



Cultural Policy in the Arab Region Programme

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Summary Updates to the Compendium Profile On Cultural Policy in Jordan 2015

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About the cultural context

In 1957, Jordan gained its conclusive independence, after two Palestinian displacement waves in 1948 and 1967, then the features of the legal state was shaped with its constitution. Also, the demographic and geographical features were formed, where peasants approximately constituted 45% of the population, and Bedouins 29%, while the rest were residents of cities and workers. The cultural history of Jordan had started several decades before that, with cultural policy of simple tools and products, represented in periodicals and newspapers that started in 1923, such as: Al-Hamamah journal. Various periodicals were released by secondary schools, such as Al Selt and the Bishop Schools, containing limited content on culture and policy, and this lasted until 1950.

The new and noteworthy is: the Ministry of Culture budget for 2015 was estimated with 6.8 million Jordanian dinars, while, in 2014, the ministry spent 3.7 million JD.

In Jordan, 69% of expenditure is spent on cultural development, 4.18 % on management and support services, and 6.12% on the Royal Cultural Center. In the 2014 cultural development section, the estimated allocations for females reached 544 thousand JD, while a sum of 150 thousand JD was allocated to children. The general budget report shows that the biggest expenditure was in the capital Amman, and the cities of Jerash and Karak, while the cities of Ajloun and Madaba, came the last.

Management and decision-making

The Jordanian Ministry of Culture works in its natural form, as it is now. Several regulatory attempts had been made before to restructure it, including recruiting Arab and foreign experts in this field. Maybe the most famous structure is the one followed the government's decision to abolish the Ministry of Culture in 2003, which was about to cancel the ministry's activities for one year. By 2004, a new restructuring project was proposed, relieving the ministry and suggesting of using the Swiss model, which was considered very suitable for the Ministry of Culture in Jordan.

In a general description of the cultural care system in Jordan, the Ministry of Culture is responsible for preparing the cultural action policy and supporting it in public sectors and other kind of sectors, in line with the policy of Jordan and its national interests. Thus, since the foundation of the Ministry of Culture and Youth in 1977, it started supporting the cultural periodicals and literary journals. The ministry has evolved and divided its work into departments; financial and other specialized departments, responsible for publishing, studies, music, theater and other literary and artistic activities.

The decision of abolishing the Ministry of Culture faced objections from both formal and informal cultural circles, especially in 2003, which witnessed the abolition of the Ministry of Youth and the Ministry of Information and replacing them with a supreme council for youth and another for the information. In a poll conducted by Alrai Center for Studies in 2004, a state of dissatisfaction with the reality and future of cultural work in Jordan was clear. The poll covered the opinions of 581 journalists, writers and university professors, and concluded that 78% of them want the return of the Ministry of culture, while 22% supported the existence of a supreme council for culture.

There are other informal institutions, concerned with arts and culture, such as the National Music Conservatory, the Applied Arts Centre, the Royal Film Commission, the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Abd Al Hamid Shoman Foundation and Darat al Funun. There are also cultural centers attached to embassies, not to mention Amman Municipality annual provision of one million JD to support festivals and cultural activities in the capital.

It is worth mentioning, that the Intellectuals' Center conducted a survey on a sample of intellectuals about the cultural management in Jordan. The survey showed that intellectuals are interested in flexible cultural policy not available in the cultural scene, where 68% of the respondents think that there are no cultural policies in Jordan, while 51% think that cultural policies should be more contemporary, and 54%, think the ministry did not succeed in cultural policy management. Also, Jeerah, a project of the Greater Amman Municipality, has been launched representing Jordan's cooperation with UNESCO on Learning Cities Project since 2012, in which Amman won the 2015 UNESCO Learning City Award.

International Cultural Cooperation

First, this is represented in the role of the Jordanian Ministry of Planning and its departments responsible for economic cooperation and so, whether Arab, Asian, or Western. It also cooperates to provide funding for diverse and numerous projects.

Moreover, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Planning, hold bilateral agreements, every year, or according to the agreement and its duration. These agreements guarantee commercial or cultural exchange, and funding of specific projects between the two countries. In general, Jordan signed the European Partnership agreement in 1997, which came into force in 2012. Jordan also signed partnership agreements with Kazakhstan and Portugal in 2014. In addition to variable cultural and professional exchange relations with many countries such as the cooperation with Finland in "The Weaving" play 2003.

In addition to the agreements held with the majority of the European countries. Jordan signed agreements with Kazakhstan and Portugal, and in 2014, it signed executive programs for scientific and cultural cooperation with South Korea, China and Greece.

Regarding the presence of Jordanian cultural centers outside Jordan, it is no more than cultural attaches for Jordan embassies abroad. The foreign institutions and cultural centers in Jordan are diverse, such as:

Goethe Institute: established in 1961, and it is a main center for teaching the German language, and for cultural exchange and communication with Germany.

The British Council: established in 1934, and it is a center for cultural exchange, language teaching and educational opportunities. It cooperated with universities such as Yarmouk in the field of the Faculty of Arts, and other activities.

The French Cultural Institute: It is linked to the French Embassy in Jordan and was established in 1963. It contains a library and offers Arabic and French lessons, in addition to a variety of cultural activities.

The American Cultural Center: was established in 1954.

The Spanish Cultural Center (Cervantes): was established in 1979.

The Turkish Cultural Center: was established in 1969.

The Italian Cultural Institute.

European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC)

It is a network of international culture institutes, with about 150 members in a number of countries. Its membership in Jordan consists of: the Goethe Institute, the British Council, the Cervantes Institute and the Italian Institute.

Cultural policy in the independent sector (civil): the statistics of the Ministry of Culture and other ministries showed that there are about 16 thousand independent cultural body, including:

Jordanian Writers Association: Founded in 1974 as an independent body, and was closed during the political state of emergency in Jordan, until the state of emergency was lifted in 1989.

Jordanian Writers Union: it was founded by members of the Association and others during the closing period of the Association in 1987.

Abdul Hameed Shoman Forum: a forum that supports cultural, research and arts projects, and offers them an interactive atmosphere. In addition to its large and rich library. It was established in 1986.

Darat al Funun: It is responsible for culture in general and visual arts in particular, and has its own programs that support art exhibitions and seminars for free, it was founded in 1993.

Jordanian Artists Association: Founded by the theatricals band in 1977, and turned into a union in 1984. It is involved in theater, drama and visual arts.

Association of Fine Artists: It was the first nonprofit cultural organization concerned with visual arts, founded in 1977.

Performing Arts Centre: National Arts Centre, of Al-Hussein Foundation, it was founded in 1977, and won a number of Arab and international awards in performing arts.

Cultural institutions in the private and commercial sectors: they are around 132 civil society institutions variously interested in culture and science. One of these institutions is the Crown Prince Foundation, founded in 2015 to be concerned with youth and activating their cultural and intellectual presence.

Jordan River Foundation: a non-profit organization founded in 1995, interested in launching economic and cooperative projects to support the Jordanian women.

Ruwwad al Tanmeya Foundation: an institution works on empowering the community to overcome marginalization, through youth and civilians participation in community and education activities.

Crown Prince Foundation: In 2015, the Crown Foundation board of trustees was formed, and it is a civil foundation of public benefit, and a legal personality with administrative and financial independence that aims to support and activate youth initiatives in Jordan, and develop their capacities.

Cultural policy general objectives and principles

According to a research prepared by Milena Dragićević Šešić, the cultural policy model in Jordan is a patronage model, where the Royal family works as a patron for many cultural and social events and activities, as well as general policy instruments, and communicates with the key institutions such as Greater Amman secretariat, and the Ministry of Culture and Information, and others. However, the bureaucratic pattern represented in the rapid change of governments in Jordan leads to a slow pace of implementation and development of cultural projects. Nevertheless, the patronage model achieved a positive intervention contributed to the support and establishment of many cultural projects and events. In 2004, 2005, the royal discourse had positive and encouraging impact on the role of the Ministry of Culture. Although His Majesty King Abdullah Bin Al Hussein, called for a media freedom limited by the sky, the first independent satellite channel, ITV, failed to start broadcasting for many reasons, also some publications were prevented, and some others were trialed.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Culture policy, for example, prints books instead of publishing them and following them up; so printing books only, and this is patronage nothing more.

Given the lack of a systematized and sustainable cultural policy, the concept of culture in Jordan can be summarized in two main components:

First: tangible component: consists of religion, beliefs, language, literature, arts and heritage.

Second: intangible component that can be summarized in the technological advances and tools.

It is worth mentioning that there are some values strongly influence the elements of the Jordanian culture, including:

Family values: that promote connection and obedience rather than independence and encouraging creativity.

Religious values: These are, according to researcher Ahmed Al-Tal, absolute, and cannot be flexible and coexisted.

The national definition of culture: There is no national definition of culture in Jordan. The Ministry's culture-defining document mentions that culture is a pattern of living and thinking, which is a general definition that indicates the lack of cultural policy. Mr. Al-Tal says that the ministry's definition of culture refers to it as a cognitive, behavioral and selective system that includes the beliefs and everything brought by man from his mind and environment.

Cultural policy objectives in Jordan

They include developing the Jordanian national identity by launching creative cultural projects and fostering the culture infrastructure and art sector in all fields.

The secondary objectives include: restructuring the ministry and ordering its priorities and actions, activating the role of cultural directorates in all provinces, supporting decentralization, supporting cultural tourism in Jordan, supporting the Jordanian cultural products, and encouraging investment in the culture sector.

Issues of the development of the current policy of culture and dialogue

1- After discussions and meetings about the role of intellectuals and their relations with the Ministry of Culture and its institutions, a number of authors met and set a vision for the development of culture in Jordan. Based on those meetings, King Abdullah Bin Al-Hussein met some intellectuals to understand their needs and prioritize the cultural agenda. Based on this, these priorities included the establishment of an independent fund to support culture, and the contribution of 10 million JD to support the cultural movement and its evolution. The king also ordered the construction of the project: King Abdullah II House of Culture & Art, in response to the request of intellectuals to establish a cultural center like

the major centers in the world. He also ordered to quickly complete drafting the Arabic Language Law, and to include intellectuals in the health insurance system.

- 2- Recent issues and debates on the cultural policy: many of these issues were raised before King Abdullah Bin Al Hussein in 2007 meetings, including the bad status of artists and intellectuals, as well as the weak ability to activate the Jordanian cultural activity abroad, the lack of a database for the cultural and artistic products, and the lack of adequate support of artists' and intellectuals' creative projects, in addition to some laws that hinder the cultural work in some cases. After that, in 2009, a seminar was held on the National Cultural Strategy, discussing these issues and setting priorities for the development of a cultural agenda, of which the most important objective was creating equal and fair opportunities for Jordanians to participate in the political, economic and cultural activities. After that seminar, the National Conference on Culture was held and adopted 200 recommendations on cultural demands. The Minister of Culture then, Nancy Bakir, confirmed that the coming cultural strategy would include these recommendations. The strategy also included the activation of cultural decentralization and the distribution of cultural activities on the provinces.

In June 2015, and by an invitation from the Jordanian government, Med Culture regional program organized a meeting on the cultural policy in the Arab region, hosted by Jordan and financed by the European Union. The meeting consisted of two parts, the first included representatives of the official and private levels from Morocco, Tunisia, Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan. A representative from the Jordanian Ministry of Culture attended, and the Jordanian Group was the representative of private initiatives. The meeting addressed the general situation and the official initiatives and expectations of each country, allowing the space for questions. The headline was: (methodology, approach and processes), the subtitle was: (Definition of action plans for culture, for Jordan and Lebanon). The second meeting was on Jordan in specific about developing a working plan for culture in the country, with the participation of representatives from the Ministries of Education, Tourism and Higher Education, as well representatives of civil associations and cultural activists.

On the margin of Hakaya Festival 2015 in Ras Al Ain Gallery, and by the invitation of Samar Dudin, a seminar was organized to discuss the "the hidden methodology, which prohibits arts",

proceeding from critic researches by Jordanians researchers about the curricula content, level and impact on students' thought.

In an extended meeting in 2009, the Minister of Culture Sabri Rbeihat pointed out several priorities adopted by the Ministry, including supporting the Jordanian cultural product, closing the gap between the creative community and people, building the culture of lost museums, deepening cultural dialogue, enhancing the working capacity of the Ministry of Culture staff and its institutions and promoting the introduction of Jordanian culture to the world through conferences, seminars and through supporting the translation. On other hand, the issue of the freedom of creativity and creators is still under discussion to this day.

Key legal provisions in the field of culture

- 1- General legislations: there are no clear legislations on culture, where it kept being mentioned in the framework of Arab and Islamic identity, and the Arabic language is considered part of the culture. These definitions fluctuate between belonging to the Islamic culture at times, and to the national culture of Jordan at other times, while the cultural work is governed by the Ministries of Culture, Planning, Information and Education. The laws controlling culture remain within the framework of the Ministry of Culture in addition to the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Ministry of Youth and Sports and Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.
- 2- Constitution: in 1991, the National Charter of legislation developed general lines for political parties, and mentioned the culture in one chapter and eight points, linking the cultural identity with the Arabic language, heritage and popular folklore, in addition to the achievements of intellectuals and artists. It also noted the right of artists to enrich themselves without detriment to Arab and Islamic values. Article 4 of the Law of Education of 1994 also stipulates that one of the goals of education in Jordan is: to taste aesthetic arts in art and different aspects of life. However, teaching or soliciting arts in the Jordanian education system does not exceed 1%.

In 2004, the amended agenda of culture encouraged, through the royal patronage, the support of creativity and art, in addition to King Abdullah Fund for Development (KAFFD), which was established in 2001 to support innovation and development in art and education.

- 3- The distribution of competent authorities: According to the Constitution, the Ministry of Culture is directly responsible of culture and the set up and implementation of cultural policy with the relevant institutions. The Ministry goals are: to provide the right atmosphere of cultural creativity, to support culture and fine arts and developing them, to provide the links with local, regional and international cultural bodies, to develop the Jordanian citizen's creativity and release it in all fields, to develop an inclusive Jordanian culture since it is a culture with Jordanian, Arab, Islamic, and humanitarian identity.
- 4- Freedom of expression and assembly: Article 7 of the Constitution stipulates that personal freedom, as well as the free exercise of traditions and religious rituals, shall be guaranteed providing they do not collide with the general system of morality and religion. Of course, laws were made to govern these freedoms, particularly with regard to violations pertaining to religion, the royal family and the state. Also, violations in domestic laws were not clarified, leaving citizens puzzled about the nature of those violations. Article 15 of the Constitution states: The State shall guarantee the freedom of opinion and the freedom of press and expression, newspapers cannot be suspended nor permits be revoked except by the provisions of the law. In the event of the declaration of martial law or a state of emergency, a limited censorship on newspapers, publications, books, and radios may be imposed.

Article 18 of the law: states that all telephone, telegraph and postal communications are confidential, and therefore they will not be monitored and commented on. While laws guarantee all these freedoms, any observer will easily see the extent of control on media content in the various outlets of audio, visual and written communication in general.

- 5- Allocation of public funds: The Jordanian Ministry of Finance allocates certain amounts of money as budgets to ministries, including the Ministry of Culture, and the ministry supervises the funding of cultural sector from this budget. According to the law of funding of 2006, all advertisements published in newspapers shall be taxed 1%, In addition to 2% tax on the establishment of all television and radio stations. However, the tax on newspapers was canceled in 2010.

- 6- Social insurance: the status of social insurance depends on the ministry and its institutions staff, where social insurance is available to civil servants, while the Artists Association allows social insurance for its members only.
- 7- Copyright provisions: The copyright law protects books in the field of literature, thought and art, but the law rarely protects those rights, and it even stipulates non-intervention in any particular work of art, especially within a private or familial boundaries, but this is not implemented, and is often vague in law, leaving this to jurisdiction, if a person resorted to the court. Points of protection of copyright include the following:

Protection of literary and artistic works, such as encyclopedias and data bases - whether machine-read (digital) or other form, protection of performers', producers' and authors' rights for a period of fifty years, protection of software, whether in source or target code. Not registering artistic works does not reduce the owners' rights of protection.

- 8- Tax laws: income tax is 7% for those earning over 14,000 JD per year. Tax law for arts and literatures is vague and is included within selected lists of goods and services in article (22) of the Tax Law:

A. Mosques, churches, elderly houses, handicapped centers, and sport and culture clubs as well as the clubs of people with special needs are not subject to taxes.

Also Article 7 paragraph A stipulates: The income of cooperative societies and syndicates shall be exempted from tax, and the same is applied for the income of any religious, charitable or cultural institutions, as well as the income of endowments and orphanage investments.

- 9- Language laws: they are included in law 2634 /1967 of the Ministry of Education that maintains language and its updates and protects it through the publication of dictionaries, follow up, and establishing electronic databases.

- 10- Legislations on culture: There is no specific legislation on culture. Culture is mentioned in the national agenda, within the education and national charter.

Legislations relevant to the cultural sector:

The basic laws can be summarized in the following:

- a. The press can work freely and present its themes within laws.

b. The freedom of the press is defined as getting the information important to the country, in addition to being a form of opinion expression. The official bodies are responsible for providing information to the press.

c. Political parties' permits and licenses, are accepted and allowed by the official bodies.

Laws do not clearly define what could be considered a threat to national unity and security and a violation of freedom. It should be noted the recent amendment of the Press and Publications Law at the end of 2013 regarding the news and cultural websites and others, and what is related to their licenses in accordance with the law and its amendments, where websites submitted a complaint about it under Article 49 of the law. As of June 2014, 160 news websites were licensed, including 100 specialized sites, while more than 112 websites stayed blocked because they were unlicensed, 97 of them are no longer existing as of October 2014, and other 15 continued to work despite the blocking, half of them are non-Jordanian or Arab news websites, the rest chose to continue with the assistance of other electronic platforms to reach out to their audience.

Financing of culture

In short, the income of the Ministry of Culture in addition to its budget is divided under three titles:

First: salaries, account for 14.6% of the total income.

Second: The Royal Cultural Centre is allocated 7.31%.

Third: the remaining budget is allocated for cultural development. No information is available on the rates of cultural spending on individuals, noting that the Ministry of Youth and Amman Municipality finance public cultural projects in general. Reference can be made to the full exploratory survey to see the ministry's expenditure tables and their graphs.

Cultural institutions and new partnerships

Institutions funded by the state serve two objectives, on the one hand, they provide the place for exhibitions and diffusion of arts by providing places for a fee, and they host the events of the private sector. On the other hand, there are small offices in those institutions dedicated to

the management of the activities of public organizations, in addition to a small budget allocated by the ministry to host lectures and perhaps screen movies to the public. Those activities are for free and they operate under the title of educating and engaging the public in various artistic fields.

There is cooperation between non-governmental organizations and representatives of the international cultural centers, as well as the local governmental bodies, in addition to the Ministry of Culture and the Greater Amman Municipality.

Supporting creativity and participation

Ministry of Culture supports the artistic production in various fields. There are no formal calls for participation, but project proposals are submitted to the Ministry of Culture and selection is made based on the recommendations of an “undeclared jury” of workers in the field, especially university professors who are consulted in the proposals submitted for funding. Depending on the jury’s feedback, a project grants full or partial funding. This consultation process is an attempt to ensure fair selection process, and avoid nepotism (which is a phenomenon widely prevailed in all day-to-day work in Jordan). The undeclared jury may represent a problem for the advisers of the Ministry of Culture regarding project proposals. If these consultants work in public universities, which is the prevailing case, then their interpretation, definition and acceptance of arts is biased to the classical, traditional and popular views, and also to the old generations of artists, or even their allies and friends. This means that artists who are outside this circle or definition have a small chance to receive funding from the Ministry of culture. We can also conclude that the tendency of Jordanian ministries to work together also points to a fixed set of ideas, goals, and quality of people who work in public sector. If the goals were set to include the private sector and non-governmental organizations in the planning and decision-making process, this may reflect a change in services and trends. As supporting factors:

- a. Artists Support Fund: supervised by the Ministry of Culture.
- b. Scholarships and prizes: These vary, such as Artist Ismail Shammout Award for Painters, Rafa al-Nasiri Award for the Arab artists and graphic professionals.

The Ministry of Culture for Innovation Awards: is a national cultural project that keeps pace with the developments enhancing the Jordanian cultural movement. The prizes value of

knowledge fields and works of art are up to 100 thousand JD, granted to Jordanian winners for their unpublished writings and innovations, of which 20 thousand JD is the cost of printing the winning works in ten different fields: psychosocial culture, religion and philosophy, science and technology, artistic and aesthetic, translation, law and politics, health and environment, child literature, fiction, biography and short stories, poetry, translations and travel literature.

In 2015, the Ministry of Culture launched a cultural project within its cultural policy called “culture-flashes”, a project including cooperation with audio, visual and electronic local media outlets and through social media to introduce local creators and intellectuals, support them and interact with them and with their artistic and literary products.

Khalid Shoman Non-governmental Foundation (Darat al Funun) unofficially supported emerging artists in higher education, in addition to conducting workshops at the international level. The artist does not need a contract in order to win this scholarship. The Foundation itself has started to offer doctoral grant award of 10 thousand USD to candidates who write their thesis in the field of Arab art, and similarly in the field of scientific research. Also some foreign institutes provide scholarships and language and art courses.

1- Audience and engagement:

There is a great lack of numbers and statistics related to public engagement in the governmental and non-governmental organizations, so it is difficult to attempt to track the success or failure of festivals or certain events. One of the things discussed, was the difficulty to ensure the public turnout in certain seasons as a result of repeating similar events.

2- Policy and programs::

Music, dance and theater:

Jerash Festival recently announced a change in its management and renamed itself as Jordan Festival. Fawanees Theatre Festival, Zakharif in Motion Dance Festival, Hakaya Festival, Country Music Summer Festival, and Music Day "Fête de la Musique", a French festival held annually all over the world, are the main platforms that actively and effectively worked over the past ten years until 2013.

Cinema: the European Film Festival, Jordan Short Film and Video Festival, Karama Human Rights Film Festival, and other film festivals offer movies screening programs from specific countries or a group of countries in movie theaters, theaters and in the Royal Jordanian Film Commission.

After winning several international awards including Venice Film Festival award, the Jordanian film "Theeb" was short-listed competing on the best foreign film in the Oscars 2016, and this is the first time a Jordanian movie gets to this stage of the award.

- 3- Arts and culture education: arts are part of the curriculum, and are taught to students once a week in a course called arts education. It is noted that the collective cultural activities outside the curriculum limits received greater attention and success in general, despite its limited period, contrary to schools curriculum if it had greater focus on the cultural materials and activities, but this is also hindered by the lack of seriousness of the educational departments toward culture in the curriculum. The educational grades, until the end of high school, focus on students' total grades without paying attention to the cultural or artistic subjects within the context of the overall rate, as students, ipso fact, often pass them.
- 4- Culture in Education: culture is identified in the context of religion and state. There are several themes in which culture overlaps, under the titles of Islamic cultural studies, national and civil studies, vocational education and training, Arabic language, contemporary Arab history, and the general cultural studies. These topics focus on statements taken from the Islamic and Royal studies, and the key ancient locations in Jordan...etc. The content of books in these courses confirms the views as doctrines, and tends to a large extent to maintain Royalty and devotion to the country. The Minister of Education presented the Ministry's plan, including, first, the educational reform plan of 2015-2020. The plan included three main hubs: teaching and learning, which includes the development of curricula, textbooks and the high school exam, as well as training teachers and education, information and communication technology, the hub of school buildings and equipment, and the hub of management and legislations, the trend towards decentralization, the structure of the education scale, and development of the standards of accountability and quality of education.
- 5- Vocational training of arts and culture: a governmental organization called the Vocational Training Organization manages more than forty training centers across the country. The

centers are distributed in the north, center and south. The courses of the center include training on professions such as weaving, pottery, needlework, sewing and flower arranging. There is also Law no. 4369, issued on 1/8/1999, which mentioned the activities of the Vocational Training Organization. The law also talks about the activities and legal framework for registrants for jobs in this field. Since 2014, the Vocational Training Institution has been holding job fairs to integrate its trainees into the labor market, and this also includes the trainees on artistic professions like those previously mentioned, in addition to a variety of fairs in provinces to display and sell artistic products, accompanied with cultural activities every now and then.

- 6- Non-vocational cultural activities: several initiatives spread in Jordan for exchanging books, for example, or selling second hand books at low prices, and holding youth meetings to discuss books, such as the initiative: A book on the Table. At the level of local contributions, people participate in different activities such as the seasonal Olive Oil Festival and the Poetry Festival. This may include displaying their handicrafts products. There are also several cultural and social clubs across the Kingdom. As for the cultural centers, they are subject to the authority of local municipalities.
- 7- Trends and numbers: a study in Jordan about the spending habits shows that spending on food as a percentage of the total spending has decreased in all groups, and that the highest increase in spending was on clothing. There are signs of improved social and economic conditions of families, but spending on culture, leisure time and sport declined in all groups. This reflects the low sums of families' incomes available for spending on other aspects of personal life.
- 8- General Census of Population 2015: This is the sixth decimal census since the foundation of the Kingdom and the Department of Statistics. It is conducted every ten years according to the General Statistics Law no.12 of 2012 and the relevant international laws, as well as the recommendations of the international bodies of exclusive jurisdiction. The last census of population and housing was carried out in 2004.
- 9- Refugees' affairs: Since 2011, large groups of Syrian refugees moved to live in Jordanian cities and in Zaatari and Al- Azraq refugee camps. Given the pressure imposed by these migrations on the infrastructure of hosting communities, the national plan was announced in January 2014, and included projects and sectors – to empower the communities hosting

Syrian refugees (2016). The government received grants for rehabilitating and supporting refugees, especially those residing in these camps. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has also developed a strategy for education from 2012 to 2016, aiming to foster the refugees' skills and knowledge to enable them to live healthy and productive life, and to promote self-reliance and peaceful sustainable coexistence. The first objective of the strategy is quality: better access to education and educational attainment among refugee children, with focus on the learning environment, the quality of teaching, early childhood development and rapid learning programs. The second objective is to increase access to education and training beyond primary school. The secondary education advantages have special importance, particularly among young refugees, in terms of developing leadership skills, and the ability to contribute positively to their communities both in the prolonged refugee status and in the post-conflict reconstruction.

The third objective lies in expanding the education opportunities for refugees, whether through scholarships from the colleges of the host countries, or through remote learning. Under a program funded by the German government since 1992, UNHCR provides scholarships for higher education for refugees. Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund provided thousands of bright young refugees with scholarships in the universities and colleges of their hosting countries. The growing opportunities to receive college and semi-professional courses, including remote learning, offer a growing possibility for refugee to acquire leadership skills and the better livelihoods.