”, funded by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and implemented by the Ministry of Environment in cooperation with the British company WRAP.
13. Following-up on the procedures for entering the second phase of the Green Climate Fund’s accreditation of the Cities and Villages Development Bank as an accredited national entity for the Fund (the first direct access entity in the Middle East).
14. Implementing the Blue Economy Project in the Aqaba region and the Farmers Assistance Project at the national level within the “Pipeline Adaptation Accelerator” initiative in cooperation with the NDCP, with the aim of preparing the necessary studies and documents for their implementation. According to UNESCO, the concept of the blue economy seeks to promote economic growth, social inclusion and the preservation or improvement of livelihoods while ensuring the environmental sustainability of oceans and coastal areas at the same time. The blue economy relates to economic sectors that engage in activities in oceans and inland waters. These activities include fisheries, aquaculture, marine and marine security, mining, oil and gas, and renewable energy. It is therefore important to introduce sustainable policies and practices in these sectors as they have the most direct impact on marine ecosystems.

15. Activating of the Greenhouse Gas Registry in Jordan, Jordan sent a report on its fourth national communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which highlights a variety of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change and its negative impacts on the environment and public health. The report includes a statement of the volume of greenhouse gases, where greenhouse gas emissions, removals and transfers were estimated from the following sectors: energy sector, industrial and agricultural processes, land use and land use change, forestry, waste and solvents, and direct greenhouse gases whose national stocks have been estimated are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), per fluorinated and hydro fluorocarbon emissions. Indirect emissions of the following greenhouse gases reported in the previous estimate volume were also estimated: nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide (CO), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). Providing accurate estimates of these greenhouse gas emissions in the Jordanian national report helps in understanding the main causes of climate change in the country and guiding the necessary policies and measures to reduce these emissions and adapt the country to the expected impacts of climate change. This report is an important tool for improving awareness among decision-makers and civil society about environmental challenges and the urgent need for joint action to protect the environment

<sup>220</sup> These are gases that can absorb and emit infrared radiation, and they are useful when they are in their natural concentrations because they trap enough heat to make the universe warmer. Human activities are responsible for most of the increase in greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere over the past 150 years. The largest source of greenhouse gas emissions from human activities is the burning of fossil fuels to generate electricity, energy and transportation, followed by the waste sector. Information An educational leaflet prepared and designed by the Royal Scientific Society entitled (Sources of Greenhouse Gases).

and achieve sustainable development. The Ministry of Environment is preparing a long-term low-carbon and climate resilience strategy (LTS), which will cover the entire economy and address all sectors that contribute significantly to GHG emissions in Jordan as well as sectors that are critical for adaptation and resilience, such as water and waste, electricity supply, agriculture, construction, industry, and transportation.

16. Approving 22 projects included in the World Bank's Monitoring, Reporting and Verification Regulation.
17. Working with the Green Climate Fund through the Global Green Growth Institute to integrate the private sector into climate action, through holding a number of sectoral consultative sessions with representatives of the private sector in relevant sectors (energy, water, agriculture, tourism, etc.).

#### **Green Economy <sup>221</sup>:**

The year 2023 witnessed many important government practices related to the topic of the green economy, including<sup>222</sup>:

<sup>221</sup> The United Nations defines a green economy as: a low-carbon, resource-efficient, and socially inclusive economy. The idea behind this economy is for countries and companies to create new business models that make the most of natural resources and minimize waste and mismanagement to meet the needs of everyone on a global scale, while at the same time striving to protect the natural resources of our planet. It aims to reduce environmental risks and achieve sustainable development without leading to environmental degradation. It is closely linked to the ecological economy.

<sup>222</sup> Information obtained from the Ministry of Environment.

1. Launching the first evaluation report on green jobs in Jordan, the first of its kind in Jordan, under the supervision of the Ministry of Environment and through joint cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the International Labor Organization. The report used the ILO methodology to study and evaluate green jobs. The report includes several axes, including: 1 - Defining green jobs 2 - Identifying the economic sectors that are a priority in the existence and development of green jobs 3 - Estimating the current number of green jobs according to the definition used and in the selected sectors. 4 - Assuming the growth of green jobs using several scenarios that represent specific investments in some sectors compared to the normal situation. 5 - Developing a set of recommendations at the level of policies and procedures that contribute to enhancing opportunities for creating and developing green jobs in Jordan.
- Green Jobs: There is no unified global definition of green jobs, but the International Labor Organization has defined them as: "Decent jobs linked to activities in economic sectors that contribute to the protection or restoration of the natural environment through several criteria:
  1. Improving the efficiency of energy and material use in general.
  2. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
  3. Reducing pollution and waste.
  4. Protecting and rehabilitating the natural environment.
  5. Supporting efforts to adapt to the effects of climate change.

### Waste and its Management

The year 2023 witnessed the implementation of many procedures by the Ministry of Environment and relevant authorities in the field of waste and hazardous materials management, while the number of violations recorded by the Royal Environmental Protection Administration regarding the enforcement of the framework law for waste management of 2023<sup>224</sup> amounted to (8136) violations compared to (18446) violations in the year 2022. The quantities of hazardous waste that obtained approval for export outside the Kingdom according to the Basel Convention amounted to approximately (22780 tons)<sup>225</sup>.

### Monitoring and Inspection:

The year 2023 witnessed the continued work of the regulatory bodies represented by the Ministry of Environment, the Royal Environmental Protection Department, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, Jordan Food and Drug Administration, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Greater Amman Municipality, the Aqaba Special Region Authority, the Natural Resources Authority, the Water Authority, and the National Environmental Movement, to monitor the environmental situation in the Kingdom by applying the laws, regulations, and instructions related to environmental protection to institutions whose activities may affect the environment. The most important means of control that it exercises are the following:

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<sup>223</sup> Preparing the annual report of the National Information and Monitoring Regulation for Waste. The National Information and Monitoring Regulation for Waste comes within the framework of the agreement signed between the Jordanian government and the European Union, where work is being carried out on it in parallel with the implementation of infrastructure projects to improve the management of solid waste sites in the Kingdom within the scope of implementing the National Strategy for Solid Waste Management. The regulation aims to establish a national information regulation to collect data on waste management operations, and achieving this goal also contributes to enhancing the capabilities of the Ministry of Environment to monitor and follow up on the environmental performance of landfills, and to raise the efficiency of coordination and integration between the relevant partner agencies. The report covers several main topics such as the reality of waste management, technical infrastructure, waste management facilities, landfills and transfer stations, indicators and environmental performance.

<sup>224</sup> Framework Law for Waste Management No. 16 of 2020, published in Issue No. 5622 of the Official Gazette dated March 1, 2020, for the year 2023,

<sup>225</sup> Figures and statistics collected from the Ministry of Environment.

#### a) Licenses

**Table No. (1) shows the environmental licenses and their numbers.**

| Licensing Application Result | 2022 | 2023 |
|------------------------------|------|------|
| Approval                     | 1844 | 1644 |
| Not Approval                 | 342  | 323  |
| Total                        | 2186 | 1967 |

The year 2023 witnessed the Central Licensing Committee approving (1644) transactions that met the provisions of the Environmental Classification and Licensing Regulation No. (69) of 2020 and its amendments, and the percentage of approvals reached (84%), compared to (1844) licenses in 2022. In contrast, the committee rejected (323) requests to license industrial, agricultural, craft and warehouse projects, compared to (342) applications to license industrial, agricultural and craft projects in 2022 for violating the environmental conditions for licensing investment projects, as shown in Table No. (1). Also, (61) environmental impact assessment studies for several projects were reviewed, where (36) consultative sessions were held, and (36) comprehensive studies and (25) preliminary studies were reviewed<sup>226</sup>.

#### b) Environmental Violations:

The number of violations recorded by the Royal Environmental Protection Administration regarding the enforcement of the Framework Law for Waste Management No. (16) of 2020, published in issue No. 5622 of the Official Gazette dated March 1, 2020, for the year 2023 amounted to (8136) violations, compared to (18446) violations in 2022.

In 2023, no plastic bags were seized that violated the Biodegradable Plastic Shopping Bags Regulation No. (45) of 2017, as amended<sup>227</sup>.

<sup>226</sup> Statistics of the Jordanian Ministry of Environment.

<sup>227</sup> Statistics of the Jordanian Ministry of Environment.

#### c) Complaints and Closures:

The year 2023 witnessed the inspection of (1024) development facilities in the Kingdom, dealing with (323) environmental complaints, and closing and suspending (78) of them from work, compared to the closure of (54) facilities in 2022, as shown in Table No. (2).

**Table No. (2) shows the number of complaints and closures.**

| Procedure  | 2022 | 2023 |
|------------|------|------|
| Complaints | 158  | 323  |
| Closures   | 54   | 78   |

#### d) Cases

**Table No. 3 shows the number of cases.**

| Procedure | 2022 | 2023 |
|-----------|------|------|
| Cases     | 447  | 94   |

The year 2023 witnessed the transfer of (94) facilities violating the provisions of the Environmental Protection Law No. (6) of 2017 to the Public Prosecutor to take the necessary legal action and transfer them to the competent courts, in comparison with the transfer of (447) facilities in 2022, as shown in Table No. (3)<sup>228</sup>.

#### Electronic Tank Tracking Project / Phase II:

The year 2023 witnessed the completion of the implementation of the electronic tracking regulation project for vehicles transporting wastewater, waste mineral oils, and hazardous waste by proceeding with the procedures for installing sensors to measure the volume of liquid inside the tank until the regulation becomes suitable for the requirements of the Ministry of Environment.

<sup>228</sup> Statistics of the Jordanian Ministry of Environment.

**Recommendations:**

In light of the above, the National Center emphasizes the recommendations contained in its previous reports, and recommends taking a number of measures that would provide protection for the right to a healthy environment, the most important of which are:

1. The Center reiterates its recommendation regarding the establishment of central stations for the treatment of industrial and natural wastewater in all regions of the Kingdom.
2. The Center reiterates its recommendation regarding the need to intensify voluntary and awareness campaigns to reduce the phenomenon of forest and tree fires, especially in the summer, by intensifying supervision of summer resorts and raising awareness of the dangers of setting fires inside forests, as well as the need to intensify efforts to remove weeds from streets and public squares, in order to prevent fires and protect plant and forest wealth.
3. The Center reiterates its recommendation regarding the ongoing coordination between policy makers in sectors that directly and indirectly affect the environment.
4. Expanding the application of green economy strategies and policies.
5. Adopting a human rights-based approach in all actions related to climate change.
6. Businesses have an active role in mitigating the effects of climate change.

## Cultural Rights

Every human being has the right to enjoy cultural rights, the right to science, and the right to the protection of the interests of the author. These rights guarantee the right to participate in the benefits of science and culture and the right to enjoy these rights. They are also related to the process of seeking knowledge, understanding, and human creativity. These rights are an important part of social harmony and are closely linked to the right to education and the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. However, cultural rights may not be exploited to justify certain practices that violate the right not to be discriminated against certain groups or that violate other human rights.

Cultural rights are among the rights guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution, as well as international standards, in addition to what is included in the texts of many national laws, such as the Culture Protection Law, the Copyright Protection Law, the Trade Names Law, the Urban Heritage Protection Law, and other laws to protect cultural rights.

The normative contents of these rights are based on the right to participate in or contribute to cultural life, the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, the right of the individual to protect the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of his own making, the freedom of scientific research and creative activity, and the right to education and the preservation of cultural heritage.

In general, the center monitored a number of issues during the year 2023, which we list in detail as follows: tangible cultural heritage, the tourism sector, and intangible cultural heritage from festivals, dramas, and cultural events.

### First: Tangible Cultural Heritage.

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<sup>229</sup> The Jordanian Constitution issued in 1952 and its amendments, Articles (6/3), (1,2,3,4,5/15).

During 2023, national efforts to protect tangible cultural heritage continued, as Jordan's rich and diverse archaeological and cultural heritage enjoys national and global importance, and is preserved, interpreted and protected in accordance with the best international standards and presented in a sustainable manner.

The Department of Antiquities' vision is based on applying the following values:

- Considering the archaeological sites in Jordan as the best in the world due to the quality of these sites.
- Managing archaeological heritage in line with international best practices and contributing significantly to the Jordanian economy and the well-being of local communities.
- The roles of stakeholders in the management of archaeological heritage are organized, and responsibilities are clearly defined, but they operate within a framework that allows for full integration between management practices and is supported by amended legislation.
- Citizens' appreciation of Jordan's rich and widely diverse archaeological heritage.

During the year 2023, the Department of Antiquities continued its efforts to preserve the tangible cultural heritage and preserve the Jordanian identity and disseminate it among members of the local community to enrich national belonging in the Kingdom by implementing a package of projects related to the preservation, restoration, rehabilitation and sustainability of archaeological and heritage sites:

1. 65 sustainability projects are implemented annually in all governorates of the Kingdom from the north to the south, passing through the center.
2. During the period (2022-2024), a group of projects specialized in preservation, restoration, restoration and rehabilitation were implemented by the cadres of the Department of Antiquities, in cooperation with members of the local community, which are being followed up by the Prime Minister's Office in the Economic Modernization Vision Program, as follows:

### Intangible cultural heritage.

The year 2023 witnessed the implementation of a number of projects by the Directorate of Heritage in cooperation with relevant institutions, associations, craftsmen and experts in the field of intangible cultural heritage, which includes intangible cultural heritage practiced in various aspects of life by all age groups without exception as follows:

#### a) Training workshops, including:

1. Workshop entitled "Basic Components for the Success of Cultural Tourism Paths in the Golden Triangle", which was held on Thursday, 22/06/2023 in Aqaba Governorate.
2. Workshop entitled: "Mahras Tree: Knowledge, Skills and Rituals", as part of the requirements for including Mahras on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity as a national file.
3. Awareness Day "Investing Cultural Industries in Sustainable Development" in Balqa Governorate/Suwaymah Municipality.
4. Asayel Badr Association was supported to hold a training workshop in the field of cultural industries (embroidery).
5. Many workshops and training courses were implemented in the field of cultural industries in cities, cultural districts and governorates within the projects of the cultural districts and empowerment.

#### b) Studies and research:

The year 2023 witnessed the implementation of projects (studies and research) in the field of heritage, including (the Bisht, folk songs in Al-Hasa District, and others) within the cultural and empowerment districts projects.

<sup>230</sup> Ministry of Culture Letter No. (Culture/15/665) dated 31/01/2024.

#### c) Heritage and prominent exhibitions:

The year 2023 witnessed the holding of heritage exhibitions, exhibitions of handicrafts, popular foods, and traditional costumes within the projects of the cultural brigades and empowerment in the cultural districts and governorates.

#### d) Developing and updating data related to intangible heritage<sup>231</sup>:

The year 2023 witnessed the development and updating of the national inventory lists of intangible cultural heritage (bisht, oud, Nabati poetry, marriage, and Mahras olives). In addition to updating the database of craftsmen.

#### e) Nomination files for the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage:

During the year 2023, national efforts continued to register Jordanian elements on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, enhance and highlight Jordanian heritage locally, Arab, regionally and internationally, and spread the spirit of constructive dialogue and rapprochement between groups, communities and individuals carrying common elements.

The year 2023 also witnessed the preparation of a number of files for nomination to the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage as a joint Arab file for the year 2024. These include: (1) Preparing Coffee (Coffee: Arab Hospitality), (2) Preparing the (Abaya) file, (3) Preparing the (Oud) file, (4) Preparing the (Zaffa) file, (5) Preparing the (Palm Leaves and Plant Fibers) file.

The extent of freedom to participate in global activities, regardless of their type or location<sup>232</sup>

The year 2023 witnessed facilitating the participation of creators and cultural activists in cultural and artistic events held in Jordan and abroad. The year 2023 also continued with the nomination of a creative person or cultural or academic figure to represent Jordan in Arab and international forums and events.

<sup>231</sup> Ministry of Culture Letter No. (Culture/15/665) dated 31/01/2024.

<sup>232</sup> Ministry of Culture Letter No. (Culture/15/665) dated 31/01/2024.



The extent of freedom of knowledge production and written, visual and audio expression without any restrictions:

The year 2023 witnessed the continuation of the freedom of intellectual production and written, visual and audio expression at the Institute of Fine Arts in all specializations (plastic, performing, music and scriptwriting) that aims to encourage students to be creative and innovative in artistic education, which is an important and vital process for the growth of their skills and their development on their way to achieving success, by taking the following measures:

1. Giving students the opportunity to differ and express their opinions and ideas in a free and creative way.
2. Motivating students to participate in innovation and creativity competitions.
3. Providing the necessary tools and techniques for students to learn and develop the skills they want to develop.
4. Encouraging students to learn in an interactive, practical and non-traditional way.
5. Motivating students to display their creative and innovative works and achievements in art and personal exhibitions.
6. Giving students enough freedom and flexibility in work: Students can be given the freedom to choose the topic and participants in it, as well as the method of completing the project.
7. Cooperating between students, teachers and external institutions.
8. Involving specialists and experts in different fields by organizing lectures or workshops.
9. Giving students the opportunity to learn creatively: Using modern tools and techniques to motivate students to explore and experiment.

10. Providing a supportive environment for creativity by encouraging students to learn in an environment that promotes creativity.
11. Creating a digital interface that enhances creativity and stimulates competition among students.

The year 2023 witnessed the implementation of a number of theatrical arts as a multi-dimensional artistic medium, involving many elements and details that work together to create a creative artistic experience linked to the aesthetic taste of the viewer. In Jordan, freedom of creativity and expression is guaranteed by the constitution, and the theater sector enjoys broad freedom in cognitive production and written, visual and audio expression. However, there are some restrictions and controls that must be adhered to, which stipulate not inciting hatred or violence, and respecting the values of society and religion through<sup>233</sup>:

- Sponsoring the Jordanian theatrical movement, honoring its pioneers and founders, and creating new climates suitable for creative individuals.
- Communicating between Jordanian theater artists and their Arab counterparts, within the framework of strengthening the unity of Arab culture and presenting theatrical topics derived from Arab history and heritage.
- Exchanging experiences and expertise between the participating playwrights in the festival and the theatrical season, and presenting international texts by major playwrights, which achieves communication between the Jordanian theater and international theaters.
- Providing the Jordanian audience with the opportunity to learn about the theatrical experiences participating in the festival and season, through presenting diverse local, Arab and foreign theatrical performances for all segments of society.

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<sup>233</sup> Ministry of Culture Letter No. (Culture/15/665) dated 31/01/2024.

- Developing the expertise of Jordanian theater professionals in various fields of theatrical work, through watching performances by Arab and foreign groups, and participating in intellectual and evaluation seminars and creative theatrical workshops, which are held under the supervision of Arab and foreign experts, and include writing, directing, acting and theatrical techniques.
- Working to activate cultural life in Jordan, and to advance the culture of different segments and categories of society by presenting qualitative theatrical performances with deep intellectual content.
- Disseminating and developing theatrical culture, introducing Jordanian society to the most important local, Arab and international theatrical symbols, and attempting to create a social tradition of visiting Jordanian theaters.
- Openness to the global theatrical experience and keeping up with the latest theatrical developments by hosting foreign theatrical performances.
- Spreading the culture of joy within Jordanian society, and disseminating the values of justice, freedom, humanity, and enhancing the aesthetic palate.

The extent of the right to moral and material protection related to human cultural activity<sup>234</sup>.

The year 2023 witnessed the continuation of the efforts of the National Library Department in providing protection for cultural activity through the Works Deposit Regulation and the Copyright and Neighboring Rights Protection Law/self-enforcement based on the text of Article (36) thereof. It also grants a deposit number to works and actually deposits them in the National Library, which is presented as evidence of ownership of literary and artistic activity in the event of infringement. Depositing also leads to the preservation of national intellectual production and making it available to future generations.

<sup>234</sup> Ministry of Culture Letter No. (Culture/15/665) dated 31/01/2024.

In the field of copyright and related rights, the field of moral and material protection related to human cultural activity in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has expanded, which has had an impact on a large segment of intellectuals in obtaining their financial and moral rights. Through the Copyright Protection Office, protection is provided to rights holders in their cultural production by receiving complaints, information, and inspection tours based on the provisions of the Copyright and Neighboring Rights Protection Law No. (22) of 1992, as amended, which was reflected in the increase in Jordanian creativity and cultural activity, in addition to Jordan's accession and ratification of many international agreements regulating copyright and neighboring rights.

The Copyright Protection Office in the Department referred 29 cases of infringement of various types of works (dossiers, books, and receivers) during the year 2023, and the number of inspection tours reached more than 50 inspection tours in various governorates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The office also provides awareness of copyright through lectures, seminars, and workshops. The office's members gave 10 lectures during 2023 to the General Command of the Army, the Criminal Investigation Department, and other entities.

The extent of freedom in forming institutions, studying and teaching cultures, obtaining, disseminating and correcting information, and participating in cultural policies.

The year 2023 witnessed the Ministry of Culture continuing to implement the law guaranteeing the right to obtain information through proactive disclosure of information and its periodic publication. The Ministry also implemented the principle of participation in cultural policies when it began amending the Ministry's strategy for the years 2023-2027, such as taking the proposals of the Directors of Culture and arbitrating them outside the Ministry to the competent authorities, as well as with regard to the instructions for selecting cultural districts, committees were formed from the local councils of the governorates, administrative governors, and directors of culture to nominate the districts.

The extent to which the content of cultural rights is included in the core of legislation and practices in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan:

Article (27) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights emphasizes the protection and promotion of cultural rights, including the right to freely participate in cultural life, to enjoy the arts and to contribute to scientific advancement and its benefits. Therefore, cultural rights are the rights related to art, culture and creators; the aim of these rights is to ensure participation in cultural life for all.

The Copyright and Related Rights Protection Law No. (22) of 1992 and its amendments are at the top of the list of cultural legislations that have enshrined the rights of the author in its two aspects, economic rights and moral rights, which the Jordanian Court of Cassation has considered, according to its established jurisprudence, to be among the rights inherent to the individual. This law is consistent with international agreements in this regard, in addition to the Culture Care Law No. (36) of 2006, as amended, and the regulations and instructions issued pursuant thereto, the provisions of which enshrine cultural rights and unleash the creativity of the Jordanian people in various fields.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Increasing financial support for projects related to the preservation, restoration, rehabilitation and sustainability of archaeological and heritage sites.
- Raising citizens' awareness of Jordan's rich and diverse archaeological heritage on a wide scale.
- Working to increase the number of tourists domestically and abroad through clear, applicable executive plans.
- Developing tourist and religious paths in particular.
- Working to increase activities related to intangible cultural heritage practiced in various aspects of life by all age groups without exception.

### Third: The axis of rights most in need of protection

#### Women's Rights

Women's rights are one of the basic human rights guaranteed by international general and special covenants, as well as the Jordanian Constitution and national legislation, with the aim of achieving justice and equality between the sexes in all areas of civil, political, economic, social and cultural life.

The normative content of the right is based on monitoring the extent to which national legislation, policies and practices are compatible with international human rights standards. It should be noted that monitoring the contents of the report was chosen to follow up on the extent to which the state has fulfilled its obligations to implement the recommendations of the International Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review, the recommendations of the Arab Charter on Human Rights Committee and the recommendations of the National Center for Human Rights contained in its previous annual reports.

In this context, the Center monitored during the year 2023 the ratification of Arab Agreement No. (15) of 1983 regarding the renewal and protection of wages and its publication in the Official Gazette. Among the most prominent provisions of the agreement related to women's rights is the text of Article (13): "A working woman shall be granted wages similar to those of a man when the work is similar," which confirms what is stated in Article Two of the Labor Law and its amendments of 1996<sup>236</sup>,

and the regulatory legislative developments related to women's rights, and the policies adopted to implement women's rights and their participation in all aspects of life. The Center also carried out field monitoring of the reality of women's rights and a group of shelters and workers in the agricultural sector. The Center also monitored women's ability to access justice and other matters.

In terms of legislation, the year 2023 witnessed the approval and implementation of some violations of national legislation related to women's rights, including:

- The law amending the Jordanian Nationality Law No. (9) of 2023<sup>237</sup>.

The law includes the following:

- Amend the second paragraph of Article (8); by canceling the condition of the expiry of the marital life in order to return to her Jordanian nationality in the event that she marries a non-Jordanian and renounces her nationality, so that after the amendment it becomes "the Jordanian woman who marries a non-Jordanian and obtains her husband's nationality shall retain her Jordanian nationality unless she renounces it in accordance with the provisions of this law, and she has the right to submit to the Minister of Interior a request to restore her Jordanian nationality in accordance with its provisions."<sup>238</sup>

The Center appreciates the government's response to its recommendations contained in its previous annual reports and believes that this amendment enhances women's rights, contributes to preserving family ties, and is consistent with Article (6/4) of the Constitution and Article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

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<sup>235</sup> Published in the Official Gazette No. 5899 dated 17/12/2023

<sup>236</sup> The law defines discrimination in wages as "inequality of wages among workers for all work of equal value without any discrimination based on gender."

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<sup>237</sup> Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5847 dated 01/03/2023

<sup>238</sup> The old text included: "A woman who has lost her Jordanian nationality through marriage may return to it by a declaration prepared in the manner stipulated in this law within two years from the date of her husband's death or the annulment of her marriage."

- The law amending Social Security Law No. (11) of 2023<sup>239</sup>.

The law includes the following:

- Amendment of Article (A/44) which specified the conditions for benefiting from maternity insurance “that she be covered by the provisions of this insurance during the last six months preceding her entitlement to maternity leave, or that she have six continuous or intermittent contributions to this insurance in the twelve months preceding her entitlement to this leave.”

The Center appreciates this amendment, which enhances women’s rights and is consistent with Articles (6, 23) of the Constitution and Article (11) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

- Amending Article (81/C) to read: “If a daughter or sister is divorced or widowed after the death of one of her parents or brother, the salary shall be redistributed as of the month following the month in which the divorce or widowhood occurred. The provisions of this paragraph shall apply to cases occurring before the provisions of this amended law came into effect, as of the date of its enforcement.”

The Center believes that postponing the redistribution of the salary is inconsistent with the concepts of human rights, since the entitlement to rights cannot be postponed.

In the same context, and through the Center’s analytical reading of the Social Security Law and its amendments for the year 2014,

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<sup>239</sup> Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5851 dated 16/04/2023

the Center calls for a review of the increase in support<sup>240</sup> for calculating retirement salaries, due to the discrimination between men and women, as it is added to the male pensioner according to its conditions, but it is not added to the female pensioner except in the event that it is proven that she is the breadwinner for one of her family members, or for her father or mother, or for any of her brothers or sisters.

This discrimination between men and women violates the provisions of Article 6 of the Jordanian Constitution and Article (11) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

- The law amending Labor Law No. (10) of 2023<sup>240</sup>.

The law includes the following:

- Definition of sexual harassment in Article (c/29)<sup>242</sup>
- Providing protection for the worker by giving him/her the right to leave work without notice in the event of sexual harassment by the employer or his/her representative during or because of work<sup>243</sup>.
- Expanding the powers of the Minister of Labor to impose a fine on the employer, the director of the institution, or his representative of no less than two thousand dinars and no more than five thousand dinars, and the fine is doubled in the event of repetition, taking into account the provisions of any other applicable legislation in the event of sexual harassment of the worker by the employer or his representative<sup>244</sup>.

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<sup>240</sup> Increase in support, which the insurance benefits regulation defines as: (the percentage of the increase that is added to the retirement pension for the persons whom the pensioner is responsible for supporting in accordance with the provisions of the law).

<sup>241</sup> Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5851 dated 16/04/2023

<sup>242</sup> Sexual harassment “Any physical or verbal conduct or behavior of a sexual nature or threats associated therewith that affects the dignity of the worker, is humiliating to him or her, and leads to physical, psychological, or sexual harm to him or her.”

<sup>243</sup> Article (29/A/6)

<sup>244</sup> Article (B/29)

- Cancel Article (69) and replace it with a provision prohibiting any discrimination on the basis of gender among workers that would affect equal opportunities<sup>245</sup>.

The Center appreciates the government's response to its recommendations contained in its previous annual reports and in its statements including the definition of sexual harassment in the Labor Law, and believes that what the legislator has provided is a qualitative leap in protecting women from sexual harassment and prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender, Which is consistent with the constitutional amendments of 2022<sup>246</sup> and the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

On the other hand, and through an analytical reading of the Jordanian Labor Law and its amendments of 1996, it demands amending Article (67) to give the male worker, like the female worker, the right to obtain unpaid leave for a period not exceeding one year to devote herself to raising her children, in accordance with Article (16) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which stipulates that raising children is a joint responsibility between the spouses. The Center also demands that the maternity leave for female workers stipulated in Article (70) be increased to ninety days, similar to female workers in civil service departments, and that she be granted an hour of breastfeeding from the date of the end of maternity leave and not from the date of birth as stipulated in Article (71) of the law, and that a woman be granted paid leave in the event of the death of her husband.

In the same context, it must be noted that the National Center issued a statement on the occasion of International Workers' Day, praising the amendments to the Labor Law in 2023,

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<sup>245</sup> The previous text is determined by a decision of the Minister after consulting the competent official authorities:

A. Industries and businesses in which women are prohibited from being employed.

B. The times when women may not be employed and the cases exempted from them.

<sup>246</sup> Article (6/4)

which would provide protection for women from sexual harassment and define it, and prohibit any discrimination on the basis of gender that would affect equal opportunities among workers<sup>247</sup>.

- The law amending the Principles of Sharia Courts Law No. 15 of 2023<sup>248</sup>.

The law includes the following:

- Article (11) permits the filing, registration, recording of lawsuits, requests, and appeals, the payment of fees, the submission of regulations, expert and arbitration reports, written statements, and all other judicial papers, and the conduct of notifications, correspondence, delegations, and trials, including the swearing of oaths and the hearing of witnesses and experts, without prejudice to the right to discussion by electronic means and modern technologies. The Sharia Public Prosecution and family reconciliation, mediation and mediation offices may also use electronic means and modern technologies in their work.

The Center appreciates the issuance of the law in line with Article (6/6) of the Constitution and to keep pace with technological developments aimed at enabling Sharia courts, the Public Prosecution, and family reconciliation and reform offices to use electronic means and modern technologies in their work, and the development of litigation and documentation procedures; which will positively reflect on judicial work and empower women, and facilitate access to justice. The Center hopes to expedite the issuance of regulations governing the work of the law.

- Instructions for the protection of pregnant and breastfeeding women, people with disabilities and people who work at night<sup>249</sup>

The instructions were issued in accordance with the provisions of Article (69) of the Labor Law and its amendments, so that they apply to pregnant and breastfeeding women. The most prominent issues covered by them are the following:

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<sup>247</sup> <https://www.nchr.org/jo/ar>

<sup>248</sup> Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5859 dated 17/05/2023

<sup>249</sup> Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5890 dated 01/11/2023

- Definition of pregnant women<sup>250</sup> and breastfeeding women<sup>251</sup>.
- Prohibiting the employment of a pregnant or breastfeeding woman at night without her consent, and employing her in the work specified in Article (4/c).
- Prohibition of dismissal of women for reasons related to pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding or during maternity leave.
- Obligating the employer to grant a period of one hour to the pregnant woman, calculated from the actual working hours, and not resulting in a reduction in wages.
- Providing safe and healthy places for the comfort of pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- Including procedures for pregnant and breastfeeding women's working hours in the institution's bylaw.

The Center appreciates the efforts made in issuing instructions that provided protection for women's rights and prohibited discrimination on the basis of gender. This is consistent with the provisions of Article 6 of the Constitution and Article (11) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In the same context, the Center sees the need to amend Article (M4/A) which states that "an employer is prohibited from employing a woman after giving birth under any circumstances during the six weeks following the birth," which is a violation of the labor law, which prohibits employing a woman during maternity leave.

It is worth noting that the National Center addressed the Ministry of Labor<sup>252</sup> to submit proposals to be taken into consideration when preparing the draft instructions, and many of the Center's comments were taken into account.

<sup>250</sup> "A woman whose pregnancy is proven by scientific means, or by a medical report, up to the date of her delivery or birth."

<sup>251</sup> "A woman who breastfeeds her child breastfeeding or bottle-feeding."

<sup>252</sup> Pursuant to Letter No. (H A / 628/ 3-12) dated 02/10/2023 issued by the National Center

#### 1. Instructions for Institutional Nursery Alternatives of 2023<sup>253</sup>

The instructions included the following:

- Obligating institutions subject to the provisions of the Labor Law to pay nursery allowance.
- Nursery alternatives are either by contracting with one or more nurseries in multiple geographical areas, and the worker has the right to choose the appropriate nursery from among them, or the worker can choose to contract with a nursery, provided that the employer contributes to covering the financial cost.
- Non-duplication of benefit from the alternatives stipulated in these instructions for one child in the event that the worker and his wife work in the same institution or in two different institutions.
- If it is found that the worker and his wife, who work in two different institutions, are benefiting from the alternatives stipulated in these instructions, the lower alternative that one of them received under these instructions shall be recovered. The worker and his wife, who work in the same institution or in two different institutions, shall have the right to agree among themselves that one of them shall benefit from the alternatives stipulated in these instructions within the higher bracket stipulated in Article (4) of these instructions.
- Cancellation of the Institutional Nursery Alternatives Instructions of 2021.

<sup>253</sup> Official Gazette No. 5544 Page 920 dated 16/02/2023

The Center appreciates the issuance of these instructions, which are a positive step towards ensuring the rights of working mothers, enhancing their economic participation, and preventing the dual benefit of the worker and his wife. However, despite the positivity of the instructions, the Center notes that this should not be considered a way out for the employer to absolve himself of his responsibility to establish a nursery at the workplace. The Center recommends amending the instructions to identify and limit the cases that allow the use of cash payment instead of establishing a nursery on the institution's site, which is the best option for working women.

On the policy front, the year 2023 witnessed the following:

a) The Council of Ministers issued a decision in July 2023 approving the second Jordanian national plan to activate Security Council Resolution No. (1325) on women, peace and security for the years (2022-2025). This is a continuation of the implementation of the first national plan (2018-2021). The plan was prepared by the Jordanian National Commission for Women's Affairs, the Ministerial Committee for Women's Empowerment and others, after holding consultations with members of the National Coalition to Activate Security Council Resolution/Women, Security and Peace, noting that the National Center for Human Rights is one of the members of the coalition, the government, security and military sectors, and civil society institutions. The plan seeks to consolidate the commitments of the government and stakeholders related to women, security and peace, and to increase the meaningful participation of all women in peace and security, especially those most marginalized, such as women with disabilities and refugee women. The second plan is based on the four main axes of Security Council Resolution 1325, which are participation, prevention, protection and relief.

It is worth noting that the percentage of women participating in peacekeeping forces in the world's countries in 2022 reached (16%)<sup>254</sup>, which confirms Jordan's commitment to implementing Security Council Resolution 1325.

<sup>254</sup> <https://women.jo/sites>

b) The Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee for the Empowerment of Women, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Director of UN Women, delivered on 29/12/2023 a letter of solidarity from Jordanian women with the women of Gaza, which was prepared by the National Center for Human Rights, the Ministerial Committee for the Empowerment of Women and the Jordanian National Committee for Women's Affairs<sup>255</sup> and signed by Jordanian women. The letter includes the necessity of stopping the war crimes in Gaza that are being committed against Gaza, its people, women, and children, and ensuring that the perpetrators of crimes against humanity are held accountable.

c) Opening of two central electronic monitoring rooms, one for males and the other for females, at the Ministry of Social Development, which operate around the clock to monitor all government shelters<sup>256</sup>, with more than 1,400 cameras.

The Center believes that the 24-hour monitoring process by a specialized technical staff facilitates the process of visual and audio communication between the Ministry and the houses and achieves a high level of transparency, which is reflected in the level and quality of the services provided therein.

d) The official opening of the Family Reconciliation House in Aqaba affiliated to the Ministry of Social Development<sup>257</sup> in June 2023<sup>258</sup>.

e) The Department of the Supreme Judge Department issued the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan, which aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of institutional operations and services, raise the efficiency of the results of the work of Sharia courts, family reconciliation and reform offices, and partners, and then increase the number of family reconciliation offices in the governorates.

<sup>255</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/NCHRJORDAN>

<sup>256</sup> The role of protection and social care for women, juveniles, persons with disabilities, children and beggars.

<sup>257</sup> For more information, please review the annual report on the human rights situation in Jordan for the year 2022, published on the Center's website.

<sup>258</sup> A monitoring visit was carried out to the Family Reconciliation House in Aqaba. For more information, please review the 2022 annual report published on the center's website.



It included three main axes (business governance and digitization, institutional resource development, and improving institutional results). The National Center appreciates the efforts made by the Department of the Chief Justice in issuing the strategy that seeks to increase the number of reform offices and the alimony loan fund and improve the infrastructure, which is reflected in women's rights to access justice, especially women with disabilities. The presence of family reform offices also contributes to preserving family ties.

f) Issuing the Guidance Manual for Family Protection from Violence by the National Council for Family Affairs with the aim of building and enhancing the capacities of workers in religious institutions in particular and their partner institutions and enabling them to perform the role assigned to them and their institutions in combating and reducing domestic violence<sup>259</sup>.

g) Starting work on the executive program for the Economic Modernization Vision (2023-2025)<sup>260</sup>. The program in the field of women's empowerment included implementing the Women's Empowerment Strategy in the Economic Modernization Vision, reviewing the legislative environment for women's economic empowerment, preparing and implementing an action plan to improve Jordan's ranking in the Global Gender Gap Index, implementing the action plan to improve Jordan's ranking in the Women, Business and the Law report, and developing a national index to monitor and track women's economic participation. The Center welcomes what is stated in the strategy and executive program and considers it a step towards supporting women's rights.

5. In March 2023, the Ministerial Committee for Women's Empowerment approved the Executive Plan

<sup>259</sup> <https://ncfa.org.jo/ar>

<sup>260</sup> <https://www.pm.gov.jo/Default/Ar>

for the National Strategy for Women in Jordan (2023-2025)<sup>261</sup>. It is a guiding document for policy makers and donors concerned with women's issues. It consists of six axes: economic empowerment, political empowerment and participation in decision-making, human rights, confronting violence against women and girls, and community culture.

h) In March 2023, the Ministerial Committee for Women's Empowerment approved the Executive Plan for the National Strategy for Women in Jordan (2023-2025). It is a guiding document for policy makers and donors concerned with women's issues. It consists of six axes: economic empowerment, political empowerment and participation in decision-making, human rights, confronting violence against women and girls, and community culture.

i) The Jordanian National Commission for Women issued the Guidance Plan for the Network to Combat Violence against Women "Shamaa Network" (2023-2025)<sup>262</sup>, with the aim of activating the Shamaa Network's participation in planning and implementing the activities of the 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women campaign, in addition to building the organizational and institutional capacities of the network's members to contribute to developing and activating the network's work. The plan was prepared by the Jordanian National Commission for Women using a participatory approach through holding a consultative meeting with representatives of the Shama Network members, noting that the National Center for Human Rights is one of the members of this network, to come up with national priorities related to combating violence against women.

j) The year 2023 AD witnessed an increase in the number of female judges appointed to reach (286) 263, while the number of female judges in 2022 reached (272), as shown in the following table:

| Year | female judges number | Male judges number | Total |
|------|----------------------|--------------------|-------|
| 2023 | 286                  | 683                | 969   |
| 2022 | 272                  | 685                | 957   |

<sup>261</sup> <https://women.jo/sites>

<sup>262</sup> To date, the National Committee has not published the guiding plan on its website.

<sup>263</sup> Letter of the President of the Judicial Council No. (2/1/30/568) dated 05/02/2024

### Field Center Monitoring

- Women's participation in Bab Amman Municipality Presidency Elections / Jerash Governorate

On 29/04/2023, the Center monitored women's participation in Bab Amman Municipality elections since the date of the Independent Commission's decision to set the date for holding the elections until the results of the elections were extracted. The Center found out the number of female voters, both male and female, as shown in the table below:

| Total number of voters (men and women) registered for voting purposes. | Number of women voters registered for voting | Percentage of women registered for voting | Number of women voters | Percentage of women voters |
|--|--|---|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 9205   | 5250   | 57%                                       | 3198                   | 60.9%                      |

The Center noted that no woman ran for office, despite the fact that the percentage of women registered to vote in Bab Amman Municipality/Jerash Governorate elections was (57%), which is more than the percentage of men registered to vote. On the other hand, the Center noted that the percentage of women's participation in voting reached (60.9%). In the same context, the Center observed limited attempts to influence some of the candidates' supporters on the will of female voters. In its second statement, the Center indicated that it had sent monitoring notes related to the progress of the electoral process to the Independent Election Commission in order to address them. In its third statement, the Center explained the effectiveness of the Independent Election Commission representatives in addressing practical problems during voting<sup>264</sup>.

- Women's Right to Access to Justice

In October 2023, the National Center monitored women's right to participate in accessing justice by implementing two monitoring visits to the Amman Sharia Court/Cases and Ghor Al-Safi Court in Kerak Governorate<sup>265</sup>. The Center found the following:

<sup>264</sup> For more information, please refer to the report on the election of the mayor of Bab Amman published on the center's website.

<sup>265</sup> The Supreme Judge Department was addressed with the Center's observations No. (H A/40/18) dated 10/01/2024

- a) The Amman Sharia Courts Complex includes the courts of litigation, execution, documentation, and inheritance, the Sharia Public Prosecution Office, the offices of family reform, mediation, and reconciliation, and the office of the Alimony Loan Fund, which enhances access to justice, facilitates procedures, and saves time, effort, and money for service recipients, including women, after the courts and offices were scattered.
- b) The infrastructure takes into account the needs of women and is suitable for people with disabilities and the elderly in terms of the presence of electric elevators, handles on the walls, and the provision of waiting rooms for women equipped with comfortable seats, as well as clean sanitary facilities and others.

As for Ghor Al Safi Court, the following is clear:

- a) The court is a court of law and execution, and it does not have an office for family reform and reconciliation or an office for the alimony loan fund<sup>266</sup>.

<sup>266</sup> Kerak Sharia Court has an alimony loan fund office, but the woman's lack of knowledge of this and the difficulty of reaching Kerak prevents the implementation of the ruling.

b) The court is located on the second floor and the building is very old and does not take into account the needs of women, people with disabilities or the elderly. The waiting room is small and the sanitary facilities are inadequate<sup>267</sup>.

In the same context, and through meeting with female litigants, it became clear that the main challenge in women's access to justice in Ghor al-Safi lies in the following:

- Community culture that may prevent women from accessing the judiciary.
- Lack of awareness programs by civil society institutions about women's right to access justice and protection from violence.
- Women's lack of knowledge of Sharia lawsuit procedures and their lack of knowledge of technology and access to the website of the Chief Justice's Department to benefit therefrom.
- The lack of legal aid programs for women who are unable to afford them.

The National Center for Human Rights appreciates the efforts made by the Supreme Judge Department to publish the national legislation regulating its work, as well as models of lawsuits and summonses and an explanation of the regulating procedures from the moment the case is filed to the moment the judgment is issued, in addition to opening the Sharia Courts Complex in Sweileh area and in Aqaba Governorate.

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<sup>267</sup> The Department of the Chief Justice was addressed by letter No. H A/40/18 dated 10/01/2024 AD, regarding the Center's observations on the Al-Ghor Al-Safi Sharia Court. The Center received a response by letter No. 5/8/1049 dated 23/01/2024, stating that the Supreme Judge Department addressed the competent authorities regarding the court's need for a plot of land to build a special building for the court. The department is also searching for a suitable building to rent for the court that meets the needs of the court's service recipients.

- Rights of female workers in the agricultural sector

The National Center monitored the reality of the rights of female workers in the agricultural sector by implementing a monitoring visit to two farms in the central Jordan Valley in Balqa Governorate. The Center found the following:

There are free means of transportation for workers in some farms<sup>268</sup> to and from the farm, as there are seven equipped and licensed public transport buses, each with a capacity of 22 passengers. Five of these buses operate in the central Jordan Valley in the areas of (Suwayma, Al-Jawasra, Al-Rawda, Al-Karamah, and Wadi Al-Baidh), and only one bus in the southern Jordan Valley, and another bus in the northern Jordan Valley.

The Center appreciates the efforts made to implement its recommendations contained in its previous annual reports and in its statements published in local newspapers and its websites, which include the necessity of providing a means of transportation to transport female workers from their homes to the farms and back. The Center believes that the presence of buses represents a qualitative shift in protecting and enhancing the rights of female workers in agriculture in providing a safe means of transportation. The Center hopes to generalize this to include all areas of work of female workers in the agricultural sector.

- Failure to implement the Agricultural Workers Regulation for the year 2021 in terms of granting annual and sick leave,

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<sup>268</sup> Through the implementation of the project "Towards Enhancing Women's Economic Participation in Jordan" in partnership with the European Union, and the Euro-Mediterranean Women's Initiative implemented by Tamkeen Association for Legal Aid and Human Rights since July 2023, and under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Development, by providing public transport buses to transport female workers in the agricultural sector from their homes to their workplaces on farms and back, under contracts with bus owners in exchange for a sum of money paid by the association.

- maternity leave, involving women in social security, and adhering to the minimum wage<sup>269</sup>.
- Weak compliance with occupational health and safety requirements in terms of providing first aid, wearing gloves, head coverings, aprons, etc.
- Lack of sufficient awareness among agricultural employers and workers of the Agricultural Workers Regulation of 2021.
- **Monitoring the role of victims of domestic violence**
- The Center monitored the conditions of the beneficiaries in the shelters in the Al-Wefaq Family Home in Irbid Governorate on 24/05/2023, and the Center found the following:
  - The beneficiaries moved to a modern building, which is a villa. The center appreciates the efforts made to implement its recommendations contained in its previous annual reports.
  - The building is not equipped for women with disabilities, which violates the provisions of Article (E/27) of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2017, which requires the provision of facilitating arrangements, accessible forms, and accessibility to homes for victims of domestic violence.

<sup>269</sup> A letter was sent to the Ministry of Labor No. H A / 18/75 dated 18/01/2024, and the response included that the Ministry of Labor during the year 2023 AD carried out inspection visits to (166) establishments in the agricultural sector, and the number of violations that were taken amounted to (193) violations. The Ministry also has a protection platform through which labor complaints can be submitted, and they are continuously followed up and complaints are resolved. A letter from the center, Inspection No. 1/6948 dated 14/03/2024, stated that the agricultural sector has been included as a main sector in the executive plan of the Central Inspection Directorate for the year 2024. This plan included inspecting all provisions of the Labor Law and focusing on the Agricultural Workers Regulation No. 19 of 2021, monitoring any violations or transgressions of labor rights, and taking legal measures against violating employers. During inspection visits by the Ministry of Labor, workers in the agricultural sector are directed to review the labor directorates to assist them in submitting complaints on Hemayah platform in the event of any obstacle preventing them from submitting these complaints electronically.

- Lack of staff in the home, especially psychological specialists.
- The need to expedite the settlement of beneficiaries' cases through administrative and legal means<sup>270</sup>.

The need to raise the capacities of service providers and workers in women's protection and care homes in the rights of women and girls in international standards and national legislation, dealing with cases of psychological disorders, providing behavioral therapy and anger management, and dealing with beneficiaries from a human rights perspective.

In May 2023, the center monitored the "Amina" Women's Rehabilitation and Hosting Home, and the center found the following:

- The need to provide the home with a resident gynecologist around the clock due to the presence of a large number of pregnant women. At the time of monitoring, there were 8 pregnant women.
- The necessity of providing the home with emergency maternity bags (the bag contains all the necessary medical equipment and tools during the natural birth process).
- The necessity of providing the home with a psychologist, as there is only one, which is not sufficient and does not match the number of beneficiaries.
- Dar Amina building needs to be expanded to increase its capacity, as cases exceeding its capacity are received in the emergency department of Dar Al-Wefaq Family Home until a vacancy occurs, as the service for these cases in Dar Al-Wefaq is limited to providing care services only, despite cases in need of rapid intervention and the provision of psychological and social support and specialized legal support services<sup>271</sup>.

<sup>270</sup> The National Center addressed the Ministry of Social Development pursuant to Letter No. (H A/435/3-6) dated 17/07/2023

<sup>271</sup> The National Center addressed the Ministry of Social Development pursuant to Letter No. (H A/530/18) dated 28/08/28.

### **Domestic Violence Against Women**

The Center issued a statement on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, praising the national efforts made to reduce violence against women, and condemning what the occupation is doing to the Palestinian people in general and women in particular, which involves blatant and direct violations of women's rights, starting with killing, genocide, and limited aid, in addition to the additional risks and complex violations suffered by pregnant women or those who have given birth under these circumstances and women with disabilities. In addition to bombing their homes, their children's schools, their hospitals, and their displacement, which is inconsistent with international human rights conventions<sup>272</sup>, the Center called on the international community to assume its legal responsibility by taking immediate measures to stop violations of women's rights and protect them from violence practiced by the Israeli occupation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and to provide them with the necessary care and needs, including psychological and social support.

The Jordanian National Commission for Women issued a study on estimating the economic cost of domestic violence against women with the aim of estimating the costs of not taking measures to protect women from violence and estimating the cost of services for survivors of domestic violence against women and girls over the age of 15.

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<sup>272</sup> The Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and its protocols stipulate a series of rules that provide special protection to women, which also contradicts Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

This is the first report to combine the calculation of expenses paid from private funds and the cost of services provided. To determine the costs of providing services, financial data, time allocation data, and beneficiary numbers were collected through questionnaires on services provided in the following areas: health care; law enforcement and the judicial regulation ; correctional institutions for offenders; where the study included the work of four national institutions including the National Center for Human Rights, the National Council for Family Affairs, the Jordanian National Commission for Women's Affairs, and the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to protect and promote women's rights In terms of operational costs related to salaries, rents, operating expenses, and costs resulting from the direct implementation of activities and projects covering campaigns, studies, capacity building efforts, etc., the estimated costs incurred by the four aforementioned institutions in 2021 on domestic violence cases amounted to 1.4 million Jordanian dinars, of which 0.90 million dinars were directed to women and girls who survived domestic violence and who are 15 years of age or older. The study concluded with a number of recommendations, including: develop programs to economically empower survivors of domestic violence, establish or expand cash support programs to include survivors of domestic violence, and enable the proper operation of the national automated tracking regulation to track cases of violence against women and girls and provide the necessary subsequent services, which allows for proper record keeping and thus improves the quality of response<sup>273</sup>.

### **Rural Women's Rights:**

The Center issued a statement on the occasion of the International Day of Rural Women, praising the national efforts made to protect and promote the rights of rural women and calling for the ratification of Convention 190

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<sup>273</sup> <https://women.jo/sites>

on the Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work, as this Convention provides a work environment free from violence and harassment, and the implementation of awareness programs by the relevant authorities for agricultural employers and female workers in agriculture in the Agricultural Workers Regulation of 2021, and the provision of training programs on modern agricultural technology for female workers in agriculture in order to open the way for them to obtain new job opportunities and get them out of the traditional work circle, and adopting appropriate work contracts for female workers in agriculture that are compatible with their working conditions and preserve their rights in terms of working hours, wages, vacations, social and health insurance, and their rights during pregnancy and breastfeeding periods, and increasing the number of buses to transport female workers in the agricultural sector to and from farms and covering all agricultural areas, and finding the necessary mechanisms to ensure their inclusion in Social Security Corporation<sup>274</sup>.

#### **Jordan's Commitments to Periodic Reports**

In light of Jordan's international obligations, the following periodic reports were submitted:

1. Jordan presented and discussed the second and third governmental combined reports in the twenty-first session of the Arab Human Rights Committee - Charter Committee, in compliance with the provisions of 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 in January of this year, which were submitted to the Arab Human Rights Committee in the Council of the League of Arab States. The report referred to the measures taken by Jordan to achieve equality between Jordanian men and women, starting with the constitution, then national legislation and policies adopted to achieve gender equality and to empower women and others.

<sup>274</sup> <https://www.nchr.org/ar>

The National Center also presented and discussed its parallel report to the government report on the Arab Charter on Human Rights, which monitors the extent of implementation of the recommendations of the first report. It included praise for the amendments made to a package of legislation with the aim of achieving equality between men and women. However, there are a number of legal texts in some legislation that are still in place despite the Center's repeated recommendation to amend them, including: Article 24/A of the Civil Service Regulation and its amendments related to the conditions for disbursing family allowances to female employees and others<sup>275</sup>. The committee presented recommendations to Jordan, including: a) Amending the Nationality Law to allow the children of Jordanian women with non-Jordanian fathers to acquire Jordanian nationality, urging Jordanian political parties to amend their internal regulations to ensure the representation of women within party cadres and guarantee women's access to leadership positions, ensuring that the party provides adequate support to female candidates, amending the civil service regulation and equalizing male and female employees in granting family allowances and stipulating the obligation to provide a nursery to care for the children of male and female employees.

2. The government submitted the fourth Universal Periodic Review report at the end of 2023 to the Human Rights Council in Geneva, and the National Center submitted the parallel report on the Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights in 2023, through which it monitors the extent of implementation of the recommendations approved by the Jordanian government when approving the recommendations of the third report of the Universal Periodic Review of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The report praised the positive developments in women's rights and the achievement of equality between men and women in a package of legislation, and called for amendments to Article (70) of the Labor Law to increase maternity leave to three months, similar to female employees in civil service departments, in addition to providing adequate protection for women<sup>276</sup>.

<sup>275</sup> [www.nchr.org/jo](http://www.nchr.org/jo)

<sup>276</sup> [www.nchr.org/jo](http://www.nchr.org/jo)

### **Recommendations:**

To enhance and protect women's rights, the Center recommends taking a number of legal and practical measures previously mentioned in previous reports, in addition to the following recommendations:

1. Amending the discriminatory texts in the Labor Law and its amendments mentioned in the body of the report.
2. Amending Article (4/A) of the Instructions for the Protection of Pregnant and Lactating Women, People with Disabilities, and People Who Work at Night.
3. Disseminating awareness programs on women's right to access justice by civil society institutions, the media and relevant authorities.
4. Transferring Ghor Al-Safi Court building to a new building in addition to establishing the Family Reform and Reconciliation Office and the Alimony Loan Fund.
5. Increasing the inspection tasks of farm owners by the Ministry of Labor and relevant authorities.
6. Disseminating awareness programs on the rights of female workers in the agricultural sector by civil society institutions, the media, and others.
7. Increase the number of buses to transport female workers in the agricultural sector to and from farms in all agricultural areas.
8. Preparing shelters for women victims of domestic violence by providing reasonable accommodation, accessible formats and accessibility.
9. Building the capacity of service providers and workers in women's protection and care homes on the rights of women and girls in international standards and national legislation, dealing with cases of psychological disorders, providing behavioral therapy and anger management, and dealing with beneficiaries from a human rights perspective.

## Children's rights

One of the human rights guaranteed by general and specific international standards and guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution and relevant national laws.

The normative content of the right is based on providing legislative and non-legislative guarantees that include protecting, caring for and preserving every human being who has not completed eighteen years of age, regardless of any discrimination based on gender, race, language, religion or disability, and in all areas of life. It must be noted that the monitoring of the report's contents was chosen to follow up on the extent of fulfillment of the state's obligations to implement the recommendations of the International Committee on the Rights of the Child, the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review, the recommendations of the Arab Charter on Human Rights Committee, and the recommendations of the National Center for Human Rights contained in its previous annual reports.

In general, the center monitored in 2023 the legislative developments regulating children's rights, and the most important policies supporting the protection and promotion of children's rights. It also included field monitoring carried out by the center for juvenile homes, care homes for those without family support, and others.

The year 2023 also witnessed the approval and implementation of some violations of national legislation related to children's rights, including:

- The law amending of Sharia Procedures Law No. 15 of 2023<sup>277</sup>.

The law includes the following:

- Cancel paragraph (b) of Article (173) and replace it with the following text:
  - a) The Sharia Public Prosecutor, when there is a danger that is feared for the child in custody, or in the event that it is impossible to hand him over to his custodian or to the person who is required to take him in for any reason,

<sup>277</sup> Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5859 dated 17/05/2023

may issue a decision to place the minor in a trust or to a competent official body to house and care for him in a manner that preserves the minor and achieves his best interests.

- b) The Sharia Public Prosecutor must submit to the court a claim for annexation within five days from the date of issuing his decision stipulated in Clause (1) of this paragraph, and the court shall consider the decision issued by the Sharia Public Prosecutor.

- Article (176) expands the powers of the Public Prosecution to intervene optionally by adding custody and reunification cases<sup>278</sup>.

The Center appreciates the issuance of this law and believes that it provides protection for the child and is consistent with the provisions of Article (5/6) of the Jordanian Constitution, and also takes into account the best interests of the child, which is a principle of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>279</sup>.

### Policies:

The year 2023 witnessed the following:

- a) Issuance of the Council of Ministers Resolution dated 03/09/2023 approving the National Strategy for Juvenile Justice in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the years (2024 - 2028) and assigning ministries and governmental and non-governmental institutions to implement it and include it in their executive work plans<sup>280</sup>. The strategy aims to reduce the rate of juvenile delinquency cases, increase efficiency and effectiveness to ensure the fairness of investigation and trial procedures for this category, increase the effectiveness of their rehabilitation in accordance with international best practices, and include juveniles in need of protection and care and improving the procedures provided to them.

<sup>278</sup> The previous text was optionally within the jurisdiction of the Sharia Public Prosecution in cases of (custody and its removal, the apostasy of judges, lineage and proof of marriage and separation between spouses, blood money for the soul and less).

<sup>279</sup> Article 3 of the Agreement.

<sup>280</sup> The letter received by the Center from the Prime Minister No. (24 Safar 1445) dated 10/09/2023.



It is worth noting that the aforementioned strategy was prepared by the National Council for Family Affairs in partnership with the Steering and Technical Committees for Juvenile Justice to be a reference for those working in the juvenile sector and for the purposes of defining roles and monitoring needs in a way that contributes to the advancement of the juvenile sector<sup>281</sup>. The strategy's axes addressed prevention, awareness, regulatory legislation, services, coordination, networking, human resources and training<sup>282</sup>.

- a) A circular was issued by the Prime Minister in October of this year to all ministries, institutions and government departments, including a ban on smoking in nurseries, kindergartens and schools in the public and private sectors, and a ban on designating a special place for smoking therein<sup>283</sup>.

#### School Curricula

In light of the cooperation between the National Center for Human Rights and the National Center for Curriculum Development, the Center monitored the school curricula (Social Studies for the first, fourth and seventh grades, Arabic as a language for the first, fourth and tenth grades, Islamic education for the third, sixth and ninth grades, History for the tenth grade, Geography for the tenth grade, National and Civic Education for the tenth grade, Islamic Studies for the twelfth grade, and Islamic Education for the twelfth grade for all literary branches) for the first semester, prepared by the National Center for Curriculum Development.

The Center appreciates the efforts made in the field of curriculum development and the ongoing work to integrate human rights concepts into them.

<sup>281</sup> The National Center for Human Rights is a member of this committee.

<sup>282</sup> <https://ncfa.org.jo/ar/album/policies-and--legislation.1>

<sup>283</sup> The letter received by the Center from the Prime Minister No. 85/11/1/59600 dated 30/10/2023.

The Center has presented proposals for curricula to enhance the culture of human rights<sup>284</sup> to be consistent with Article 6 of the Constitution and 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.

#### The Right to Health

The Center prepared a legal analysis paper in light of the letters issued by the Ministers of Health<sup>285</sup> and Education<sup>286</sup> about the existence of a national vaccination campaign, with the aim of increasing coverage rates for routine vaccinations and maintaining Jordan's freedom from polio, eliminating measles and German measles, controlling many diseases for which vaccination is given, reaching children who have fallen behind in the routine vaccination program, and strengthening the health regulation and vaccination program.

Referring to the text of Article (f/4) of the Public Health Law and its amendments of 2008, which states: "The Ministry shall work, in coordination with the relevant authorities, to achieve the following: Providing preventive health services to students in government schools, kindergartens and nurseries, and securing and providing health services as it deems appropriate for non-government schools, kindergartens and nurseries, or obligating their owners to provide these services under the supervision of the Ministry."

On the other hand, Article (C/11) of the Child Rights Law of 2022 states: "The Ministry of Health, in coordination with the competent authorities, shall take all necessary measures to ensure that the child enjoys the highest level of health, including the following: Prevention of infectious, dangerous and chronic diseases with the consent of his parents."

<sup>284</sup> Letter issued by the center No. H A/806/ 4-18 dated 04/12/2023.

<sup>285</sup> Letter from the Minister of Health addressed to the Minister of Education No. (M A54/21/1494) dated 05/09/2023, which includes the implementation of a national vaccination campaign from 01/10/2023 - 01/12/2023 AD in all schools and kindergartens (government and private), so that the campaign includes the vaccines (measles and Rubella) for all age groups.

<sup>286</sup> Letter No. 9/2/44579 dated 19/09/2023, including a circular to all education directors to facilitate the mission of the vaccination teams formed by the Ministry of Health.

Through this, we find that the general rule indicates that the private law restricts the public law, and therefore Article (C/11) of the Child Rights Law of 2022 applies. In this case, we find that the legislator did not take into account the following cases: A) Children who lack family support or children born outside the framework of marital life and how to obtain the consent of their parents, B) Cases of parents neglecting their children's health and controlling their failure to take the vaccine despite its importance, C) Cases of one parent's approval and the other's refusal, D) Cases of the country being infected with an infectious disease or pandemic such as the Corona pandemic, Allah forbid. Therefore, the Center hopes to cancel the parental consent in Article (C11/) of the Child Rights Law of 2022 and the condition that takes into account the best interests of the child, so that the article becomes as follows: "The Ministry of Health, in coordination with the competent authorities, shall take all necessary measures to ensure that the child enjoys the highest level of health, including the following: prevention of infectious, dangerous and chronic diseases, taking into account the best interests of the child, in accordance with the provisions of Article (6/5) of the Jordanian Constitution and Articles (3,24) of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

#### **Working children:**

- The National Center published on its website its recommendations contained in the nineteenth annual report within the context of social protection for children, on the necessity of tightening control over places where child labor is concentrated, activating legislation that prohibits their work, and implementing and strengthening awareness campaigns on the negative effects resulting from child labor.
- The Center monitored the publication of the draft regulation for the protection of working juveniles in violation of legislation on the website of the Legislation and Opinion Bureau.

The Center appreciates the efforts made to provide legislative coverage for the protection of working juveniles and its compatibility with the national framework to reduce the cases of working children in some of its articles, and to expand the application of the regulation to all cases in which the juvenile is in violation of the legislation in force.

The Center sees it necessary to include the following in the draft before the issuance of the regulation : a) Work on defining child labor within the draft regulation as "any intellectual or physical effort exerted by a child for a wage or without a wage, whether permanent, occasional, temporary or seasonal, and which is considered harmful to him, and is done on the mental, physical, social, moral and ethical levels, and which obstructs his studies and deprives him of the opportunities to persevere in learning and studying, by forcing him to leave school prematurely, or requiring him to try to combine school attendance with long, intensive work hours"<sup>287</sup> and also, a definition of begging was included in Article Two. b) Including in the draft a commitment to implement preventive programs to reduce child labor and begging. C) Adding an officer within the controls mentioned in Article (B4/) to be taken into account in managing the case, which is "The Ministry of Social Development and the competent authorities shall, in accordance with its legislation, undertake periodic follow-up of cases and ensure that the child remains in his family environment as much as possible," in order to be consistent with the provisions of Article 21 of the Child Rights Law. D) The need to expand immediate protection measures in accordance with the provisions of Article (B/6) including, for example, returning him to regular education or to the doctor as appropriate. The Center also sees the need to amend the name of the regulation to the Working Child Regulation instead of the Working Juvenile Regulation .

The Center hopes that, before issuing the regulation, its comments will be taken into consideration to ensure that it is consistent with Articles (5/6, 23 of the Constitution and Articles 3 and 27 of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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<sup>287</sup> Definition taken from the old National Framework for Combating Child Labor 2011.

### Field monitoring:

#### First: Home of children without family support

The National Center monitored the conditions of children without family support by implementing field monitoring visits to:

- King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein Foundation in Balqa Governorate in August 2023, and the center appreciates the efforts made by the foundation that aim to protect and promote children's rights, including:
  - a) Attention to preventive and therapeutic health care for children and the assistance of a private physician in a manner that takes into account the best interests of the child.
  - b) Caring for children's educational rights while taking into account the best interests of the child.
  - c) Implementing recreational and awareness programs on children's rights and duties.

On the other hand, the center recorded its observation of the need to improve the level of services by increasing the support directed to the foundation<sup>288</sup>.

- A monitoring visit to the King Hussein Foundation for Orphans in Irbid Governorate in May 2023, and praised the efforts made and the services provided that would protect and enhance the rights of beneficiaries, but the center recorded its observations represented in the following:
  - a) The need to increase the number of cadres working in the association, especially from the category of social and psychological specialists.
  - b) Building the capacity of cadres working in children's rights in international standards and national legislation on children's rights, dealing with psychological disorders, providing behavioral therapy, managing anger, and dealing with beneficiaries from a human rights perspective.

<sup>288</sup> The Center addressed the Ministry of Social Development in accordance with Letter No. H A/592/18 dated 18/09/2023.

- c) Giving importance to aftercare after children leave the association, and finding appropriate mechanisms in cooperation with relevant institutions and bodies with the aim of creating job opportunities for boys and girls who alumni from the association.
- d) Involving the association's management and listening to its opinions when amending the relevant regulations and instructions and when preparing procedural manuals<sup>289</sup>.

#### Second: The child's right to play

The center monitors through field visits to a random sample of public parks and children's play areas. The center appreciates the efforts made to protect the child's right to play and the availability of some games that are suitable for autistic children and people with disabilities, which would contribute to their integration and to designing parks that are friendly to children with disabilities. In the same context, the center recorded its observations about the need to carry out periodic maintenance work on the parks, as some of the damaged toys in the parks harm the safety and health of children, and the need to provide health facilities and first aid in the parks.

#### Third: Girls' Work

The National Center monitored, through field visits to a random sample of farms in the central Jordan Valley, the status of female workers' rights in the agricultural sector/plant production, and found that there were girls aged between 16-18 years working on farms on a daily basis, as they interrupted their education for the purpose of work, and weak commitment to occupational safety and health conditions in terms of providing first aid, wearing gloves, head coverings, aprons, etc., there is insufficient awareness among agricultural employers and workers of the Agricultural Workers Regulation of 2021.

<sup>289</sup> The Center addressed the Ministry of Social Development in accordance with Letter No. H A/445/18 dated 20/07/2023.

#### Fourth: The child's right to education

- a) The National Center in the eastern municipality of Sabha and Al-Dafyaneh in the northern desert of Mafraq Governorate monitored the interruption of education for Syrian children aged between (6-12) years for four years<sup>290</sup> due to the distance of Sabha Elementary School from their place of residence, a distance of 3 km, in light of the spread of stray dogs in the area, which poses a danger to the health and safety of children and caused terror and panic, especially among students heading to their schools in the morning.
- b) The center monitored the conditions of girls' rights in the Family Reconciliation House in Irbid Governorate, and it became clear that the beneficiaries who are under 18 years of age are not receiving their education under the pretext of danger to their lives<sup>291</sup>.

#### Fifth: Home of Juvenile

- The National Center monitored in June 2023 by implementing an unannounced field monitoring visit to Russeifa Girls' Education and Rehabilitation Home. The Center appreciates the efforts made to protect and enhance girls' rights. However, the Center recorded its observations, which are as follows:
  - a) The need to increase the number of staff working in the home, especially social and psychological specialists, and build their capacities in related fields.
  - b) The necessity of implementing the text of Article (B/5) of the Juvenile Law, which relates to separating convicted girls from those in detention.

<sup>290</sup> Four years ago, there was a mobile school (caravan) to teach students, but it was removed.

<sup>291</sup> According to the amended instructions for the licensing instructions for protection homes for the year 2021 AD, Article 28 states: "The beneficiary is allowed to leave the home for the purpose of education or work based on a decision taken in accordance with the case management methodology based on an assessment of risk factors."

- c) Working to activate the role of the Aftercare Department in the Ministry of Social Development to ensure the success of the reform and rehabilitation process.
- d) The need to carry out general and comprehensive maintenance work for all parts of the building and its annexes (painting, electrical, and carpentry work are required).
- e) The need to create a hall for multiple activities and a room for the psychological specialist.
- f) The necessity of cooperating with the Ministry of Education with the aim of providing non-formal education programs (home) for all beneficiaries, even if their period of residence is short; This is to prevent them from being interrupted from education, in accordance with the text of Article (e/4) of the Juvenile Law.
- g) Working to find appropriate mechanisms in cooperation with the Public Security Directorate with the aim of providing treatment to female beneficiaries addicted to narcotics in national addiction treatment centers; this is done with the aim of providing treatment to them before they are placed in the home<sup>292</sup>.

#### Non-Custodial Measures

In September 2023, the National Council for Family Affairs issued a study on "Non-Custodial Measures 2022" in partnership with the Steering and Technical Committee for Juvenile Justice and the National Center, a member of which. The study indicated that the alternative penalties approved by the Jordanian legislator in the Juvenile Law of 2014 are still in effect at very modest rates, almost non-existent compared to the volume of cases. =Presented to the judiciary, This study came to identify the reasons for this and review the opportunities for improvement and come up with appropriate recommendations to address the gaps and push towards more application of non-custodial measures, and increase the effectiveness of rehabilitating the institutions based on juveniles subject to non-custodial measures in accordance with international best practices and in application of Jordanian law.

<sup>294</sup> <https://nchr.org/jo/ar>

The study addressed the characteristics of non-custodial measures, their historical and international context, the requirements for their application, the factors and variables affecting their application, and analyzing the social and legal aspects of non-custodial measures. The study came out with a number of recommendations, including: activating non-custodial measures for juveniles involved in drug and terrorism cases in state security and juvenile courts to achieve the best interests of the child, and introducing electronic bracelets “home residence” among the measures included in the juvenile justice regulation , as well as expanding the adoption of associations and institutions responsible for implementing the measures and directing local and international technical and financial support to improve their infrastructure, efficiency and capacity to accommodate the largest possible number of cases, which allows for geographical expansion and coverage of all governorates throughout the Kingdom<sup>293</sup>.

#### Center's Statements

1. The Center issued a statement on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child, praising the national efforts made to protect and promote children’s rights in general and girls’ rights in particular. On this international occasion, the Center called on all relevant parties to expedite the implementation of the contents of the Child Rights Law of 2022, which represents a qualitative shift in protecting children’s rights. At the same time, more attention should be paid to children’s play areas in public parks by rehabilitating some of them, maintaining them periodically and continuously, and providing them with toys designated for children with disabilities so that they can exercise their right to play and integrate into society, enhancing comprehensive health care services for all children,

<sup>293</sup> <https://ncfa.org.jo/ar/album/asdrasat>

and developing a national regulation to monitor cases of violence and abuse against children, in an attempt to determine the extent of the phenomenon of child abuse in its various forms. In addition to strengthening and intensifying training and awareness programs on children’s rights<sup>294</sup>.

2. On the occasion of the International Day of the Rights of the Child, the Center issued a statement praising the Jordanian national efforts exerted to protect and promote the rights of the child. It pointed out that while the world celebrates the International Day of the Child on this day, the majority of the countries of the world are at the same time silent about the ongoing Israeli violations of children’s rights in the Gaza Strip, starting with killing, genocide, and inflicting physical and psychological harm on them, cutting off water, electricity, fuel, food, medicine, and other things, in addition to bombing their homes, schools and hospitals, displacing them and preventing aid from reaching them, which constitutes flagrant violations of international conventions, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the First Optional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions, which stipulates a series of rules that provide children with special protection. The National Center for Human Rights called on the institutions of the international community to implement international humanitarian law and international human rights law, away from the double standards that we are witnessing now, which carry messages to the children of Palestine in general and the Gaza Strip in particular that their lives are not of the same importance and do not deserve care and attention. The Center also called on the international community to assume its legal responsibility by taking immediate measures to stop the violations of children’s rights practiced by the Israeli occupation in the Gaza Strip and to provide them with the necessary care, including meeting their needs and providing psychological and social support.

<sup>294</sup> <https://nchr.org.jo/ar>

### Jordan's Commitments to Periodic Reports

In light of Jordan's international obligations, the following periodic reports were submitted:

1. The sixth official report of the Convention on the Rights of the Child within the framework of Jordan's implementation of the obligations arising from the ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, and it was discussed by the government before the International Committee on the Rights of the Child in May 2023. In the same context, the National Center for Human Rights prepared a report parallel to the government report, after consulting with civil society institutions concerned with children's rights by holding a symposium on 21/03/2023, where the light was shed on the changes that occurred in national legislation, policies, programs and new strategies in implementation of the Convention and the national efforts made to protect and promote children's rights. At the same time, violations of children's rights were addressed and complaints received by the center from children or their families were monitored. A number of recommendations were recommended, including lifting the reservation on Articles (20 and 21) related to adoption, and ratification of the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention, implementing the contents of the rights of the child contained in the Child Rights Law of 2022, which constitutes a qualitative shift in protecting children's rights, and working to accelerate the adoption of the juvenile worker regulation, and developing a national monitoring regulation to monitor cases of violence and abuse against children in an attempt to determine the extent of the phenomenon of child abuse in its various forms, and creating a child-friendly environment in order to bring about social change, within the framework of ongoing training and awareness programs for the family and society and other recommendations.

<sup>295</sup> <https://www.nchr.org.jo/media>

It is worth noting that the International Committee presented its recommendations to Jordan, most of which were in agreement with the Center's recommendations, and the International Committee requested Jordan to submit the combined report of the seventh and eighth periodic reports.

2. Jordan presented and discussed the second and third governmental combined report at the twenty-first session of the Arab Human Rights Committee - Charter Committee, in compliance with the provisions of 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 in January 2023 AD, submitted to the Arab Human Rights Committee in the Council of the League of Arab States. The National Center also presented and discussed its parallel report to the government report on the Arab Charter on Human Rights, which monitors the extent of implementation of the recommendations of the first report. It praised the issuance of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence of 2017 and what it includes in terms of protecting children from domestic violence. It pointed to the need to take preventive measures to prevent the occurrence of domestic violence, to disseminate awareness programs about this law and its regulations, and provide free programs for guidance and psychological treatment in all governorates of the Kingdom. The Committee commended the role of the National Center in protecting and promoting human rights and the Center's obtaining an "A" rating. It called on Jordan to provide the necessary financial resources and sufficient staff to enable the Center to carry out its role to the fullest extent, and to remove any obstacles that may appear to the Center at various levels. The Charter Committee also presented its observations and recommendations to Jordan related to children's rights, including: a) Integrating the special needs of girls into all strategies, plans and programs targeting women and children, b) Taking measures at the level of social policies to address the problem of child labor and begging, improving the economic conditions of their families and providing a network of social and psychological support for children and their families.

<sup>296</sup> [www.nchr.org.jo](http://www.nchr.org.jo)

3. The government submitted the fourth Universal Periodic Review report at the end of 2023 to the Human Rights Council in Geneva, and the National Center submitted the parallel report to the government report on the Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights in 2023, through which it monitors the extent of implementation of the recommendations approved by the Jordanian government when approving the recommendations of the third report of the Universal Periodic Review of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The report praised the national efforts made to protect children's rights by issuing and amending many laws, such as the Child Rights Law of 2022, the Personal Status Law of 2019, and the Juvenile Aftercare Regulation, as well as the policies adopted to reduce marriage under the age of 18. The report will be discussed in January 2024<sup>297</sup>.

**Recommendations:**

To promote and protect children's rights, the Center recommends taking a number of legal and practical measures that were previously mentioned in previous reports, in addition to the following recommendations:

1. Paying more attention to children's play areas in public parks by rehabilitating some of them, maintaining them periodically and continuously, and providing them with games designated for children with disabilities so that they can exercise their right to play and integrate into society.
2. The necessity of cooperation with the Ministry of Education by the Ministry of Social Development with the aim of providing non-formal education programs (home) for all beneficiaries in juvenile homes, even if their period of residence is short; in order to prevent them from discontinuing their education, in accordance with the text of Article (e/4) of the Juvenile Law.
3. Taking measures at the level of social policies to address the problem of child labor and begging, improving the economic conditions of their families, and providing a network of social and psychological support for children and their families.
4. Expediting the issuance of the juvenile worker regulation with the center's observations recorded in the body of the report.
5. Activating the role of the Aftercare Department in the Ministry of Social Development to ensure the success of the reform and rehabilitation process for graduates of juvenile homes in conflict with the law.
6. Activating supervision by the Ministry of Labor and Information and the relevant authorities on agricultural employers to adhere to the implementation of the Agricultural Workers Regulation of 2021.

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<sup>297</sup> [www.nchr.org.jo](http://www.nchr.org.jo)

## Rights of persons with disabilities

One of the human rights guaranteed by general and specific international standards as well as the Jordanian Constitution and relevant national laws<sup>298</sup>.

The normative content of the right is based on providing legislative and non-legislative guarantees that include protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and non-discrimination on the basis of or because of disability in all civil, political, economic, social and cultural fields. It must be noted that the monitoring of the report's contents was chosen to follow up on legislative developments regulating the rights of persons with disabilities and the regulations and instructions issued under the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities No. 20 of 2017, in addition to following up on the extent of fulfilling the obligations imposed on the state to implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review, the recommendations of the Arab Charter on Human Rights Committee, and the recommendations of the National Center contained in its previous annual reports.

In general, the center monitored in 2023 the legislative developments and the most important policies supporting the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities. In addition to the results of the monitoring visits carried out by the center.

The year 2023 witnessed the approval and implementation of some violations of national legislation related to the rights of persons with disabilities, including:

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<sup>298</sup> A person with a disability is defined in Article (3/A, B) of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2017 as "any person who has a long-term deficiency in physical, sensory, mental, psychological or neurological functions, which, as a result of its interference with physical obstacles and behavioral barriers, prevents the person from carrying out one of the main life activities, or exercising one of the rights, or one of the basic freedoms independently." A long-term disability is considered, according to the text of Paragraph (A) of this Article, if it is not expected to disappear within a period of no less than 24 months from the date of the start of treatment or rehabilitation.

Amended Regulation of the Regulation of Alternatives to Shelter and Support Services for Persons with Mental Disabilities No. 26 of 2023<sup>299</sup>.

The most important things included in the regulation are the following:

- Deleting the word "mental" in the first article thereof.
- Determining the court with jurisdiction to issue a decision to place people with disabilities in an alternative family according to age group, such that the juvenile court is for those under eighteen years of age and the Sharia court is for those over this age.
- Licensing of alternative housing and support services is organized through a technical committee that defines its tasks, powers and meetings.
- The regulation specifies the conditions for licensing collective homes for the private sector, voluntary organizations, and other provisions.

The Center appreciates this amendment, which has expanded the umbrella of independent living for all persons with disabilities without exception. The regulation also contributes to implementing the national strategy for alternatives to government and private shelters specialized in persons with disabilities in Jordan. These instructions also allow this implementation, as the regulations provide mechanisms for how to do so.

- Issuance of the instructions regulating the implementation of the provisions of the Regulation of Alternatives to Shelter and Support Services for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities No. 26 of 2023<sup>300</sup>.

The Center appreciates the efforts made to observe and make previous recommendations, including issuing instructions regulating the implementation of the provisions of the regulation<sup>301</sup>. Among these instructions issued in 2023 are the following:

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<sup>299</sup> Issued in Official Gazette No. 5862

<sup>300</sup> See Article 15 of the Regulations.

<sup>301</sup> See the 2021 Annual Report published on the Center's website.



- Instructions for the conditions for benefiting from alternative shelters and support services for persons with disabilities of 2023<sup>302</sup>.

The instructions were issued based on the provisions of Article (A/15) of the regulation, and they are as follows:

- The conditions that must be met by the beneficiary are specified, such that he must be of Jordanian nationality, residing in Jordan, and have a diagnostic report from the bodies accredited by the Ministry of Health proving that he is a person with a disability, or the data contained in the identification card is approved, and that he has been subject to evaluation and a case conference.
- The conditions that must be met by the family to benefit from alternative shelters are: that it has the ability to meet the personal requirements of the person with a disability, provide reasonable facilitating arrangements, and accessibility according to the assessment and case conference, and that the family is subject to an approved training program, and that no member of the family has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor that violates public morals and ethics.
- Financial Instructions and Purchasing Services for Alternative Shelter and Support Services for Persons with Disabilities of 2023<sup>303</sup>.

It was issued in accordance with the provisions of Article (B/15) of the regulation, and the most important of what it contained are the following:

- The need of the family requesting to benefit from the financial allowance is determined according to the results of measuring its standard of living and the severity of its need<sup>304</sup>.
- Article (4) specified the amount of the financial allocation for the family, such that it pays (300) dinars if the family's level of need is high, and (250) if the level of need is medium, and if the level of need is low, it pays (200)<sup>305</sup>, while the alternative family is granted a lump sum of (400) for each beneficiary for all disabilities<sup>306</sup>.

It is worth noting that the National Center for Human Rights is a member of the committee to determine the value of the financial allocation for alternative shelters in accordance with the provisions of Article 8 of the Alternative Shelter and Support Services Regulation for Persons with Disabilities and its amendments No. 62 of 2021.

- Instructions for regulating the licensing of group homes and support services for alternative shelters for persons with disabilities of 2023<sup>307</sup>.

It has been issued based on the provisions of Articles (C, 6/15) of the system's provisions, the most prominent of which are the following:

- Licensing conditions include not licensing more than one group home in the building or residential building, and that the number of beneficiaries in the home does not exceed 6 and in one room does not exceed 2.

<sup>304</sup> According to the unified government support targeting regulation at the National Aid Fund to determine the amount of the monthly financial allocation for each segment through the targeting equations approved by the Fund, taking into account the number of family members, their income, the number of persons with disabilities in the family, and the requirements of the person with disabilities in the family.

<sup>305</sup> If the family has more than one person with a disability, an increase of (40%) is granted, and an increase of (20%) if the degree of disability is severe or (30%) if the person has multiple disabilities.

<sup>306</sup> In the event that she wishes to adopt a second beneficiary, 50% of the support value will be added, and the family may not adopt more than two people. The instructions impose obligations on the family and impose procedures in the event of its violation of the instructions.

<sup>307</sup> Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5894 dated 16/11/2023

<sup>302</sup> Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5894 dated 16/11/2023

<sup>303</sup> Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5894 dated 16/11/2023

- Article Four sets out the conditions for the applicant, such that he/she is registered as a company with the Companies Control Department at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, whose goals and objectives include housing alternatives/collective homes. As for the building conditions, they include that it be licensed and located in a populated area, that it provide facilitating arrangements and accessibility, and that its area be proportionate to the number of beneficiaries. If the house is on the upper floors, an electric elevator is available.
- Amended instructions for the instructions for issuing the identification card at the Supreme Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2023<sup>308</sup>.

The instructions included the following:

- Amending items (1, 2, 3) of paragraph (A/ Sensory Disabilities) of the list of disabilities for the purposes of obtaining an identification card and stating blindness<sup>309</sup>, as well as including albinism, which leads to total blindness or severe visual impairment.
- The phrase "unresponsive to treatment" in Clause 3 under psychological disabilities has been deleted.
- With regard to mental disabilities, any disease or syndrome that leads to a mental disability that limits the practice of one of the main daily life activities or public rights or freedoms has been added.

The Center appreciates the amendment, which will expand access to the identification card.

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<sup>308</sup> Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5879 dated 31/08/2023

<sup>309</sup> Visual acuity should be (6/60) or less in the better eye and/or the visual field should not exceed (10) degrees in the better eye with the best possible visual correction and after exhausting the available treatment methods. "Severe visual impairment": Visual acuity should be (6/21) or less in the better eye and more than (6/60) or the visual field should not exceed (20) degrees in the better eye and more than (10) degrees with the best possible visual correction and after exhausting the available treatment methods.

- Early Intervention Program Licensing Instructions of 2023<sup>310</sup>.

The instructions were issued based on the provisions of Article (29/g) of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2017. The most important of what it contained are the following:

- Definition of early intervention programs: It is a set of educational services and related support services provided to children with disabilities or developmental delays from birth to six years of age, their families and those working with them, with the aim of investing as much as possible in developing their skills during early childhood, when growth and development occur at their fastest times.
- The instructions allowed natural persons, public, private and voluntary local and foreign institutions to apply for a license, and stipulated that the natural person must be of Jordanian nationality and not have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor that violates honor and public morals, and stipulated that legal persons must have a registration certificate in accordance with the applicable legislation.
- It addressed the licensing procedures and documents that must be submitted to the Ministry of Social Development, and specified the requirements for licensing early intervention programs, including technical, human and material requirements, procedures for benefiting from early intervention programs and transitioning from them, and the procedures followed in the event of a breach of the instructions.
- Article 14 of the instructions stipulates that the license shall be cancelled in the event of serious violations related to the security and safety of beneficiaries that are not reported to the Ministry, or in the event of committing acts of violence or harm to beneficiaries.

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<sup>310</sup> Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5890 dated 01/11/2023

- Instructions for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in civil health insurance of 2023<sup>311</sup>.

The instructions were issued based on the provisions of Article 24 of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Articles (A/9, A.B/15, 42) of the Civil Health Insurance System, as amended of 2004. The most prominent of what the instructions included are the following:

- Persons with disabilities shall obtain a civil health insurance card valid for three years from the date of issuance, renewable.
- Allocating a single-bed room for people with severe disabilities and their companions. This category will be treated in the hospitals and centers of the Ministry of Health, including the therapeutic and rehabilitation services available at the Ministry, and they will be exempted from treatment fees, medicine prices and medical supplies.

Despite the positivity of the instructions, the center has some observations, including the following:

- a) Article 3 of the instructions stipulates that in order for persons with disabilities to obtain a civil health insurance card, they must not have any other health insurance unless they are employees according to the definition contained in the system. This deprives persons with disabilities of their right to equality and non-discrimination with others, as persons without disabilities enjoy a civil health insurance card and military and private health insurance.
- b) Article (B/6) of the instructions stipulates that “the medicines available in the Ministry’s hospitals and centers shall be dispensed, and in the event that they are not available, they shall not be purchased at the Fund’s expense.” This contradicts the provisions of Article (B/24) of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

<sup>311</sup> Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5873 dated 01/08/2023

- c) Article 8 of the instructions did not address the absence of therapeutic and rehabilitation specialties, behavioral therapy, or any other treatment that was not available in government hospitals or the Royal Medical Services, as the instructions did not stipulate that sessions not available in government hospitals be covered by private sector hospitals at the expense of the government<sup>312</sup>.

- Instructions for the protection of pregnant and breastfeeding women, people with disabilities, and people who work at night of 2023<sup>313</sup>.

The most prominent provisions of the instructions related to persons with disabilities are as follows:

- The employer is obligated to provide reasonable accommodation and accessibility to enable persons with disabilities to carry out job duties, continue and be promoted.
- Not specifying specific jobs for persons with disabilities and excluding them from other jobs so that their competence in completing the work is approved, taking into account their academic qualifications and practical experience.
- Determining the allocated wage without discrimination on the basis of disability or because thereof.

The Center appreciates the efforts made in issuing instructions as they are consistent with the provisions of Article 6 of the Constitution, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

It is worth noting that the National Centre has addressed the Ministry of Labor<sup>314</sup> to submit proposals to be taken into consideration when preparing the draft instructions.

<sup>312</sup> The Center addressed the Ministry of Health pursuant to Letter No. H A/610/3-13 dated 28/09/2023.

<sup>313</sup> Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5890 dated 01/11/2023

<sup>314</sup> Pursuant to Letter No. H A / 628 / 3-12 dated 02/10/2023 AD issued by the National Center.

All the center's observations related to persons with disabilities were taken into account. The Center appreciates the efforts made in issuing instructions that provided protection for the rights of persons with disabilities and prohibited discrimination on the basis of disability or because thereof, and that the basis is equal opportunities, and this is consistent with the provisions of Article Six of the Constitution and Article (26) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2017.

In terms of policies, the year 2023 witnessed the following:

- a) Issuance of a circular by the Prime Minister to ministries, institutions, public bodies, official universities, municipalities, and others to approve the identification card for everyone to whom it is issued for the purpose of obtaining the special and specialized services that must be obtained by persons with disabilities<sup>315</sup>.

The Center appreciates the issuance of the circular as it is an alternative to medical reports and can be used to access available services instead of issuing a medical report for each service as was the case before the card was issued.

Launching the strategic plan for the integration of persons with disabilities in the Jordan University of Science and Technology (2023-2026)<sup>316</sup> aimed at providing a university environment free of obstacles<sup>317</sup>.

<sup>315</sup> A letter received by the National Center from the Prime Minister No. 21/11/1/45939 dated 16/08/2023.

<sup>316</sup> <https://www.just.edu.jo/ar/accessibility/Documents/StrategicPlan.pdf>

<sup>317</sup> It helps all members of the university and local community with disabilities to perform their roles effectively and within the limits of their abilities and capabilities, and in a way that ensures that each of them receives a university education and quality university services. The strategy includes the main axes, which are: the governance and institutional performance axis, the university education and inclusive continuing education axis, the empowerment, capacity building and awareness-raising axis, the reasonable facilitation arrangements axis, accessibility and comprehensive design axis, and the health care axis for persons with disabilities. Finally, the axis of scientific research, creativity and community cooperation.

The Center hopes that all Jordanian universities will work to provide a university environment free of obstacles by enhancing the access of persons with disabilities to higher education services, in a way that achieves their full enjoyment of their right to education and access to all programs, services and facilities, and is characterized by communication and interaction with students with disabilities in accordance with Article Six of the Constitution and Article (24) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Article (18) of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2017.

- b) Increasing the number of identification cards issued by the Supreme Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a result of increasing the number of awareness programs on their importance in all governorates of the Kingdom, as the number of cards until 31/12/2023 reached (7651) cards, while the number of cards of 2022 reached (3425) cards.

**The table below shows the number of identification cards for males and females for the year 2023**

| Type of disability | Male | Female |
|--------------------|------|--------|
| Neurological       | 1166 | 570    |
| Mental             | 1213 | 692    |
| Auditory           | 944  | 677    |
| Visual             | 491  | 327    |
| Physical           | 1017 | 473    |
| Psychological      | 64   | 26     |
| Total              | 4895 | 2756   |

We note from the table that the number of those who obtained identification cards are males, which requires continuing to spread awareness of the importance of the identification card, especially for females.

### National Field Center Monitoring:

- The Center monitored Aya Aghabi Park in the capital on 14/12/2023, which was established within the “Jordan is Ready” initiative, which aims to provide commercial and tourist places that are friendly to people with disabilities. Through the monitoring, the Center found the following:

- a) Providing the requirements for the preparation of people with disabilities (slopes, floor indicators for the blind, and areas designated for the seating of people with disabilities who use wheelchairs).
- b) The name of the park is included in Braille, and people with visual and hearing disabilities can read the name of the park and a brief about it through the QR code.

The Center appreciates the efforts made in establishing the park, which represents a good step towards building a culture of designing and creating parks that are suitable for people with disabilities, and emphasizing the importance of continuous efforts in this field<sup>318</sup>, providing safe and friendly spaces that meet their needs and requirements in all their diversity and removing barriers and obstacles facing people with disabilities, thus providing a real meaning of integration in today’s diverse world<sup>319</sup>.

The Center hopes that the concerned parties will design public parks that are friendly to people with disabilities.

- Monitoring the participation of persons with disabilities in the elections for the presidency of Bab Amman Municipality in Jerash Governorate, and the center found the following:

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<sup>318</sup> Support was provided by the private sector (Orange Jordan and Abdali Investment and Development Company) and with technical support from the Supreme Council and the Greater Amman Municipality.

<sup>319</sup> The Center addressed the CEO of Jordan Ready Company, pursuant to Letter No. (H A/74/18) dated 18/01/2024.

- No person with disabilities is nominated for the presidency of the municipality.
- The absence of a database that identifies the number of persons with disabilities among voters registered for voting purposes, their percentage and geographical distribution, or the identification of forms of disabilities in order to distribute them to polling centers equipped for persons with disabilities or to find sign language interpreters.

The Center issued its first statement on the electoral process, including that some polling stations were not equipped for persons with disabilities in terms of accessibility, lack of sign language interpreters, etc. In the same context and as part of the solution, the Independent Election Commission directed the heads of the polling committees to provide all facilities for persons with disabilities in the event that the polling station was not equipped for them to enable them to exercise their constitutional right to participate in the elections<sup>320</sup>.

The Center also monitored the national efforts implemented by the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Independent Election Commission to enhance the political participation of persons with disabilities in the upcoming parliamentary elections, where a “mechanism” will be created to measure participation rates and indicators and issue monitoring reports according to a rights-based approach.

- Monitoring Tafilah Center for Care and Rehabilitation in June 2023 AD, and the center appreciates the efforts made to protect and enhance the rights of beneficiaries and the presence of beneficiaries who have been rehabilitated and employed in the same center within a specific operating plan for the purposes of discharging energy and occupying them in their free time, and training beneficiaries on mosaic decoration and coordinating flowers, beads, etc., the center recorded the following observations:

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<sup>320</sup> For more information, please see the report on the election of the Mayor of Bab Amman published on the Center’s website.

- The need to increase the number of staff working in the center, especially social and psychological specialists and supervisors, and to build their capacities in related fields, with the disbursement of a work hazard allowance.
  - The need for a general practitioner and a psychiatrist by the Ministry of Health.
  - The need to work on addressing the problem of overcrowding in the number of beneficiaries and re-evaluating and examining them for the purpose of transferring them to the Family Reconciliation House for those who apply thereto.
  - The need to create gardens and a play area for beneficiaries on the center's vacant land and to allow the center to sell beneficiaries' products of mosaics, flower arrangements, and beads<sup>321</sup>.
- The Center<sup>322</sup> continued to monitor the rights of persons with disabilities to benefit from banking services<sup>323</sup> and the Center found the following:
- The Central Bank issued Consumer Protection Instructions for Customers with Disabilities No. 18 of 2018, which specified the procedures to be taken by banks and non-banking financial companies operating in the Kingdom to provide banking and financial services to customers with disabilities.
  - Implementing awareness campaigns entitled (Banking Services are My Right Too) with the aim of raising the financial capabilities, awareness and financial culture of persons with disabilities and informing them of their rights as financial consumers.

<sup>321</sup> Letter issued by the Center No. H A/ /246/18 dated 20/07/2023.

<sup>322</sup> The Center addressed the Central Bank of Jordan No. H A/76/18 dated 05/02/2023.

<sup>323</sup> In 2022, the National Center monitored (45) banks, representing a sample of the Islamic Bank, Cairo Amman Bank, and Housing Bank.

- Preparing a special booklet on financial services for customers with physical and hearing disabilities, and it was translated into Braille for the visually impaired.
- Providing special parking spaces for people with disabilities in front of the bank and ramps to facilitate access for people with mobility disabilities.
- Providing a writing counter dedicated to customers with disabilities in the public service hall and others<sup>324</sup>.

The National Center hopes that the Central Bank will work to provide floor stickers on the ground to help visually impaired customers exercise their rights in banking transactions, and train bank employees to learn sign language to deal with hearing impaired people.

- The National Center monitored a number of buildings of government institutions that provide services to the public; this is to ensure that these institutions are implementing their legal obligations under Article (4) of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2017<sup>325</sup>. The center found that the Hussein Cultural Center has some requirements for people with disabilities in terms of the presence of designated ramps for people with disabilities, ramps equipped with handles at the entrances and exits and at wide distances, in addition to the availability of signboards, equipped sanitary facilities, an escalator, and an electric elevator, but it is not speaking, the Amman Municipality in Ras Al-Ain area provides a number of facilitating arrangements, including the presence of designated platforms for people with disabilities, but they are very crowded, equipped sanitary facilities, a speaking electric elevator, ground indicators, and ramps, but without handrails.

<sup>324</sup> A letter received by the Center from the Central Bank of Jordan No. 27/4753/3 dated 05/03/2023.

<sup>325</sup> The principles of the rights of persons with disabilities include ensuring the provision of reasonable accommodation, accessible forms, accessibility and inclusive design for persons with disabilities, as they are necessary requirements for the exercise of their rights and freedoms, and reducing physical barriers and behavioral barriers for persons with disabilities, which include the lack or absence of reasonable accommodation, accessible forms or accessibility, as well as individual behaviors and discriminatory institutional practices on the basis of disability.

As for the medical insurance committees/social security - Jabal Al Hussein, there is a talking elevator, but it is narrow, and handles inside the walls of the building, and a ramp at the entrance, but there is only one row prepared for people with disabilities despite the many visits by people with disabilities to this building. As for the Directorate of Disability Health and Mental Health/Ministry of Health, in the Jabal Al Hussein area, the building has been fully prepared for use by persons with disabilities with technical and financial support from the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Regarding the administration of examinations and tests in the Luweibdeh area, the building in general is very old and does not have any filters. There is only an old electric elevator and it lacks any facilitating arrangements for people with disabilities.

- The Center monitored the conditions of beneficiaries in the shelters in the Al-Wefaq Family Home in Irbid Governorate on 24/05/2023, and it became clear to the Center that the home building is not prepared for women with disabilities, and this violates the provisions of Article (E/27) of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2017, which obliges the provision of facilitating arrangements, accessible forms, and the possibility of accessing homes for victims of domestic violence.
- The Center monitored the rights of persons with disabilities at the Rehabilitation and Employment Center for the Disabled in Irbid Governorate. The Center appreciates the efforts made to train young men and women in craft professions such as beauty, sewing, and bag making, and to build the capacity of workers to obtain courses related to sign language to communicate with persons with hearing disabilities. The Center also appreciates the fulfillment of the Center's recommendation to carry out maintenance on the building, and the Center hopes to transfer training powers to the Ministry of Labor and integrate persons with disabilities into vocational training institutions

for the purposes of rehabilitating and employing them in accordance with the provisions of Article (27) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Article (25) of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2017. It also hopes to provide carpentry, blacksmithing, and other trainers.

- In October 2023, the National Center monitored the right of persons with disabilities to participate in accessing justice by implementing two monitoring visits to the Amman Sharia Court/Cases and the Al-Ghor Al-Safi Court in Kerak Governorate<sup>326</sup>. The center found the following:
  - Amman Sharia Courts Complex includes the courts of cases, execution, documentation, and estates, the Sharia Public Prosecution Office, the offices of family reform, mediation, and reconciliation, and the office of the Alimony Loan Fund. The court complex is suitable for people with disabilities in terms of the presence of ramps, electric elevators, and handles on the walls, and the provision of waiting rooms equipped with comfortable seats and areas designated for people with disabilities who use wheelchairs to sit. This enhances access to justice, facilitates procedures, and saves time, effort, and money for service recipients, including persons with disabilities, after courts and offices were scattered.
  - The court is a court of law and execution and there is no office for family reconciliation and reconciliation or an office for the alimony loan fund<sup>327</sup>. The court is located on the second floor and the building is very old and not equipped for people with disabilities and the waiting room is small.

The center hopes to move the Ghor Safi Court building so that it is equipped for people with disabilities.

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<sup>326</sup> The Supreme Judge Department was addressed with the Center's observations No. H A40/18 dated 10/01/2024.

<sup>327</sup> The Kerak Sharia Court has an alimony loan fund office, but the woman's lack of knowledge of this and the difficulty of reaching Kerak prevents the implementation of the ruling.

### Center Statements:

The Center issued a statement on the occasion of the International Day for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, praising the efforts made to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. It pointed out that, in light of the world's celebration of the International Day for Persons with Disabilities and in light of the world's witnessing of the most complete aggression on the Gaza Strip, which includes blatant and direct violations of persons with disabilities, such as killing and genocide, in addition to forced displacement and evictions, which represent a challenge for persons with disabilities. In addition to the destruction of infrastructure and health facilities in general and those specific to this category, and the loss of assistive devices, in addition to the limited water, electricity, food, and their lack of access to basic medicines and necessary medical assistance and others, as these acts constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity and a violation of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and its first annexed protocol, as well as Security Council Resolution 2475 of 2019, which urged all parties to the conflict to take measures to protect civilians with disabilities and to allow and facilitate safe access to humanitarian assistance.

The National Center for Human Rights called on the institutions of the international community to implement international humanitarian law and international human rights law, away from the double standards that we are witnessing. It also called on the international community to assume its legal responsibility by taking immediate measures to stop violations of the rights of persons with disabilities practiced by the Israeli occupation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and to provide them with the necessary care and needs, including psychological and social support<sup>328</sup>.

- The National Center issued a statement on the occasion of the International Day of Sign Language,

- praising the national efforts made to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities through the constitutional amendments of 2022 and Jordan's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its publication in the Official Gazette, and the stipulation in some of its articles on the necessity of facilitating the task of communicating with deaf people and taking into account their needs in a way that ensures their integration into society. It also praised the Hearing Without Borders initiative and the efforts implemented by the Public Security Directorate in providing an emergency line for the deaf. In its statement, the center called for increasing the number of sign language interpreters and distributing them geographically and in all ministries and national institutions to integrate the deaf and activate their rights without facing any challenges and in various aspects of life, and to raise awareness of the rights of the deaf in work with the aim of eliminating the stereotype about linking disability to productivity and the ability to work, and the necessity of launching educational and cultural programs for sign language for all segments of society with the aim of knowing how to communicate with deaf people, and working to integrate them and give them their rights that guarantee them a decent life<sup>329</sup>.

### Jordan's Commitments to Periodic Reports

In light of Jordan's international obligations, the following periodic reports were submitted:

1. Jordan presented and discussed the second and third governmental combined report at the twenty-first session of the Arab Human Rights Committee - Charter Committee, in compliance with the provisions of 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 in January 2023, which were submitted to the Arab Human Rights Committee in the Council of the League of Arab States.

<sup>328</sup> <https://www.nchr.org/jo/ar>

<sup>329</sup> Published on the center's social media page on 23/09/2023.



The Charter Committee presented 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) Jordan's support for organizations concerned with the rights of persons with disabilities and ensuring their participation and consultation in adopting and implementing relevant policies. The National Center also presented and discussed its parallel report to the government report on the Arab Charter on Human Rights, Which monitors the extent of implementation of the recommendations of the first report. The report included praise for the national efforts made to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities<sup>330</sup>.

2. The government submitted the fourth Universal Periodic Review report at the end of 2023 to the Human Rights Council in Geneva, and the National Center submitted the parallel report to the government report on the Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights in 2023, through which it monitors the extent of implementation of the recommendations approved by the Jordanian government when approving the recommendations of the third report of the Universal Periodic Review of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, where the report praised the efforts made to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities, but there are still challenges related to persons with disabilities in various economic, educational, health and other fields due to the lack of facilitating arrangements, accessible forms and accessibility<sup>331</sup>.

On 2/22/2024, the Center organized a discussion panel entitled "The Extent of Availability of Reasonable Environmental Facilitation Arrangements for People with Disabilities in Public Places" with stakeholders and thinkers, including academics and activists,

<sup>330</sup> <https://nchr.org.jo>

<sup>331</sup> <https://nchr.org.jo>

with the aim of studying the availability of facilitating arrangements to meet the requirements of people with disabilities and access services and facilities with ease and simplicity.

The discussion panel addressed the national efforts made in this field and highlighted the challenges that hinder the achievement of facilitating services for persons with disabilities in work and educational environments and service provision places.

The interlocutors showed that the most prominent efforts achieved are the following:

- The Disability Rights Act is a strong start to overcoming societal challenges, but we see a gap between the provisions of the law and its implementation.
- There are (78) buildings in the government sector that are equipped for people with disabilities. However, there are many buildings in the private sector that are equipped for people with disabilities and the aim is to market their buildings.
- The Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities issued the Building Requirements Code for Persons with Disabilities. An agreement was signed with the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Local Administration (formerly Municipalities), the Greater Amman Municipality and Civil Defense, whereby no new building plan will be approved unless it includes the building requirements code for persons with disabilities.
- The issuance of the first report in 2018, a specialized report to monitor the conditions of people with disabilities, was a brainstorming session for all state institutions. Speaking of collaborative efforts with banking institutions, instructions were issued to protect the financial consumer of people with disabilities, in addition to training bank employees on how to deal with people with disabilities.
- In light of the obligation of universities to grant a 90% exemption to students with disabilities in accordance with the provisions of Article 22 of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2017, the University of Islamic Sciences is not committed to implementing it on the pretext that the university is non-governmental.

- The Supreme Council for Persons with Disabilities launched the Accessible Buildings Award of (2022) to encourage the preparation of all state institutions in the public and private sectors, in which (78) buildings participated, (64) buildings fulfilled the award conditions, and (30) buildings won this award, including seven branches of social security, and among the winners were also Cairo Amman Bank and Union Bank.
- The Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides technical support to state institutions to prepare public buildings and facilities, whether new or old buildings, and all public facilities that provide services to the public have their plans audited by the Civil Defense. The Council also visits institutions and prepares technical reports that specify all requirements for preparation and follow-up until the implementation stage.
- The most prominent works and achievements of the Directorate of Accessibility and Comprehensive Design for the year 2023: Providing technical and financial support to prepare the model area in the city of Irbid. A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Public Security Directorate to prepare (10) security centers and reform and rehabilitation centers. Providing technical and financial support to the Department of the Chief Justice to prepare Sharia courts.
- As for the most prominent challenges facing the achievement of a fair environment friendly to the rights of persons with disabilities, the discussions resulted in the following:
  - (1) The lack of a research team capable of translating shelf research into practical paths, and then policy papers that go to the government,
  - (2) The disparity in the availability of facilitating arrangements, as they differ from one governorate to another, and facilitating arrangements enter into all aspects of life,
  - (3) With regard to the election, it is good that there are 27 polling stations and headquarters for people with disabilities, but at the university level they are not suitable for receiving people with disabilities so that they can walk in them - with the exception of the University of Jordan-,

(4) The absence of a diagnostic study in line with the instructions for protecting financial consumers with disabilities issued by the Central Bank.

The discussion session concluded with a number of recommendations in this regard, including:

- (1) Forming a national committee by ministries, government departments, national institutions and others to prepare a roadmap to make the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan a country friendly to the rights of persons with disabilities.
- (2) Preparing an evaluation study by the competent authorities on the rights of persons with disabilities in providing facilitating arrangements between legislation and reality.
- (3) Implementing closed discussion groups to identify the challenges facing the concerned parties regarding their commitments to the rights of persons with disabilities, especially in the governorates far from the capital.
- (4) Studying the impact of implementing the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities No. 20 of 2017 from a legal and economic perspective, identifying gaps and working to develop it.
- (5) Preparing studies and research on the concept of disability, its dimensions and psychological and social implications, such as self-determination, self-advocacy and integration, especially in higher education, and directing students' attention from the perspective of environmental barriers and challenges.
- (6) Raising awareness among institutions and civil society in all governorates of the Kingdom, especially rural and remote areas, about the concept of facilitative arrangements, accessibility, accessible forms, and their importance for persons with disabilities.
- (7) Preparing an analytical and evaluative study of the ten-year plan to correct the conditions of existing buildings and public facilities.
- (8) Reviewing the customs exemption regulation by the competent authorities and submitting the necessary recommendations to amend it and align it with the Constitution and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- (9) Develop a policy paper that regulates how to provide facilitative arrangements in public facilities, schools and universities to organize and improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, by involving different types of disabilities in the subject of providing facilitative arrangements.
- (10) The necessity of involving different types of disabilities so that the facilities are compatible with all disabilities when developing any strategy for facilities.
- (11) Strengthening the role of the media in raising awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities and the need to emphasize the right of a customer with a disability to file a complaint against any bank that refuses to provide banking services to persons with disabilities.

**Recommendations:**

To promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, the Center recommends taking a number of legal and practical measures that were previously mentioned in previous reports, in addition to the following recommendations:

1. Working on preparing strategic plans to integrate people with disabilities by all universities to reach a physical environment free of physical barriers and that is conducive to communication and interaction with students with disabilities.
2. Launching educational and cultural programs for sign language for all segments of society with the aim of knowing how to communicate with deaf people, and working to integrate them and give them their rights that guarantee them a decent life.
3. Establishing parks equipped for people with disabilities that meet their needs and requirements in all their diversity and remove barriers and obstacles facing people with disabilities in a way that provides a real meaning of integration into the diverse world, and providing children's parks with games dedicated to people with disabilities.
4. Preparing all homes for victims of domestic violence for people with disabilities in accordance with the provisions of Article (E/27) of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2017.
5. Building the capacities of service providers and workers in social care institutions in the rights of persons with disabilities in international standards and national legislation, dealing with cases of psychological disorders, providing behavioral therapy and anger management, and dealing with beneficiaries from a human rights perspective.
6. Transferring Ghor Al-Safi Court building to a building suitable for people with disabilities, such that it has ramps, floor indicators, electric elevators if necessary, and wall handles, etc.
7. Working to prepare polling stations for people with disabilities of all types to meet their needs and requirements.
8. Providing floor indicators by banks to help visually impaired customers exercise their rights in banking transactions, and training bank employees to learn sign language to deal with hearing impaired people.

### The rights of the elderly

One of the human rights guaranteed by general international covenants, which included implicit obligations towards the rights of the elderly in the absence of a special international instrument that protects their rights, as guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution and relevant national legislation.

The normative content of the right is based on providing legislative and non-legislative guarantees that ensure the protection and promotion of the rights of older persons in the approach of policies and practices and taking appropriate measures in various areas of civil, political, economic, social and cultural life. It must be noted that the monitoring of the contents of the report was chosen to follow up on the extent of fulfillment of the obligations imposed on the state to implement the recommendations of international committees and previous reports of the National Center.

During 2023, there were no legislative developments related to the rights of the elderly, policies supporting the rights of the elderly, and field monitoring of the conditions of the elderly in shelters.

#### Legislation:

In light of the Center's follow-up of the need to formulate an international agreement for older persons, the Center emphasizes the strengthening of Jordan's role aimed at formulating an international agreement for the rights of older persons, similar to international agreements related to the rights of the groups most in need of protection, for the following reasons:

- Obligating the countries that ratified the Convention to study the enactment, review and harmonize laws to protect the rights of older persons.
- Providing adequate protection for the rights of the elderly to a healthy, economic, social and cultural life, which provides them with better conditions that allow them to participate and contribute

to the development of their reality and their communication with generations and provide better services in the public and private sectors.

- Developing the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, which include reaffirming the goal of eradicating poverty in old age.
- Providing opportunities for the elderly by providing lifelong learning opportunities and participation in community life.
- Networking between government, civil society and the private sector to protect and promote the rights of older persons.
- Conducting research and studies to focus on the social and health impacts of aging, especially in the poorest areas of society.

On the other hand, the year 2023 witnessed the issuance of laws and amendments to legislation regulating human rights, but no amendments were made to the legal articles regulating the rights of the elderly that the center requested to be amended<sup>332</sup>, including:

- The law amending the Social Security Law No. 11 of 2023<sup>333</sup>.

Despite the issuance of the law, no amendment was made to the text of Article (62) thereof regarding the entitlement of the insured to a retirement pension upon the completion of 60 years for males and 55 years for females. The National Center for Human Rights believes that retirement should be optional at this age. If he wishes to continue working, he may do so, provided that he is physically fit to work, and thus he is entitled to it on the date of the end of his work, provided that it does not exceed seventy years for both genders.

- The law amending the Labor Law No. 10 of 2023<sup>334</sup>.

The law was issued without amending Article (56) of the same law, which stipulates that the number of working hours per week for the worker should not exceed eight hours per day or forty-eight hours per week. The National Center for Human Rights believes that a clause should be added to the article to enable the elderly to participate in the labor market under special conditions, such as reducing working hours in a way that achieves their best interests, in implementation of the principle of "leaving no one behind" on which the sustainable development goals 2030 are based.

<sup>332</sup> See the annual report for 2017 and 2019 published on the Center's website.

<sup>333</sup> Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5851 dated 16/04/2023

<sup>334</sup> Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5851 dated 16/04/2023

In the same context, the Council of Ministers approved the reasons for issuing the draft Social Development Law and referred it to the House of Representatives. The most prominent of the draft law's provisions are as follows:

- a) Defining the objectives and tasks of the Ministry of Social Development to improve the quality of life for needy groups of citizens by providing them with the best protection and care services in a participatory and fair manner, ensuring the preservation of their human dignity and maintaining their privacy, among other objectives and tasks.
- b) Regulating the social work profession, determining the conditions for its practice, approving its programs, and licensing them.
- c) Determining the procedures for licensing social care institutions and homes, and monitoring and supervising them, including nursing homes.
- d) Establishing a Social Protection and Care Fund to provide financial support for the social protection and care programs provided by the Ministry.

The Center appreciates the efforts made in observing the Center and recommending<sup>335</sup> in an effort to update the law to keep pace with the developments that accompanied social work,

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<sup>335</sup> The Center presented its observation in the periodic report "The Status of the Rights of the Elderly in Jordan for the year 2017 AD" which included "The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Law No. (14) of 1956 AD is old and does not keep pace with the times, and it has become necessary to amend it to change the term nursing homes to elderly homes and clubs."

which will be reflected in the programs and services provided to them and improve them. The Center hopes to expedite the issuance of the law within its legislative stages and the regulations governing it.

**Policies:**

1. Opening of the Aqaba Sharia Courts Complex in 2023<sup>336</sup> and preparing the complex for the elderly in terms of the physical environment. The Center appreciates the efforts made by the Chief Justice Department, which contributes to the elderly's access to justice.
2. Implementing initiatives by the Greater Amman Municipality aimed at integrating the elderly into the local community. These initiatives include the following:
  - a) The "Amman Our Big Home" initiative by the Greater Amman Municipality in cooperation with the Jordanian Children's Villages Association (SOS), which aims to integrate the elderly with children who have lost their family support by playing the role of grandparents with children residing in the villages.
  - b) The initiative "Enhancing and Activating the Role of the Elderly with Grandchildren" in cooperation with the World Health Organization/Jordan Office, which aims to evaluate, qualify and train the elderly in dealing with grandchildren and activating their role in society, given the experiences they possess.
  - c) Implementing the home care program for the elderly in cooperation with the Faculty of Nursing at Al-Zaytouna University and Applied Sciences in the areas of Jabal Al-Hussein, Al-Hussein Camp, Khreibet Al-Souq, Al-Hashemi Al-Janoubi, Wadi Al-Haddadah and Al-Hashemi Al-Shamali, which included implementing medical days and examinations.

The Center appreciates the efforts of the Greater Amman Municipality to implement the Center's recommendation contained in its previous annual report<sup>337</sup>, which enhances the integration of the elderly into society, supports and encourages communication between generations, enhances their roles, and benefits from their experiences.

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<sup>336</sup> Supreme Judge Department Letter No. (5/8/9802) dated 24/07/2023.

<sup>337</sup> See the Center's annual report for 2021 and 2022.

- d) Continuing to provide free Amman Express Bus cards for those aged 65 years and over. The number of senior citizens who obtained this card from 2019 to 31/12/2023 reached (23,353) senior citizens, as is clear in the table below.

| Year  | Number |
|-------|--------|
| 2019  | 2774   |
| 2020  | 3949   |
| 2021  | 3604   |
| 2022  | 3662   |
| 2023  | 9364   |
| Total | 233253 |

Although the Center welcomes the increase in their number, the Center hopes that the Greater Amman Municipality will implement its recommendations contained in its previous reports, which include providing free cards to those who have reached the age of 60, increasing the number of buses equipped for the elderly, and covering all areas.

- e) Continuing the work of the “Amman, a City Friendly to the Elderly” Committee, which was formed by the Mayor of Amman, at the initiative of the Secretariat, and with the membership of ministries<sup>338</sup>, the National Center for Human Rights, the National Council for Family Affairs, and civil society institutions, with the aim of achieving an elderly-friendly city in Amman by 2025.

- The National Center monitored Dar Al Zahra for the Elderly, and the Center appreciates the efforts made by the management of the home in providing basic services to the beneficiaries, in addition to allowing the implementation of initiatives that aim to implement some recreational programs and activities for the elderly, and at the same time records observations, including the following:

<sup>338</sup> Committee members: Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Health and Endowments, Family Protection Department, Family Health Care Institute, and Help the Elderly International Association.

- a) The presence of an unsafe slope at the entrance to the house door with a slippery floor, in addition to the absence of railings on the sides of the slope and the absence of side handles on all walls (existing in limited parts only).
- b) The level of cleanliness in the building and facilities of the home is very low, as there are unpleasant odors emanating from the rooms of the beneficiaries. The team also noticed the lack of attention to personal hygiene for some elderly men.
- c) The building of the house needs maintenance work in terms of lighting and ventilation, as there are some rooms in the house without any windows or ventilation like the clinic, in addition to the fact that the furniture is very old and needs to be changed, and there are no medical beds for all beneficiaries, and their availability depends on the health condition of the beneficiary, as the number of medical beds for the elderly is small and most of them are iron beds with worn and worn mattresses, and the mattress covers are also worn, in addition to the overcrowding of some rooms with beds.
- d) The medical clinic is not properly equipped as it does not contain any medical equipment other than a medical bed<sup>339</sup>.

<sup>339</sup> Letter issued by the National Center of the Ministry of Social Development No. H A/531 18/ dated 28/08/2023.

- The center monitored Dar Al Amal for the Elderly in July 2023. The center appreciates the efforts made by the management of the home in terms of providing services, initiatives, programs and recreational activities for the elderly. The center found the following:
  - a) The building of the home is good and suitable for the elderly and the disabled, the rooms are clean and tidy and the furniture is new.
  - b) The number of staff is proportional to the number of beneficiaries.
  - c) The pharmacy is equipped and has medicine cabinets and medicine distribution boxes for each beneficiary in his name, and it has a refrigerator, an examination bed and patient files.
- The center monitored the Visitation House for elderly women and found the following:
  - a) The building is equipped for the elderly and the disabled, as there are ramps to enter and exit the building and move around inside it, in addition to the presence of an electric elevator to the upper floors, and the rooms are tidy and the furniture is new.
  - b) The level of interest in health care for the beneficiaries is very good, as there is a general physician who follows up on their cases, and if the case requires hospitalization, the patient is transferred to the Luzmia or Amman Surgical Hospital, in addition to the fact that the level of cleanliness is very good.
  - c) Indoor activities and outdoor trips are organized for the nuns residing in the Visitation House.
- The center monitored a case of violence against an elderly woman in a nursing home by a beneficiary in the same home. The elderly woman was transferred to receive treatment at Al-Hussein Hospital for Medical Services. A monitoring visit was carried out for the elderly woman in the hospital and the center found traces of burns on her face and body.

The case file was referred to the Public Prosecutor and the case is still pending before the judiciary.

- In October 2023, the National Center monitored the right of the elderly to participate in accessing justice by implementing two monitoring visits to the Amman Sharia Court/Cases and Ghor Al-Safi Court in Kerak Governorate<sup>340</sup>. The Center found the following:
  - a) Amman Sharia Courts Complex includes courts for cases, execution, documentation, and inheritance, the Sharia Public Prosecution Office, family reconciliation, mediation, and reconciliation offices, and the Alimony Loan Fund Office. The court complex is suitable for the elderly in terms of the presence of ramps, electric elevators, handles on the walls, and the provision of waiting rooms equipped with seats. This enhances access to justice, facilitates procedures, and saves time, effort, and money for service recipients, including the elderly, after courts and offices were scattered.
- The court is a court of law and execution and there is no office for family reconciliation and reform or an office for the alimony loan fund<sup>341</sup>. The court is located on the second floor and the building is very old and not prepared for the elderly and the waiting room is small.

The center hopes to change the building of Ghor Al-Safi court to prepare it for the elderly.

- The Center issued a statement praising the national efforts exerted to protect and promote the rights of the elderly and called for the need to establish government day clubs for the elderly in all governorates of the Kingdom, and to build a database and classified statistics that take into account gender, age, health, social, economic and other aspects,

<sup>340</sup> The Supreme Judge Department was addressed with the Center's observations No. HA/40/18 dated 10/01/2024.

<sup>341</sup> Kerak Sharia Court has an alimony loan fund office, but the woman's lack of knowledge of this and the difficulty of reaching Kerak prevents the implementation of the ruling.

- so that the necessary forms of intervention within the framework of protecting the rights of the elderly, and enhancing the participatory approach aimed at involving the elderly in development and making decisions that concern them<sup>342</sup>.
- The Center issued a statement on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons, calling for the adoption of a special law for the elderly to determine the legal rules that protect and enhance the rights of this group. It also called for adding a text to hold accountable children who neglect their rights, especially in the case of negligence and failure to fulfill their obligations, as this text is not included in any legislation except for the general criminalization texts in the Penal Code. In addition to raising the capacities of those working with the elderly in shelters and day clubs. He also called for the need to continue working to promote and protect the rights of the elderly by developing national policies and plans for the elderly, including strengthening the participatory approach aimed at involving the elderly in the development process and decision-making, and increasing the financial allocations allocated in the budgets of the relevant authorities. He also recommended the establishment of government day clubs for the elderly in all governorates of the Kingdom, the implementation of specialized programs on the rights of the elderly, strengthening the role of the media in raising awareness of their rights, and building a database and classified statistics that take into account gender, especially for the elderly<sup>343</sup>.

<sup>342</sup> <https://www.nchr.org.jo/ar>

<sup>343</sup> [www.nchr.org.jo](http://www.nchr.org.jo)

### Jordan's Obligations in Submitting Periodic Reports

Jordan presented and discussed the second and third governmental combined reports at the twenty-first session of the Arab Human Rights Committee - Charter Committee, in compliance with the provisions of 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 in January of this year, which were submitted to the Arab Human Rights Committee in the Council of the League of Arab States. The Charter Committee recommended that Jordan renew its recommendation No. (40) on the first periodic report to create a law that guarantees the provision of necessary protection and care for the elderly. The National Center also presented and discussed its parallel report to the government report on the Arab Charter on Human Rights, which monitors the extent of implementation of the recommendations of the first report. The report included praise for the national efforts made in the issues of the elderly and the issuance of the Elderly Care Regulation of 2021. In the same context, he pointed out that Jordan had not implemented the Center's recommendation contained in the annual reports regarding the issuance of a special law on the rights of the elderly<sup>344</sup>.

<sup>344</sup> [www.nchr.org.jo](http://www.nchr.org.jo)



**Recommendations:**

To enhance the rights of the elderly and protect them, the Center recommends taking a number of legal and practical measures that were previously mentioned in previous reports in addition to the following recommendations:

1. Strengthening Jordan's role aimed at formulating an international agreement on the rights of older persons, similar to international agreements related to the rights of groups most in need of protection.
2. Amending the Social Security Law and the Labor Law in accordance with the Center's observations recorded in the same report.
3. Continuing the efforts of the Greater Amman Municipality to provide free rapid bus cards for those who have reached the age of 60 years and increase the number of public transport buses equipped for the elderly and cover all areas.
4. Building a database and statistics classified according to age, health, social, economic, and other aspects, so that the necessary forms of intervention within the framework of protecting the rights of the elderly are based on the outputs of these statistics.
5. Addressing the Center's observations contained in the body of the report and related to Dar Al Zahra for the Elderly.
6. Changing the building of the Al-Ghor Al-Safi Court to a building suitable for the elderly, so that it has ramps, ground indicators, electric elevators if necessary, and handles on the walls, etc.
7. Establishing government day clubs for the elderly in all governorates of the Kingdom.
8. Implementing specialized programs on the rights of the elderly, and enhancing the role of the media in raising awareness of their rights.

## Forth: Appendices

### Appendix No. (1)

Recommendations issued by the Center in the nineteenth annual report on the status of human rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

#### Introduction:

The process of assessing the status of response to the recommendations of the report on the status of human rights in the Kingdom is one of the indicators indicating the extent to which government institutions and ministries comply with the principles of human rights guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution and confirmed by the international charters and treaties to which the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has committed.

Fulfilling these rights is linked to the reality of the political, economic and social fields within society, as fulfilling rights requires working on numerous legislative, political and administrative procedures, such as working to enact and/or amend legislation and regulations, formulating and developing comprehensive public policies according to a rights-based approach, in addition to working to control practices; The ultimate result is the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive rights-based approach dedicated to protecting human dignity and being by the state authorities and its various agencies.

Based on the objectives of the National Center for Human Rights stated in the text of Article (4) of its Law No. (15) of 2006 and its amendments, to promote and protect human rights in the Kingdom based on the rights and duties included in the Jordanian Constitution and the international agreements and charters to which the Kingdom has committed, and to contribute to the consolidation of human rights principles in thought and practice, and strengthening the democratic approach in the Kingdom to be an integrated and balanced model based on spreading freedoms, ensuring political pluralism, and respecting the rule of law.

Among these objectives, paragraph (5/) of the aforementioned Center Law stipulates that the Center shall make recommendations and submit the necessary proposals to protect human rights in the Kingdom. The National Center for Human Rights has sought in its annual reports on the state of human rights to propose recommendations to the relevant parties, which were distributed over 20 human rights included in the annual report.

General characteristics of the National Center for Human Rights recommendations:

1. Objective recommendations based on data that has been monitored, analyzed, documented and verified.
2. Specific recommendations calling for the amendment, cancellation or enactment of specific legislation in various human rights fields.
3. Comprehensive recommendations to monitor the reality of policies and regulatory practices in the political, economic, social and rights fields of the groups most in need of protection.

The most prominent axes that continue to be a source of concern for the center in implementing its recommendations are:

1. Slow (or absent) implementation of the recommendations of the National Centre for Human Rights.
2. The impact of regional and international public policies - political, economic, social and cultural - on the human rights situation in the Kingdom.
3. The absence of the role of informal activities in implementing the Center's recommendations and not including them among the priorities of its agenda.

The Center calls for the necessity of adopting the recommendations contained in this report, as the process of evaluating the status of response to the recommendations of the report on the status of human rights in the Kingdom is one of the indicators indicating the extent of fulfillment of human rights standards guaranteed by the Constitution and international agreements, charters and treaties ratified by the Jordanian state and published in the Official Gazette, which have become part of the national legal system.

**Recommendations issued by the Center in the nineteenth annual report on the human rights situation in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**

| Recommendation No.  | Content of the Recommendation   | Recommendations implemented |                        |                 | Stakeholders                          | Time frame  |
|---|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
|   |   | Full implementation         | partial implementation | Not implemented |                                       |             |
| <b>Civil and Political Rights Axis</b>                      |   |                             |                        |                 |                                       |             |
| <b>Right to life, liberty and physical integrity</b>        |   |                             |                        |                 |                                       |             |
| 1   | Eliminating legislative shortcomings related to the criminalization of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and compensation for victims, as referred to in the body of the report.                       |                             |                        | ✓               | Parliament                            | Medium term |
| 2   | Establishing specialized centers for the rehabilitation of torture victims.   |                             |                        | ✓               |                                       | Medium term |
| 3   | Taking the necessary measures from all parties to reduce the problem of overcrowding in correctional and rehabilitation centers; including expanding alternatives to custodial penalties and alternatives to detention. |                             | ✓                      |                 | Ministry of Interior                  | Medium term |
| 4   | Taking the necessary safety measures to reduce drowning accidents in agricultural ponds and dams, while paying due attention to the awareness aspect.   |                             | ✓                      |                 | Civil Defense Directorate             | Short term  |
| 5   | Taking the necessary measures to reduce traffic accidents, including carrying out the necessary road maintenance and raising traffic awareness among individuals.   |                             | ✓                      |                 | Ministry of Interior                  | Short term  |
| 6   | Conducting the necessary studies to identify the causes of suicide in order to reduce them according to social studies and a participatory approach between state institutions.   |                             |                        | ✓               | National Center for Forensic Medicine | Short term  |
| 7   |   |                             |                        |                 | Parliament                            | Medium term |
| <b>Right to access to justice and fair trial guarantees</b> |   |                             |                        |                 |                                       |             |
| 8   | Reviewing the legal aid regulation to ensure the comprehensiveness of the organization in accordance with the requirements of Articles (208) and (63 bis) of the Criminal Procedure                                     |                             | ✓                      |                 | Parliament                            | Medium term |

|    |   |  |   |  |                                   |             |
|----|---|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|-------------|
|    | Code No. (9) of 1961, as amended, by providing a legal organization for mandatory legal aid, and requests for legal aid submitted to the Minister by the competent official authorities or any of the concerned parties.  |  |   |  |                                   |             |
| 9  | Reviewing the text of Article (62) of the Law of the Regular Bar Association and its amendments No. (11) of 1972, based on its inconsistency with the principle of equality in litigation, and the practical problems that result from the continuation of this text, which constitute an obstacle to the right to litigation guaranteed to all without discrimination between them, and the full enjoyment of the guarantees of the right to a fair trial.   |  | ✓ |  | Parliament                        | Medium term |
| 10 | Making amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code No. (9) of 1961, as amended in a manner that guarantees the principle of the individual's right to material and moral compensation for harm resulting from detention that is not in line with the legal controls contained in the Criminal Procedure Code, and in the event that a verdict of acquittal is issued.   |  | ✓ |  | Parliament                        | Medium term |
| 11 | Continue to adopt the approach of expanding the application of community penalties and alternatives to detention in particular.   |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Justice               | Short term  |
| 12 | At the administrative judiciary level, the center recommends the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing administrative courts in the northern and southern regions.</li> <li>- Amending the Administrative Judiciary Law No. (27) of 2014, in a manner that ensures the removal of the conflict between Articles 28 and 34; which contributes to the proper implementation of the rulings issued by the administrative judiciary.</li> </ul> Determining the fees of lawsuits according to clear principles and not leaving the matter to |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Justice<br>Parliament | Medium term |

|   |  |   |                      |   |  |             |
|---|--|---|----------------------|---|--|-------------|
|   | the discretion of the President of the Administrative Court or according to the case.  |   |                      |   |  |             |
| <b>Right to nationality, residence, movement and asylum</b> |  |   |                      |   |  |             |
| 13  | The necessity of the international community's cooperation with Jordan to meet the burdens of asylum and its requirements in light of the large numbers hosted by the Kingdom.   |   | ✓                    |   | Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation | Short term  |
| 14  | The necessity of continuing to implement the tribal exile (jalwa) document until appropriate legal solutions are found that would resolve the challenges resulting from issues related to tribal exile (jalwa).  | ✓ | Ministry of Interior |   |  | Short term  |
| <b>The right to elect and be elected:</b>                   |  |   |                      |   |  |             |
| 15  | Amending Local Administration Law No. (22) of 2021, to ensure that the authority to dissolve and suspend councils by a judicial decision, embodies the contents of Articles (120 and 121) of the Jordanian Constitution, and leads to translating the essence of decentralization.   |   |                      | ✓ | Parliament   | Medium term |
| 16  | Emphasizing the recommendations mentioned in the specialized reports on monitoring electoral processes, including amending the Bar Association Law and the legislation regulating these elections.   |   | ✓                    |   | Bar Association  | Medium term |
| 17  | Preparing, training and qualifying the cadres that participate in implementing all stages of the electoral process and enhancing the role of persons with disabilities, youth and women in those committees, and determining the basis for selecting heads of polling stations and heads of committees in each district in a manner that ensures neutrality and integrity. | ✓ |                      |   | Independent Election Commission  | Short term  |
| 18  | Providing polling places (polling stations) that guarantee voters the ability to cast their votes in an accessible manner, with an emphasis on providing facilitating arrangements for persons   |   | ✓                    |   | Independent Election Commission  | Short term  |

|  |   |   |   |   |   |             |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|-------------|
|  | with disabilities and the elderly.  |   |   |   |   |             |
| 19   | Combine national efforts to raise collective awareness of the importance of participation in elections, as both a right and a duty. Intensify national efforts to enhance the participation of women, youth, and persons with disabilities in elections in all their forms. | ✓ |   |   | Independent Election Commission<br>Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs<br>Civil Society Institutions<br>National Institutions | Short term  |
| 20   | Continuing efforts to control electoral crimes, including political money, and bringing perpetrators to justice in a manner that ensures the smooth running of the electoral process by the relevant authorities.   | ✓ |   |   | Independent Election Commission   | Short term  |
| <b>The right to freedom of opinion, expression, press, media and access to information</b> |   |   |   |   |   |             |
| 21   | Preparing a national media strategy aimed at improving the reality of media freedoms and providing a legislative environment that guarantees freedom of the press and media   |   |   | ✓ | Ministry of Information and Communication   | Short term  |
| 22   | Amending legislation related to freedom of expression and freedom of the press and media as a single legislative matrix to prevent legislative contradiction and duplication  |   | ✓ |   | Parliament  | Medium term |
| 23   | Accelerating the approval of the amended draft law on guaranteeing the right to access information, which is in the House of Representatives, based on international human rights standards and the Jordanian Constitution.   | ✓ |   |   | Parliament  | Short term  |
| 24   | Strengthening the right to access information by monitoring the information classification process and appointing an information coordinator in each entity involved in implementing the law.   | ✓ |   |   | Ministry of Communication   | Medium term |
| 25   | Expanding awareness of the right to access information to relevant parties, especially raising awareness of the law regulating this   |   | ✓ |   | Ministry of Communication   | Short term  |

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|  | right, the information classification and archiving protocol, and the procedures for obtaining information approved by the Council of Ministers.  |   |  |   |  |             |
| <b>The right to peaceful assembly</b>                    |   |   |  |   |  |             |
| 26   | Redefining the right to assembly to include the basic elements of any peaceful gathering (organization, timing, purpose of the meeting, publicity and publicity of the meeting, and number).  |   |  | ✓ | Parliament   | Medium term |
| 27   | Including in the Public Meetings Law regulatory and procedural restrictions on the powers of the administrative governor in accordance with the Jordanian Constitution and international standards for human rights.  |   |  | ✓ | Parliament   | Medium term |
| <b>The right to establish and join political parties</b> |   |   |  |   |  |             |
| 28   | The necessity of developing systematic training programs for students on sound democratic practices, organized collective work, and the development of party life in Jordan; to prepare them to engage in political and party work, and to apply these practices on the ground through student council elections in schools and universities. | ✓ |  |   | Independent Election Commission<br>Deanships of Student Affairs in Universities<br>Ministry of Education   | Short term  |
| 29   | Intensify training programs concerned with training party youth on the skills necessary to manage electoral campaigns and gain support and advocacy.  | ✓ |  |   | Independent Election Commission<br>Ministry of Youth<br>Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs<br>Civil Society Institutions<br>National Institutions | Short term  |
| 30   | Enhancing youth engagement in parties and ensuring equitable access to their financial  | ✓ |  |   | Political Parties  | Medium term |

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|   | resources and leadership positions.   |   |   |  |  |             |
| 31  | Continuing efforts to empower women, youth and persons with disabilities to participate politically through cultural and media channels that encourage them to participate politically and join political parties.                              | ✓ |   |  | Independent Election Commission<br>Ministry of Youth<br>Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs<br>Civil Society Institutions<br>National Institutions | Short term  |
| <b>The right to establish and join trade unions</b> |   |   |   |  |  |             |
| 32  | Reviewing Article (116) of Labor Law No. (8) of 1996, as amended, which granted the Minister of Labor the power to dissolve the union's administrative body and appoint a temporary administrative body, and grant this power to the judiciary. |   | ✓ |  | Parliament   | Medium term |
| 33  | Ratification of International Labor Convention No. (87) on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize.  |   | ✓ |  | Parliament   | Long term   |
| <b>The right to establish and join associations</b> |   |   |   |  |  |             |
| 34  | Unifying the reference for supervision and follow-up on the work of associations.   |   | ✓ |  | Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation<br>Register of Associations   | Medium term |
| 35  | Strengthening partnerships between government institutions and civil society institutions in the areas of preparing plans and strategies.   |   | ✓ |  | Government Coordinator   | Medium term |
| 36  | Developing and activating the legal and procedural frameworks regulating the work of civil society institutions, ensuring that they are allowed to continue to carry out their  |   | ✓ |  | Supervisory bodies for the work of associations  | Medium term |



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|    | responsibilities efficiently and effectively by easing restrictions related to access to internal and external funding sources, obtaining national information and data, and enhancing their oversight role over the implementation of government plans and programs.  |  |   |  |  |            |
| 37 | Establishing an institutional mechanism to sustain communication, consultations, dialogues and partnerships between government institutions, public bodies, civil society organizations and the National Assembly, operating under an independent body.  |  | ✓ |  | National Center for Human Rights<br>Government Coordinator<br>National Assembly<br>Committees<br>Civil Society<br>Institutions | Short term |
| 38 | Applying the principles of good governance in short-term associations Civil society institutions   |  | ✓ |  | Associations   | Short term |
| 39 | Conducting a survey that includes all civil society institutions, and for all specializations, as well as surveying the opinions of those who join these institutions regarding the legal framework regulating their work in preparation for developing these legislations in a way that meets their needs and aspirations, is consistent with political reforms and constitutional amendments, human rights concepts and systems, and is in line with the vision of the National Human Rights Plan, and is based on genuine national consultation and consensus regarding volunteer work; provided that this is accompanied by the development of a national plan that guarantees education and training in volunteer work in universities and secondary schools; and the rehabilitation and training of workers in volunteer work according to a comprehensive plan. |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Social Development   | Short term |

**Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Axis**

**The right to development and an adequate standard of living**

|                           |   |  |   |  |  |             |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|-------------|
| 40                        | To address the water problem, it is necessary to work on desalinating seawater to become independent of water resources and develop a strategy for the importance of using technology to address water challenges, determine the amount of wasted water, address this important issue, and take measures to treat and reuse water in agriculture and industry, to address the impact of climate change on the water sector. |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Water  | Long term   |
| 41                        | The necessity of directing local administrations to identify development priorities within their annual executive plans to support and achieve sustainable development goals.   |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation                         | Medium term |
| <b>Right to work</b>      |   |  |   |  |  |             |
| 42                        | Working to provide the necessary funding for the Human Trafficking Victims Assistance Fund to perform its role in the best possible way.  |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Labor<br>Ministry of Justice<br>Ministry of Social Development | Medium term |
| 43                        | Working to provide occupational safety and health conditions in the workplace   |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Labor  | Short term  |
| 44                        | Taking effective measures to reduce the phenomenon of child labor   |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Labor  | Short term  |
| <b>Right to education</b> |   |  |   |  |  |             |
| 45                        | Reviewing the programs and plans followed to address the problem of school dropouts and combining efforts between all concerned parties.  |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Education  | Short term  |
| 46                        | Working to improve the quality of education by developing curricula and educational methods and providing modern and effective educational resources that help attract students and encourage them to continue studying.  |  | ✓ |  | National Center for Curriculum Development                                 | Medium term |
| 47                        | Providing additional support to students who face learning difficulties, whether by enrolling them in special programs for those with learning difficulties, or conducting special  |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Education  | Medium term |

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|                        | reviews for them at specific times, to help them improve their performance and increase their self-confidence   |  |   |  |  |             |
| 48                     | Intensify efforts to include all children in the age group (4-5) years in kindergartens and make the second kindergarten stage mandatory, given the great importance of the pre-school education stage.   |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Education                      | Medium term |
| <b>Cultural rights</b> |   |  |   |  |  |             |
| 49                     | Continue to support efforts to discover more archaeological sites by the competent authorities.   |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Culture<br>Ministry of Tourism | Medium term |
| 50                     | Update the objectives contained in the National Tourism Strategy and prioritize them to align with the economic modernization plan  |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Tourism                        | Short term  |
| 51                     | Continue to develop tourism facilities and their infrastructure.  |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Tourism                        | Long term   |
| 52                     | Unifying national efforts in the field of cultural business incubators and creative industries.   |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Culture                        | Medium term |
| 53                     | Increase government spending on cultural rights including cultural activities, events, festivals and initiatives  |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Culture                        | Medium term |
| <b>Right to health</b> |   |  |   |  |  |             |
| 54                     | The necessity of raising the level of health care available to the Ministry of Health in government hospitals.  |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Health                         | Medium term |
| 55                     | Working to include all citizens in free comprehensive health insurance.   |  | ✓ |  | Council of Ministers                       | Medium term |
| 56                     | The necessity of taking all preventive and therapeutic measures to prevent and stop the increase in the spread of communicable diseases   |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Health                         | Medium term |
| 57                     | The necessity of activating the Medical Accountability Law of 2018 in cooperation with partners in the medical sector and health unions, and finding solutions that guarantee the rights of the patient, the doctor, the hospital and all parties to the equation within clear and fair |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Health                         | Short term  |

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|   | mechanisms. In addition to taking appropriate and strict measures to control cosmetic procedures performed by non-specialized clinics.  |   |   |  |   |             |
| 58  | The necessity of intensifying preventive and educational measures by the Ministry of Health, in addition to conducting free and frequent examinations for patients, especially in remote areas, to avoid the transmission of infection and the spread of communicable diseases.   |   | ✓ |  | Ministry of Health  | Short term  |
| 59  | Continue to focus on effective inspection and oversight operations by the Ministry of Health and the Saudi Food and Drug Authority to ensure that all food establishments, factories and restaurants throughout the Kingdom comply with public health and safety requirements.  |   | ✓ |  | Ministry of Health  | Short term  |
| <b>The right to a healthy environment</b> |   |   |   |  |   |             |
| 60  | Establishing central stations for treating industrial and natural wastewater in all regions of the Kingdom.   |   |   |  | Ministry of Environment<br>Ministry of Agriculture  | Medium term |
| 61  | The need to intensify voluntary and awareness campaigns to reduce the phenomenon of forest and tree fires, especially in the summer, by intensifying supervision of summer resorts and raising awareness of the dangers of setting fires inside forests. It is also necessary to intensify efforts to remove weeds from streets and public squares, to prevent fires and protect plant and forest wealth. |   | ✓ |  | Ministry of Environment<br>Ministry of Agriculture  | Short term  |
| 62  | Continuous coordination between policy makers in sectors that directly and indirectly affect the environment.   | ✓ |   |  | Ministry of Environment<br>Ministry of Agriculture<br>Ministry of Energy<br>Ministry of Water | Short term  |

| The axis of rights most in need of protection |   |   |   |  |  |             |
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| Women's right                                 |   |   |   |  |  |             |
| 63  | Amending the Instructions for Institutional Nursery Alternatives for the year 2023 AD to limit the cases that allow the use of cash payment instead of establishing a nursery on the institution's site   |   | ✓ |  | Ministry of Social Development   | Short term  |
| 64  | Enhancing women's involvement in parties through awareness programs on the importance of women's participation in parties.  | ✓ |   |  | Independent Election Commission<br>Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs<br>Civil Society Institutions<br>Parties<br>National Institutions             | Medium term |
| 65  | Develop a national plan to increase the percentage of women's participation in public affairs management by raising the quota for women in the House of Representatives, increasing their representation in senior leadership positions in the state, and considering the possibility of amending the laws of trade unions and professional associations so that they explicitly stipulate the allocation of special seats for women in trade union councils. | ✓ |   |  | Parliamentary Women's Committee<br>Jordanian National Committee for Women's Affairs<br>Jordanian Hashemite Fund<br>Ministerial Committee for Women's Empowerment | Short term  |
| 66  | Appointing female judges in the Sharia judiciary and a female marriage officer, and appointing female employees in the Sharia courts and the General Fatwa Department   |   | ✓ |  | Ministry of Justice  | Medium term |
| 67  | Supporting women's economic and social empowerment, providing them with job opportunities and developing their skills in line   |   | ✓ |  | Ministry of Planning and International   | Medium term |

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|                          | with the market's needs for manpower, especially in remote areas  |  |   |  | Cooperation<br>Ministry of<br>Social<br>Development   |             |
| 68                       | Building the capacity of civil society institutions and activating the role of the media to empower women in local communities  |  | ✓ |  | Supervisory<br>bodies for the<br>work of<br>associations  | Medium term |
| 69                       | Providing job opportunities for women and developing their skills to suit their needs in the labor market, especially in remote areas   |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of<br>Labor<br>Ministry of<br>Planning and<br>International<br>Cooperation   | Medium term |
| <b>Children's Rights</b> |   |  |   |  |   |             |
| 70                       | Issuing regulations and instructions for organizing and implementing what is contained in the Child Rights Law.   |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of<br>Social<br>Development  | Short term  |
| 71                       | Implementing cultural activities and awareness programs on the rights contained in the Child Rights Law targeting children in schools and those working in the field of providing care for children.                                  |  | ✓ |  | Civil society<br>institutions<br>National<br>institutions<br>Ministry of<br>Education<br>Ministry of<br>Social<br>Development | Short term  |
| 72                       | Approval of the draft Juvenile Worker Protection System, which defines the legal framework for dealing with juvenile workers in a manner that ensures the protection of the child's rights and the achievement of his best interests. |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of<br>Social<br>Development  | Medium term |
| 73                       | Activating the Juvenile Aftercare Regulation No. (67) of 2016 and the instructions issued pursuant thereto, which are the instructions for the foundations of the Juvenile Aftercare Regulation for the year 2021.                    |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of<br>Social<br>Development  | Short term  |
| 74                       | Increasing the number of staff working in social  |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of   | Medium term |

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|  | care homes affiliated with the Ministry of Social Development.   |  |   |  | Social Development  |             |
| <b>Rights of Persons with Disabilities</b> |  |  |   |  |   |             |
| 75   | Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.  |  | ✓ |  | Parliament  | Medium term |
| 76   | Raising the representation of persons with disabilities in political parties.  |  | ✓ |  | Parliament  | Medium term |
| 77   | Disseminate awareness programs on the rights of persons with disabilities to obtain an identification card from the Supreme Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.   |  | ✓ |  | The Supreme Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities                                    | Short term  |
| 78   | Preparing all polling stations for the participation of persons with disabilities in elections in all their forms.   |  | ✓ |  | Independent Election Commission   | Medium term |
| 79   | Preparing a database on the number of persons with disabilities among registered voters for voting purposes, their percentage and geographical distribution, or determining the type of disability, as well as the number of candidates with disabilities, to enable those preparing studies and reports to prepare their studies and reports and come up with recommendations and action plans. |  | ✓ |  | Independent Election Commission<br>The Supreme Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities | Medium term |
| 80   | Strengthening the role of the media in raising awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities and the need to emphasize the right of a customer with a disability to file a complaint against any bank that refuses to provide a banking service to him.   |  | ✓ |  | The Supreme Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities                                    | Medium term |
| 81   | Work by the concerned authorities to implement and activate all strategies related to the rights of persons with disabilities  |  | ✓ |  | The Supreme Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities                                    | Short term  |
| 82   | Providing all reasonable facilitation arrangements and environmental facilities for persons with disabilities that enable them to  |  | ✓ |  | The Supreme Council for the Affairs of  | Medium term |

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|                              | practice their normal lives equally and without discrimination  |  |   |  | Persons with Disabilities      |             |
| <b>Rights of the elderly</b> |   |  |   |  |                                |             |
| 83                           | Continuing national efforts to represent Jordan to contribute to supporting international efforts aimed at drafting an international agreement on the rights of older persons.  |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Foreign Affairs    | Short term  |
| 84                           | Approval of a special law on the rights of the elderly.   |  | ✓ |  | Parliament                     | Medium term |
| 85                           | Building a database and classified statistics that take into account gender, age, disability, health, social, economic, and other aspects, so that the necessary forms of intervention within the framework of protecting the rights of the elderly can be based on these statistical outputs.  |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Social Development | Medium term |
| 86                           | Raising awareness of those working with the elderly in shelters and day clubs and providing them with qualified educational cadres to be a starting point towards providing home services in the future on a volunteer basis.   |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Social Development | Short term  |
| 87                           | Benefit from the free express bus for those who have reached 60 years of age, and increase the number of buses equipped for the elderly and cover all areas.  |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Social Development | Short term  |
| 88                           | Establishing day clubs to accommodate the energies of the elderly during daylight hours to activate their social role in all governorates of the Kingdom.   |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Social Development | Medium term |
| 89                           | Providing a secure retirement future for the elderly through the umbrella of social security, which achieves the minimum reward for what he has provided in his life for his country and family   |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Social Development | Medium term |
| 90                           | The concerned authorities shall prepare development policies that support the elderly in rural and desert areas, including enhancing the participatory approach aimed at involving the elderly in development and decision-making that concerns them, involving the private sector, exchanging expertise, and targeted media promotion. |  | ✓ |  | Ministry of Social Development | Short term  |



## Appendix No. (2)

### Summary of the Center's Follow-ups and Procedures on the Events in the Gaza Strip

#### Introduction:

The National Center for Human Rights is a national institution with national, regional and international responsibilities. It believes that common human and universal human rights values are a human legacy that the international community must preserve, develop and disseminate. It requires the concerted efforts of international historical efforts to frame common, comprehensive concepts of human rights and confront any diminution or infringement of those common values and concepts.

The Center has monitored the imminent danger to the human rights regulation in the occupied Palestinian territories and the region in general, as a result of the shocking humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip, which the Israeli occupation authorities are working to expand according to well-studied strategies and systematic practices.

The double standards in dealing with any human rights issue is a complex violation of human rights, and will inevitably create a general global climate of brutal aggression, violent extremism, the spread and generalization of violations, and the automatic justification of them. There is no better evidence of this than the current situation in the Gaza Strip as a result of the daily disregard for the crimes of the Israeli occupation in the Palestinian Arab territories.

From this standpoint, the National Center for Human Rights took a series of practical and legal measures from the first moments of the Israeli occupation authorities' attacks on the Gaza Strip on 07/10/2023, which are as follows:

1. The Center's participation in the meeting of the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions on 11/10/2023, with the aim of coordinating efforts within the framework of joint legal mechanisms that contribute to

stopping the war on the Gaza Strip and the accompanying serious human rights violations. Several measures were taken under this coordination, namely:

- Sending urgent messages to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and international treaty and non-treaty bodies for human rights, to demand clear positions regarding Israeli violations of human rights and breaches of international humanitarian law.
  - Sending letters to the European Union countries that will suspend their development support to Palestine.
  - Requesting the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to call for an emergency session of the Human Rights Council to discuss the humanitarian situation in Palestine and the disastrous humanitarian and security repercussions of the continued escalation and expansion.
  - Directing a request to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to issue a preventive statement on war crimes in the Gaza Strip, and urgent intervention to put an end to the violations and crimes committed.
2. The Board of Trustees of the Center held an emergency meeting on Saturday morning, 14/10/2023, to discuss possible regional and international human rights mechanisms that can be taken in response to the Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip. In this context, the Council decided the following:
    - Opening an operations room to follow up on developments in the territories of the State of Palestine and the Gaza Strip.
    - Forming a special committee of members of the Board of Trustees to be in permanent session for follow-up and coordination.
    - Reviewing the outcomes of the field monitoring team's work on the solidarity protests taking place in all governorates of the Kingdom within the framework of exercising freedom of expression, as a legitimate way to shed light on the systematic violations in the Gaza Strip, in addition to monitoring the government measures taken to deal with all manifestations of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly denouncing the violations of the Israeli authorities as an occupying power.

3. Forming a technical working committee at the level of the General Secretariat of the Center.
4. On 15/10/2023, the Center issued a statement on the tragic humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip as a result of the Israeli attacks, entitled "The National Center for Human Rights' Position on the Systematic Violations in the Gaza Strip." (The statement was issued in Arabic and English)
5. On 15/10/2023, the Follow-up and Coordination Committee on the Conditions of the Gaza Strip held a meeting, and the committee came out with the following directions:
  - Preparing a legal study on the violations committed by the occupation authorities against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, and sending it to all United Nations bodies, special rapporteurs, European Union embassies in the Kingdom, international human rights organizations, and all relevant international parties. (And translating it into English, Spanish, French, and German).
  - Activating the Center's official accounts on social media platforms.
6. On 17/10/2023, the Center issued a statement regarding the Baptist Hospital massacre entitled "The Baptist Hospital Massacre in Gaza: A Violation of International Humanitarian Law."
7. On 14/10/2023, Dr. Reem Abu Dalbough, the Center's facilitator, made an intervention via Al-Mamlaka Channel to talk about the Center's statement regarding the Baptist massacre.
8. On 18/10/2023, Her Excellency the President of the Council, Ms. Samar Al-Hajj Hassan, made an intervention via one of the local radio stations (Rotana Radio - Yasser Al-Nusour Program) to talk about the Center's statement regarding the Baptist massacre, and the Center's legal procedures to address the situation in the Gaza Strip.
9. The National Center for Human Rights: Attacks on religious sites in Gaza are desecrations within the framework of ethnic cleansing: The National Center for Human Rights condemns the attack by the Israeli occupation authorities that targeted the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Porphyrius in the Gaza Strip yesterday evening, Thursday, and the destruction of many mosques that preceded it.
 

Attacking religious sites constitutes a war crime, an attack on civilians who have found safe refuge there, and a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, especially Articles 53 and 58 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. It also constitutes a serious violation of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954. The Center renews its call to the international community to immediately prevent the systematic practices of the occupation authorities linked to ideological agendas that contradict the international human rights system.
10. The Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee for the Empowerment of Women, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN Women, delivered on 12/19/2023 a message of solidarity from Jordanian women with the women of Gaza, which was prepared by the National Center for Human Rights, the Ministerial Committee for the Empowerment of Women, and the Jordanian National Commission for Women's Affairs<sup>345</sup>,

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<sup>345</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/NCHRJORDAN>

Which was signed by Jordanian women and the message includes the necessity of stopping the war crimes in Gaza that are being committed against Gaza, its people, women and children, and ensuring that the perpetrators of crimes against humanity are held accountable.

11. On 23/10/2023, the National Center for Human Rights issued a legal memorandum on the situation in Gaza in accordance with international humanitarian law and human rights law as follows:

Legal Memorandum Issued by the National Center for Human Rights – Jordan

This memorandum aims to shed light on the systematic and ongoing violations of international law committed by the Israeli occupation authorities in Palestine in general and in the Gaza Strip in particular, which occur under the eyes and ears of the international community, and which are represented in the following:

First: The violations in the Gaza Strip constitute a coup against the global legacy of the human rights system, and a systematic violation of the philosophy and principles of the global human rights system.

Second: The crimes of the occupation authorities have risen to the level of war crimes and crimes against humanity, as the practices of the occupation authorities in the Gaza Strip, including the killing of civilians, genocide, displacement, demolition of homes and property, collective punishment, and other grave violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, through several contexts:

1. Direct and deliberate targeting of journalists and press crews: which constitutes a war crime against civilians, as press crews are covered by the same protection granted to civilians in conflict areas according to the Third Geneva Convention and the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 1977.

It is also a flagrant violation of freedom of expression and the right of the international community to know the truth of what is happening on the ground, so that it can play its role in protecting civilians and trying to limit the conflict, which makes the attack on press crews an obstacle to that important role of the international community.

2. Assault on life and physical integrity, killing, and causing serious bodily harm: This is a violation of the Fourth Geneva Conventions, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War under Articles 3 and 32.
3. Destruction of property: It is a violation under Articles 32 and 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, whether owned by individuals or public or private institutions.
4. The individual or collective transfer or deportation of persons from conflict areas, whether to occupied territories or elsewhere, is a violation of Article (49) of the Fourth Geneva Convention.
5. Collective punishments and/or collective reprisals committed by the occupying authority against the people of the Gaza Strip or their property are prohibited acts under international humanitarian law, as they constitute a clear violation of Article (33) of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits collective punishments and all measures of intimidation and terrorism.
6. Attacking civilian hospitals and/or medical personnel is a violation of Articles 16, 17, 18 and 20 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, as these hospitals must enjoy continuous protection and any attack on them, their personnel and/or medical supplies must be prohibited.

The heinous attack on the Arab Baptist Hospital constitutes a heinous crime under international humanitarian law, and the attack on medical supplies and the denial of their arrival constitute a violation of Article 17.

This constitutes a violation of the obligation to provide a safe passage for these supplies, as this article, in addition to Article (16), requires the obligation to provide a safe passage for these medical supplies and the necessity of establishing local arrangements to transport the wounded, sick, pregnant women, women, children, the disabled and the elderly from besieged and encircled areas and to facilitate the passage of medical personnel and medical missions to these areas. The Fourth Geneva Convention affirms, in an absolute manner, in Articles 18 and 20, that hospitals may not be attacked under any circumstances, and that the parties to the conflict must respect and protect them at all times, in addition to the obligation to respect and protect the personnel assigned to the operation and administration of civilian hospitals, including those charged with searching for, collecting, transporting, and treating the wounded and sick.

The ongoing attacks on the Gaza Strip, including those near the Jordanian field hospital, cutting off the supply of medical supplies, and multiplying the challenges facing the field hospital's continued operation and the provision of its humanitarian duties, constitute a flagrant violation of these articles of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

7. The continued attacks on cultural objects and places of worship, which are prohibited by the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property, which prohibits any form of attack on these properties in the event of armed conflict, and stresses the need to preserve them.

The First Protocol annexed to the Geneva Conventions also prohibits acts of hostility directed against historical monuments, works of art, or places of worship that constitute the cultural or spiritual heritage of peoples.

Third: The Center stresses the necessity of facilitating humanitarian corridors to bring in medical and relief aid to the Gaza Strip and to provide electricity and water. In this regard, it points out that obstructing relief efforts constitutes a violation of Article (23) of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which stressed the necessity of the passage of all medicines and medical supplies, as well as food, clothing, and other items.

Fourth: The violations committed by Israel collectively amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of genocide, which are absolutely prohibited under Article 5 of the Rome Statute, which requires Israel to be held accountable internationally at the level of the entity as a whole and at the level of individuals.

## Attachments

| No. | Subject  | Link   |
|-----|--|--|
| 1   | Participation of the Center in the meeting of the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions on 11-10-2023   | <a href="https://www.nchr.org.jo/ar/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%A%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1/%">https://www.nchr.org.jo/ar/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%A%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1/%</a>  |
| 2   | The Center's statement on the Baptist Hospital massacre (the statement was issued in Arabic and English)   | <a href="https://petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=259775&amp;lang=ar&amp;name=news&amp;cat=news">https://petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=259775&amp;lang=ar&amp;name=news&amp;cat=news</a>  |
| 3   | Announcing the Center's efforts to stop the aggression on the Gaza Strip in cooperation and coordination with the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions. | <a href="https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbidpfbid02j2w66jloxHXRYPRtjd7EJGvmDuZaPTjPKgr1=1jsPVCfM8NrychYbK6xxKhQcivl&amp;id=100064364002692sfnsn=wa&amp;mibextid=9R9pXO&amp;">https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbidpfbid02j2w66jloxHXRYPRtjd7EJGvmDuZaPTjPKgr1=1jsPVCfM8NrychYbK6xxKhQcivl&amp;id=100064364002692sfnsn=wa&amp;mibextid=9R9pXO&amp;</a><br><a href="https://alrai.com/article/10806073/%D9%85%D8%AD%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AA/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%82%D9%88%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%85%D8%AC%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%85%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%BA%D8%B2%D8%A9%D8%A5%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%88%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A">https://alrai.com/article/10806073/%D9%85%D8%AD%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AA/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%82%D9%88%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%85%D8%AC%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%85%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%BA%D8%B2%D8%A9%D8%A5%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%88%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A</a> |
| 4   | (The statement was issued in Arabic and English)   | <a href="https://alghad.com/Section199/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%BA%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B1%D8%AF%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%82%D9%88%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%85%D8%AC%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A9%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%B4%D9%81%D9%89%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%85%D8%AF%D8%BA%D8%B2%D8%A9%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D9%81%D9%8A%D9%82%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A5%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%A9%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%88%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A1451265">https://alghad.com/Section199/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%BA%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B1%D8%AF%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%82%D9%88%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%85%D8%AC%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A9%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%B4%D9%81%D9%89%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%85%D8%AF%D8%BA%D8%B2%D8%A9%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D9%81%D9%8A%D9%82%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A5%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%A9%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%88%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A1451265</a>  |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 5 | Presence in the media field through television and radio stations; to clarify the efforts of the center and its role in this stage                   | <a href="https://fb.watch/nLkkZWHnn/?mibextid=9R9pXO">https://fb.watch/nLkkZWHnn/?mibextid=9R9pXO</a>  |
| 6 | Continuous coordination with Dr. Ammar Dweik - Director General of the Independent Commission in the State of Palestine                              |  |
| 7 | Activating the center's pages on social media (Facebook, Twitter) to present the center's positions and practical procedures, in Arabic and English. | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/NCHRJORDAN?mibextid=ZbWKwL">https://www.facebook.com/NCHRJORDAN?mibextid=ZbWKwL</a><br><a href="https://x.com/jordan_nchr?t=2e0_IFhys6LbtCDK46k7uw&amp;s=08">https://x.com/jordan_nchr?t=2e0_IFhys6LbtCDK46k7uw&amp;s=08</a> |
| 8 | Publications of the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions Procedures  | Please see the account below:<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/annhri?mibextid=ZbWKwL">https://www.facebook.com/annhri?mibextid=ZbWKwL</a>   |

### Appendix No. (3)

#### Analysis of complaints received by the National Center for Human Rights in 2023

- **Complaints received by the center during the year 2023:**

The number of complaints received by the Center in 2023 was (638) complaints, compared to (622) complaints in 2022, including (444) complaints related to civil and political rights, and (143) complaints related to economic, social and cultural rights. The number of complaints related to the rights of the groups most in need of protection was only (51) complaints, as shown in the table below.

#### Complaints received by the center during the year 2023

| Total number of complaints received by the National Center for Human Rights according to the rights allegedly violated in 2022 |                      |                                    |                                       |                                   |                    |                                    |                  |                            |
|--|----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| The right subject of the request   | Number of complaints | closed with a satisfactory result. | closed without a satisfactory result. | Outside the center's jurisdiction | No violation found | Non-cooperation of the complainant | Complaints saved | Complaints under follow-up |
| Legal recognition (nationality)  | 9                    | 0                                  | 1                                     | 0                                 | 5                  | 0                                  | 0                | 3                          |
| Right to freedom of residence and movement   | 116                  | 28                                 | 12                                    | 4                                 | 26                 | 2                                  | 0                | 44                         |
| Right to obtain identification documents   | 29                   | 6                                  | 0                                     | 1                                 | 5                  | 0                                  | 0                | 17                         |
| Right to information   | 2                    | 0                                  | 0                                     | 0                                 | 0                  | 0                                  | 0                | 2                          |
| Right to a fair trial  | 68                   | 15                                 | 0                                     | 10                                | 22                 | 2                                  | 1                | 18                         |
| Right to liberty and personal security   | 22                   | 11                                 | 0                                     | 1                                 | 5                  | 0                                  | 0                | 5                          |
| The right to decent humane treatment   | 13                   | 0                                  | 1                                     | 2                                 | 2                  | 1                                  | 1                | 6                          |
| Right to asylum  | 16                   | 3                                  | 1                                     | 5                                 | 1                  | 0                                  | 0                | 6                          |
| Right to physical safety   | 82                   | 5                                  | 3                                     | 1                                 | 33                 | 15                                 | 0                | 25                         |
| The right to life  | 8                    | 0                                  | 1                                     | 1                                 | 3                  | 0                                  | 0                | 3                          |
| Rights of inmates  | 66                   | 24                                 | 2                                     | 2                                 | 16                 | 2                                  | 0                | 20                         |

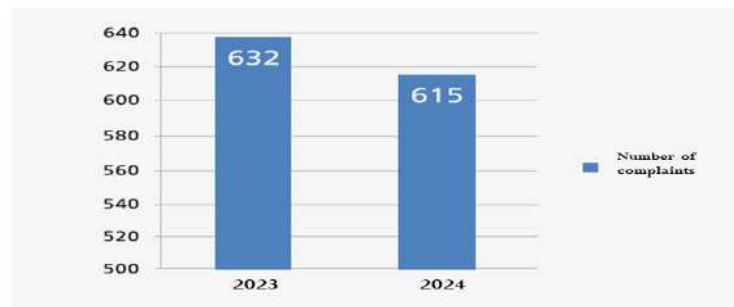
|   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| of reform and rehabilitation centers              |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| The right to equality and non-discrimination      | 1  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0  |
| The right to freedom of opinion and expression    | 4  | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1  |
| The right to establish and join associations      | 1  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1  |
| Right to peaceful assembly                        | 3  | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0  |
| Rule of law                                       | 5  | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2  |
| <b>Economic, social and cultural rights</b>       |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Right to health                                   | 27 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 12 |
| Right to work                                     | 47 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 19 |
| The right to an adequate standard of living       | 30 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| The right to education                            | 19 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 5  |
| The right to hold public office                   | 1  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0  |
| The right to social security                      | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 7  |
| Rights claims                                     | 3  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1  |
| Right to property                                 | 1  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0  |
| Right to development                              | 1  | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  |
| Right to a healthy environment                    | 5  | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2  |
| <b>Rights of those most in need of protection</b> |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| Women's rights                                    | 1  | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  |
| Children's rights                                 | 28 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 15 |
| Juvenile rights                                   | 2  | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  |



|                                     |     |        |       |       |        |       |       |        |
|-------------------------------------|-----|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| Rights of persons with disabilities | 11  | 4      | 0     | 0     | 0      | 1     | 0     | 6      |
| Rights of the elderly               | 2   | 1      | 0     | 0     | 0      | 0     | 0     | 1      |
| Family rights                       | 7   | 1      | 0     | 3     | 0      | 0     | 0     | 3      |
| Total                               | 638 | 136    | 22    | 50    | 155    | 32    | 4     | 239    |
| Percentage                          |     | 21,32% | 3,45% | 7,83% | 24,29% | 5,02% | 0,63% | 37,46% |

A chart showing the number of complaints received by the National Center during the year 2023

Number of complaints during the year 2023



- **The Center's methodology for following up on complaints received:**

The Complaints, Follow-up and Violations Unit is responsible for following up on complaints received by the center. The work mechanism is based on sequential stages, as follows:

**The first stage: Receiving the complaint**

It includes the following elements: All the essential elements of the subject of the complaint, so that it is sequential and comprehensive of its subject, a detailed statement of the legal situations existing before and after the alleged violation occurred, i.e. the impact of the violation on the legal, social, economic and especially family levels of the victim and/or his family members.

**The second stage: Initial verification procedures**

It includes two basic procedures, as follows:

First procedure: Prepare a comprehensive legal analysis of the subject of the complaint based on the national legal regulation and international human rights standards and include it through the regulation within a maximum period of 24 hours from receiving the complaint.

The second procedure: Develop a well-thought-out action plan linked to a short time frame to follow up on the complaint and proceed with the procedures to address it. The action plan should include realistic solutions to follow up on the complaint and end the violation, such as: conducting an urgent field visit to the party against whom the complaint was filed, sending a letter coupled with a legal analysis on the subject of the complaint, forming a fact-finding team, and requesting documents on the complaint from the relevant party.

**The third stage: Complaint Processing (Simultaneous and Obligatory Stages)**

It includes two basic simultaneous stages, as follows:

- First track: Direct communication with the party against whom the complaint was filed (as appropriate), and/or sending a letter with the content of the complaint based on a legal analysis, and carrying out a field visit (if necessary). The procedure must be determined and implemented within a period not exceeding 48 hours from receiving the complaint. In cases of urgent complaints in which time is an essential element, the procedure is taken within 24 hours.

- Second track: Monitoring allegations of repeated patterns of violations, whether in terms of the party complained against or the nature of the violation.

**Fourth stage: Evaluation of responses and follow-up procedures**

A decision is taken to close the complaint by a decision of the Commissioner General in the following cases: lack of jurisdiction, termination of the violation case, lack of cooperation of the complainant.

- **Results of the follow-up of complaints received by the National Center for Human Rights for the year 2023**

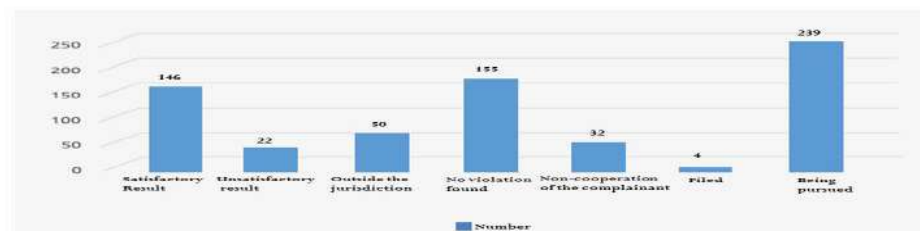
During the year 2023, the Complaints, Follow-up and Violations Ending Unit received (638) complaints, where the complaints were addressed by addressing the official authorities and forming fact-finding teams and field visits to verify the validity of the complaints received. The administration achieved a satisfactory result in (136) complaints, at a rate of (21.32%) of the total number of complaints.

22 complaints were closed without reaching a satisfactory result, representing 3.45% of the total number of complaints, and 50 complaints were closed due to the center’s lack of jurisdiction, representing 7.83% of the total number of complaints. (155) complaints were closed due to lack of evidence of any violation of human rights, at a rate of (24.29%), in addition to closing (32) complaints due to the complainant’s lack of cooperation, at a rate of (5.016%), and (4) complaints were archived at a rate of (0.63%), while the number of complaints still under follow-up reached (239) complaints at a rate of (37.46%) of the total number of complaints.

The Complaints, Follow-up and Violations Unit has followed up on the processing of (232) complaints that were ongoing and under follow-up since 2022, where (108) complaints were processed and closed, and the administration achieved satisfactory results in (53) complaints from these complaints, and also achieved satisfactory results in (28) complaints from the complaints received by the center during the year 2021.

**A chart showing the distribution of complaints according to the achieved result during the year 2023.**

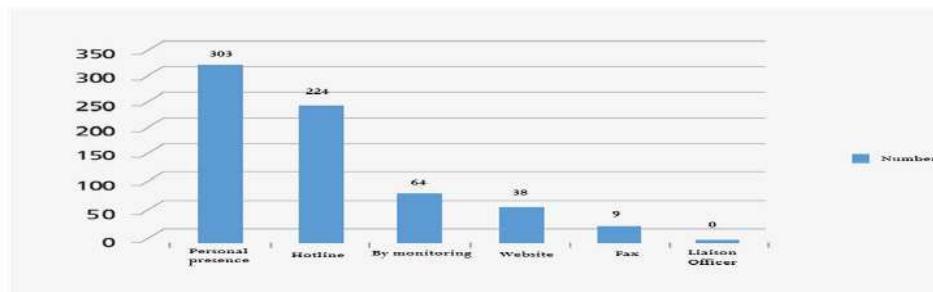
**Number of complaints according to the achieved result during the year 2023**



It is noted that the number of complaints received by the Center during the year 2023 increased by a rate of (16) complaints compared to the year 2022, as complaints related to civil and political rights topped the list of complaints, as the number of complaints related to civil and political rights increased by a rate of (27) complaints compared to the year 2022. It is also noted that the number of complaints related to economic, social and cultural rights decreased compared to the year 2022 by an average of (29) complaints, as the center recorded (143) complaints in this context during the year 2023, and complaints related to the rights of the groups most in need of protection increased by an average of (20) complaints compared to the year 2022.

It is worth noting that personal attendance is still the highest percentage of complaints received, accounting for 47% of the total complaints received by the center. It is also noted that the percentage of complaints received via the hotline has increased by 37% of the total complaints. The Civil and Political Rights Department also monitored (46) complaints, accounting for 7% of the total complaints for the year 2023. The percentage of complaints received via the website also increased by 7%, while complaints received via fax and e-mail amounted to 2%. It is also noted that no complaints were received by liaison officers in the Kingdom for the year 2023.

**A chart showing the number of complaints received by the center according to the reception method.**



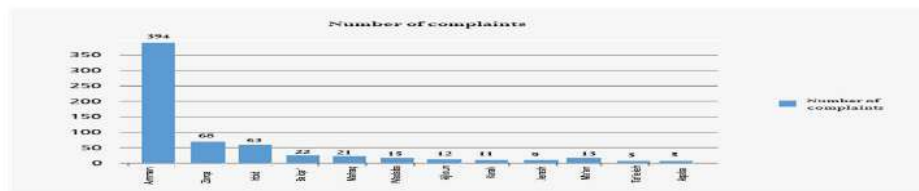
As for the distribution of complaints received by the center across the Kingdom's governorates, the graph shows that the governorates of Amman, Zarqa and Irbid have continued to have the highest percentage of complaints received by the center for several years, with the capital still having the highest number of complaints received by the center, at a percentage of (54.7%).

Zarqa Governorate also came in second place during the year 2023 AD with a percentage of (10.66%) of the total number of complaints, Irbid Governorate came in third place

with a percentage of (9.87%) of the total number of complaints, Balqa Governorate came in fourth place with a percentage of (3.45%), Mafrqa Governorate came in fifth place with a percentage of (3.29%), and Jerash Governorate came in sixth place with a percentage of (1.41%).

The center also recorded an increase in the number of complaints received from the southern governorates for the second year in a row (Aqaba, Kerak, Tafilah, and Ma'an), with a percentage of (5.32%) compared to 2022.

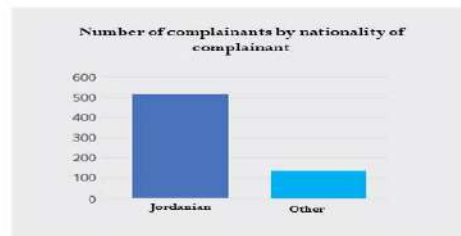
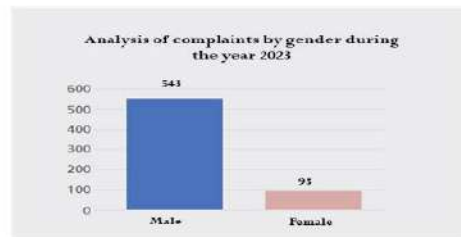
A chart showing the complaints received by the center according to the governorate during the year 2023



As for the complained-against entities during the year 2023, the National Center for Human Rights did not record any complaints against a number of ministries such as: (Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Youth, Ministry of Energy, Mineral Resources, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply). It is noted that complaints against the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees increased by 2.66%, as no complaints were recorded against the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees during the year 2022.

Within the mandate of the National Center for Human Rights to follow up on the issues of citizens, male and female, and residents of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan through receiving complaints and/or monitoring operations, the National Center followed up on complaints of residents of the Kingdom. The number of complainants holding non-Jordanian citizenship amounted to (19.75%) of the total number of complainants.

The following figure shows the number of complainants according to the nationality of the complainant.



The following figure shows the continued increase in the percentage of complaints submitted by males, as the percentage reached (85.11%) of the total number of complaints received by the center.

- Practical procedures for following up on complaints, following up and ending violations received by the center during the year 2023:
  1. Issuing (968) letters to the relevant authorities to follow up on complaints received by the center. The center also received (497) responses to complaints.
  2. The Complaints, Follow-up and Ending Violation Cases Unit provided (193) legal reviews related to the complaints submitted to the unit out of the total complaints received by the General Center in 2023.
  3. The Complaints, Follow-up and Ending Violation Cases Unit provided (126) legal consultations and services to non-Jordanian nationalities.
  4. The Complaints and Violation Unit continued cooperation and networking with Arab human rights institutions to follow up on complaints of Jordanians abroad, and achieved satisfactory results in following up on complaints such as: (Qatari Human Rights Committee, Iraqi Human Rights Commission).

5. For the purpose of verifying complaints filed with the National Center, the Criminal Justice Unit carried out (100) visits to correctional and rehabilitation centers, including (4) visits (to hospital wards), as well as (3) visits to the Juwaida Correctional and Rehabilitation Center (women), as well as carrying out a visit to the General Intelligence Department detention center.

- **Challenges faced in following up on complaints in 2023:**

The reasons for the high number of complaints still being followed up by the center are due to a number of reasons, the most prominent of which are the following:

1. The failure of some concerned parties to respond, or the delay in their responses, or the provision of formal responses to these complaints, or the failure to provide the Center with the necessary documents to complete the verification process in some complaints<sup>346</sup>.
2. The complainants' unwillingness to follow up on complaints for specific reasons and/or their lack of cooperation in some cases.
3. The need to raise the capacities of those concerned with ministries and official institutions to follow up on complaints related to the center and provide them with legal knowledge and technical skills to deal with complaints, observations and inquiries received by the center.

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<sup>346</sup> Noting that there is a circular issued by the Prime Minister bearing the number 1/11/18/5820 dated 22/03/2011, which states the response period within 30 days.

#### Appendix No. (4)

#### The most prominent achievements of the National Center for Human Rights of 2023

The Center crowned its achievements by maintaining the international classification (A) for the third time in a row from the International Accreditation Committee of the International Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Center was elected as a member of the Governance Committee of the Asia Pacific Forum (APF).

The National Center for Human Rights' Achievements Report for the year 2023 comes and shows the tasks implemented by the Center's commissions and departments, including monitoring, legislative, training and participatory tasks, to protect and promote human rights in accordance with the powers assigned to it under the National Center for Human Rights Law No. (51) of 2006, as amended during the year 2023. These tasks and activities that were implemented constitute the main tributary and cornerstone upon which the content of the nineteenth annual report and its recommendations were built.

#### The Protection Commission's Achievements of 2023

The Protection Commission includes four departments: the Department of Civil and Political Rights, the Department of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Department of Groups Most in Need of Protection, and the Department of International Mechanisms and Reporting.

#### First: Civil and Political Rights Department

The Department includes three units: the Complaints, Follow-up and Ending Violations Unit, the Criminal Justice Unit, and the Basic Rights and Freedoms Unit.

Complaints, Follow-up and Ending Violations Unit: The unit received (576) complaints during the period from November - January 2023. (170) legal reviews were submitted regarding the complaints received and (883) correspondences were written to the relevant authorities.

Criminal Justice Unit: The unit carried out a number of unannounced field visits to temporary detention centers, the number of which reached (43) visits, and one visit to the General Intelligence Department detention center.

As for visits to correctional and rehabilitation centers, the unit carried out (100) visits, including (4) visits to hospital custody suite.

#### Basic Rights and Freedoms Unit

1. Monitoring the supplementary municipal elections in Jerash Governorate (Bab Amman Municipality Elections)
2. Monitoring the elections of the Administrative Body of the Federation of Charitable Societies - Zarqa Governorate Branch
3. Implementation of (80) monitoring missions and implementation of (9) fact-finding missions

#### Second: Department of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The administration includes two units: the Right to Education Unit, and the Right to Health, Food and Environment Unit.

The most prominent achievements of the administration during the year 2022:

1. Conducting a field visit to Bab Al-Salam factory in Sahab Industrial City.
2. Monitoring and following up on the strike of the workers of the Iron and Steel Company.
3. Monitoring and following up on the sit-in of retirees from the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, to demand the withdrawal of health insurance from the current insurance company and its return under the auspices of the Phosphate Company.
4. Monitoring and following up on the progress of independent unions to demand freedom of union organization and amending the labor law in line with international agreements.



### Third: Managing the most vulnerable groups

The administration includes two units: the Women's Rights Unit, and the Persons with Disabilities, the Elderly, the Juveniles and Children Unit.

1. Preparing the sixth shadow report for the national report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
2. Preparing a specialized report on monitoring the reality of the rights of persons with disabilities to benefit from banks and banking services.
3. Monitoring the status of women's rights, persons with disabilities and the elderly in the industrial sector by implementing field visits to the Syndicate of Workers in the Spinning and Weaving Industry in the Sahab and Dhulayl regions, the Dhulayl Labor Office, the Tafilah Center for the Care and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, the Women's Rehabilitation and Hosting Home/Amina, the Girls' Education and Rehabilitation Home in Zarqa, and the Family Reconciliation Home in the Aqaba and Irbid Governorates.
4. Monitoring the conditions of children with disabilities and orphans in several places, including: the Model School for Special Education, King Hussein Foundation for Orphans in Irbid Governorate, and King Abdullah II Foundation in As-Salt.
5. Monitoring the child's right to play by visiting eight public parks (Housing Bank Park, Ta'reeb Al-Jaish, Zahran, Salah Al-Din, Prince Hashem Park for Birds, Journalists' Park, Shafa Badran, Al-Manhal School, and Aya Aghabi Park).
6. Monitoring the conditions of the elderly in: Dar Al Zahraa for the elderly, Al Amal Center for the elderly, and Beit Al Ziyara for elderly women.

7. Monitoring women's right to access justice in the Amman Sharia Court Monitoring women's right to access justice in the Al-Ghor Al-Safi Sharia Court.
8. Monitoring the conditions of female workers in the agricultural sector by implementing two visits to two farms in the Al-Karamah area of the central Jordan Valley.
9. Implementing a roundtable on the shadow report of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
10. Implementing two seminars on the occasion of International Women's Day at the University of Jordan and Al al-Bayt University.
11. Implementing an awareness session "Protecting Women from Violence from a Legal Perspective" for beneficiaries of the "Amina" Women's Hosting and Rehabilitation Home at Risk.

### The Promotion Commission's achievements of 2022

The Promotion Commission includes 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.

1. Implementing (13) lectures on human rights for public security officers and personnel, (8) lectures and workshops on various topics related to human rights for school students, and (10) lectures for university students and civil society institutions.
2. Organizing (4) training courses targeting official institutions and students of the Judicial Institute.
3. Holding two seminars on fair trials and human rights. The second on the Universal Declaration and the double application of international standards.

### **Second: Studies and Documentation Department,**

1. Reviewing and editing the annual report of 2022 and 2023.
2. Preparing a matrix that addresses the recommendations of the National Center for Human Rights and the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review.
3. Preparing a report on the extent of implementation of the Center's recommendations during 2012-2020.
4. Preparing a concept for a study on the extent of community awareness of human rights.
5. Strengthening the cooperation mechanism between the National Center for Human Rights and the Ministry of Education (updating the memorandum of understanding between both parties) to prepare a study on the extent of awareness of students and scientists of human rights.
6. Providing a working mechanism to activate the Quadripartite Forum for Human Rights.
7. Submitting a legal review on the Associations Law
8. Providing a legal review on the Political Parties Law

### **Third: Legislation Department.**

Preparing a number of legal studies (the center's position) on:

1. Social Security Law Draft.
2. Extradition Agreement between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Romania and between the Kingdom and the Republic of Cyprus.
3. Guarantee of the Right to Access Information Law No. (47) of 2007.
4. Notification to the administrative governor of the activities intended to be implemented by the National Centre, in accordance with the provisions of the National Centre for Human Rights Law and the Public Gatherings Law.

5. Prevention of Cybercrimes Law No. (17) of 2023.
6. Instructions for organizing student party activities in higher education institutions of 2023.
7. Draft amendment to the retirement fund regulation for members of the Engineers Association of 2023.
8. Unified work contract for workers in the private education sector.
9. Executive instructions for the accreditation of local observers of 2023.
10. Preparing a legislative matrix for Jordanian laws and the amendments that have occurred to them.

### **Special Achievements of the International Relations Department**

The International and Public Relations Unit at the Center was keen to facilitate the Center's participation in the following events:

1. Meeting of the Arab Human Rights Committee (Charter Committee) to attend the work of the twenty-first special session to discuss the second and third combined report submitted by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Cairo. 30-31/01/2023.
2. Participation in the International Conference on "Climate Change and Human Rights" Qatar 21-22 March 2023.
3. Annual Meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions Geneva 14-16/03/2023.
4. Meeting of the twenty-first session of the Independent Permanent Commission for Human Rights Jeddah 21-25/05/2023.
5. Meeting of the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions Cairo 29-30/07/2023.
6. Participation in the international conference "The impact of human activity on the right to a healthy and suitable environment: practices, challenges and solutions" Bahrain. 19-20/09/2023.

7. Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions Meeting India 20-21 September.
  8. Participation in the “33rd” Anbatawi Session entitled “Promoting Environmental Rights and Climate Justice in the Arab Region” Tunisia 27/09/2023.
  9. Participation in the Second Conference of National Institutions and Representatives of Arab Ministries of Interior Cairo 19-20/09/2023.
  10. Participation in the Regional Forum on “The Future of Education in the Arab Region and Human Rights Education and Culture” Cairo 18-19/10/2023.
  11. Meeting of the Arab Network delegation with the High Commissioner for Human Rights Geneva 15/11/2023
  12. 28th Annual General Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum New Delhi 20-21/09/2023.
  13. Participation in the Mohamed Fayek Course “4” Cairo. 22-23/11/2023.
4. Participation in the evaluation session on preparing the legislative agenda/economic participation axis organized by the Jordanian National Commission for Women's Affairs.
  5. Participation in an international conference on “Monitoring and Accountability Mechanisms in the Field of Counter-Terrorism” organized by the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law.
  6. Participation in the policy dialogue program entitled “The role of political parties in integrating youth and women’s leadership in party work and public work” in cooperation with the Jordanian Women’s Solidarity Institute.
  7. Participation in the torture prevention course organized by the Asia Pacific Forum (APF).
  8. Participation in the introductory session of the annual report of the “Better Work Jordan” program in cooperation with the International Labor Organization and the Ministry of Labor.
  9. Participation in the economic empowerment workshop for women organized by the Solidarity of Women Institute Association.
  10. Participation in a training course on the mechanisms for preparing policy papers organized by the National Council for Family Affairs.
  11. Participation in the evaluation session on preparing the legislative agenda/economic participation axis organized by the Jordanian National Commission for Women's Affairs.
  12. Participation in the workshop on the report on the mental health of workers in the garment sector organized by the International Labor Organization.
  13. Participation in the dialogue session to discuss the annual report on labor protests in Jordan for the year 2022 organized by the Phenix Center for Economic Studies.

#### **Building the capacity of the center’s employees**

In order to raise institutional capacities and build the capacities and skills of the General Secretariat of the Center, the Center hereby participated in a number of conferences, training courses, workshops, research and discussion seminars, the most important of which are the following:

1. Participation in the dialogue session on amending the Associations Law organized by Justice Center for Legal Aid.
2. Participation in the training course on planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and accountability organized by the Asia Pacific Forum via Zoom application.
3. Participation in the workshop on the Universal Periodic Review mechanism in cooperation with the Office of the Government Coordinator/Prime Minister.

14. Participation in the workshop on grievance mechanisms for workers in the garment sector organized by the Arab Renaissance Association for Democracy and Development.
15. Participation in the workshop of the team concerned with preparing the national report and recommendations for the third goal of the sustainable development goals "Good health and well-being" organized by the Ministry of Health.

#### Meetings and radio interviews

1. Meeting with the Director of the Office of Transparency and Human Rights; for coordination purposes and to discuss work mechanisms.
2. Meeting with the Director of Reform and Rehabilitation Centers/Public Security Directorate for coordination purposes and to discuss work mechanisms.
3. Participation in radio programs and television interviews with (Radio Al-Balad, Radio University of Jordan, Rotana Radio in program Frankly with Al-Nsour of Amman TV, Amman TV Channel...)
4. Participation in meetings to develop the national strategy to prevent human trafficking.

Membership of committees with official bodies and civil society institutions.

In order to enhance cooperation and partnership between the National Center and official bodies and civil society institutions, the Center hereby represents members of the General Secretariat in the following committees:

5. Legal Aid Strategy Preparation Committee (Justice Sector Strategy 2022-2026).
6. Criminal Justice Committee/Ministry of Justice.

7. Committee for Harmonizing National Legislation with International Conventions and Treaties Ratified by Jordan/ Ministry of Justice.
8. Human Trafficking Committee/Ministry of Justice.
9. Equal Opportunities Committee/Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
10. Shamaa Network Committee/Jordanian National Committee for Women's Affairs.
11. National Plan Committee for Activating Resolution 1325/Jordanian National Committee for Women's Affairs.
12. National Strategy Follow-up Committee for the Elderly/National Council for Family Affairs.
13. Wage Equity Committee/Jordanian National Commission for Women's Affairs.
14. Committee of Amman is Friendly City for the Elderly/Greater Amman Municipality.
15. National Team Committee for Family Protection from Violence/National Council for Family Affairs.
16. Committee to Prevent Marriage Under 18/ Jordanian National Commission for Women.

Press Releases: The Center issued a number of statements during the year 2023 as follows:

1. Four press releases on the follow-up of Bab Amman Municipality elections on 30/04/2023.
2. Press release on the occasion of International Workers' Day on 01/05/2023.
3. Press release on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons on 02/10/2023.
4. Press release on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child on 11/10/2023.
5. Press release on the occasion of the International Mental Health Day on 10/10/2023.

6. Press release on the occasion of the World Rural Women's Day on 15/10/2023.
7. Press release on the occasion of the Arab Population and Development Day on 29/10/2023.
8. Press release on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25/11/2023.
9. Statement on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 03/12/2023.
10. Statement on the action of the Secretary-General of the United Nations under Article (99) of the Charter of the United Nations dated 07/12/2023.

#### **Delegations received by the Center**

During 2023, the National Center for Human Rights received a number of delegations from embassies of Arab and non-Arab countries, and national, regional and international governmental and non-governmental institutions, with the aim of introducing the center and discussing ways of cooperation as follows:

1. Canadian Embassy on 08/01/2023
2. International Charter Committee Delegation on 18/01/2023
3. Norwegian Embassy on 19/01/2023
4. US Embassy on 27/02/2023
5. Delegation from Al-Isra University on 05/03/2023
6. Delegation from Al al-Bayt University on 08/03/2023
7. Belgian Embassy on 05/06/2023
8. Chinese Ambassador on 23/11/2023

#### **Memoranda of Understanding**

During 2023, the National Center for Human Rights hereby signed a number of memoranda of understanding with the aim of enhancing cooperation and coordination with these entities and promoting human rights in Jordan, the most important of which were:

1. Memorandum of Understanding with the National Center for Curriculum Development for coordination and joint cooperation in including human rights in the process of developing educational curricula and preparing joint studies.
2. Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education to cooperate in preparing studies, reports, and exchanging information and documents related to human rights, and to make use of the specialized expertise available to both parties, and to implement the recommendations related to all the purposes of the memorandum.
3. Memorandum of Understanding with SOS Children's Villages Jordan; with the aim of holding and organizing training programs for SOS Children's Villages beneficiaries in the three villages in Amman, Irbid and Aqaba.