



## Sustainable livelihoods Human development progress

Table showing Jordan's progress on the Human Development Index 1990, 1997, 2001

HDR Year	Reference years of data	HDI value	Life expectancy (years)	Adult literacy (%)	Combined education gross enrolment rate (level 1-3)	Real GDP per capita (PPPUS\$)	HDI rank (out of 174 countries)
1992	1989, 1990	0.586	66.9	80.1	n.a.	2,415	94
1999	1997	0.715	70.1	87.2	66	3,450	94
2003	2001	0.743	70.6	90.3	77	3,870	90

Source: UNDP Human Development Reports

### Jordan's human development achievements

The UNDP reports use the Human Development Index (HDI) to measure well-being. HDI is a composite measure that brings together three key indicators:

- A decent standard of living as measured by gross domestic product per capita in purchasing power parity
- A long and healthy life as measured by life expectancy at birth
- The opportunity to gain knowledge as measured by adult literacy and the combined gross primary, secondary and tertiary enrolment ratio.

Jordan's HDI value has increased from 0.715 in 1997 to 0.743 in 2001. Jordan's performance in respect of both the health and knowledge indicators has been particu-

larly good. The value for GDP has increased, although to a less impressive extent than the values for health and education.

In comparison with other Arab countries, Jordan performs well, and is currently ranked ninth out of nineteen countries.

Jordan's progress towards human development goals is constrained by the impact of shocks experienced in the region during this period and demonstrate the extent to which Jordan is vulnerable to external events over which it has little control.

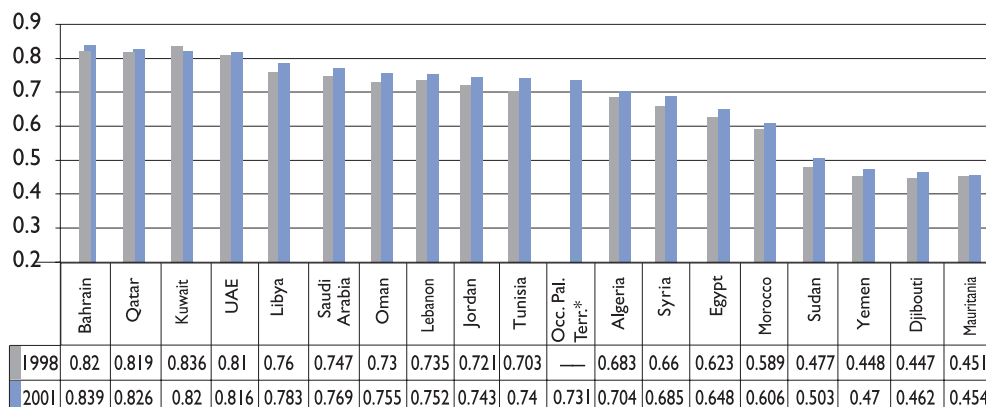
### Development at governorate level

The HDI provides a macro-level picture of human development in Jordan. Data at governorate level reveals that not all regions within Jordan are progressing at the same rate. Amman retained its number one

Figure 1.1

### Jordan compares well to other Arab states in terms of human development

HDI values for Arab countries, 1998 and 2001, ranked by 2001 value



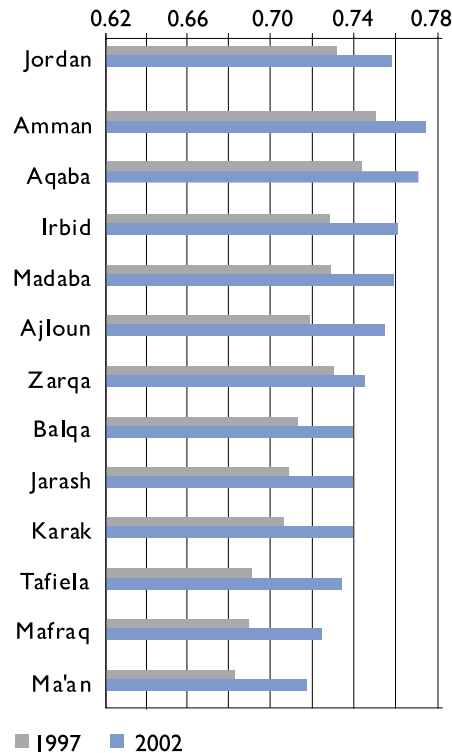
Source: Human Development Reports 2000 and 2003

\* Occupied Palestinian Territories

Figure 1.6

**Human development is improving in every governorate**

HDI values by governorate, 1997 and 2002



Source: DoS and NHDR1

ranking for HDI with a value of (0.767) and Ma'an remained twelfth with (0.697).

However, some of the lower-ranked governorates are catching up. Tafila recorded the highest increase in HDI value (8% compared to a national average of 4.5%). Although Ma'an still ranked the lowest for HDI, its increase in HDI value was above average.

**Life expectancy**

Overall, life expectancy in Jordan continues to improve, rising from 69.2 years to 71.5 years

over the period. This reflects the high priority placed by government on the health sector: Over 98.5% of the population now have access to health services and 98% to clean drinking water. Investment in health infrastructure leads to human development.

**Education**

The education index improved in each governorate. The highest value was recorded in Amman (0.860). Mafraq had the lowest value (0.784) but showed an above-average increase over the period (10.7% as compared to 5.5%).

Adult literacy rates have improved from 87.2% to 89.9%. In most governorates, educational enrolment rates have improved, especially in Ajloun. Zarqa has the second highest rate in adult literacy but educational enrolment is slipping.

**Economic performance**

Amman, with \$5,099 GDP per capita (PPPUS\$), enjoys the highest standard of living. Given that nearly 40% of the total population live in this governorate, this is a positive sign.

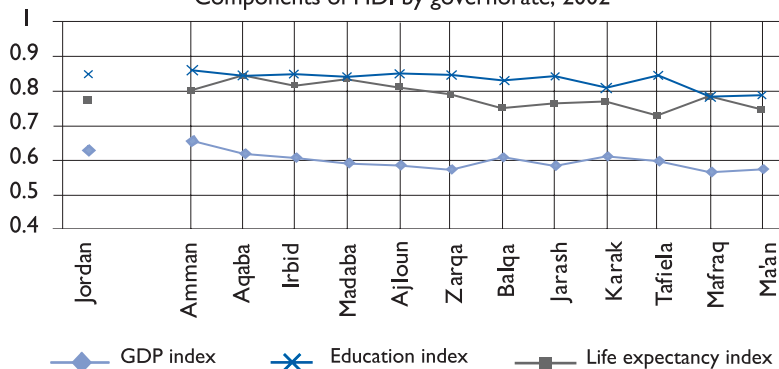
Other governorates are catching up with gains in the GDP index over the five years: Tafila scored significantly higher than average (9.1% growth in index compared to average 5.1%). GDP per capita in Zarqa appears to be declining.

The release of the findings of the 2002/03 HEIS survey will provide more disaggregated data concerning incomes and poverty at the district level. The disaggregated data allows policy-makers to target "pockets of poverty" and to tailor national policies to meet local needs.

Figure 1.5

**Economic conditions constrain human development progress**

Components of HDI by governorate, 2002



Source: DoS

**Impact assessment**

The relatively strong performance of Ma'an, Mafraq and Tafila in human development growth may be an indication that targeted investment is delivering benefits. A commitment to on-going evaluation and impact assessment is therefore essential to ensure that lessons are learnt and successful programmes are replicated elsewhere. Where there are signs that achievements are slipping then action should be taken to re-establish positive trends.