

## Jordanian Diplomacy and Food Security during the COVID-19 Lockdowns: A Case Study

Farida Obaid\*<sup>1</sup>, Mazen Alougili<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Al-Ahliyya Amman University, <sup>2</sup>Jordan University

### Abstract

**Objectives:** This study investigates the role of Jordanian diplomacy in supporting national food security during the total lockdown imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It examines the central question: How did diplomatic actions contribute to securing food availability, accessibility, and affordability amid a global crisis? By bridging international relations and food security studies, this research highlights the strategic value of diplomacy in addressing non-traditional security threats.

**Methodology:** A quantitative research approach, underpinned by a crisis decision-making framework, was employed. Data were drawn from government reports, diplomatic communications, and international agreements facilitated by Jordanian embassies and consulates. The analysis focused on identifying specific diplomatic interventions that impacted food supply chains and national food stability, integrating foreign policy analysis within a food security context.

**Findings:** Results demonstrate that Jordanian diplomatic missions played a pivotal role in maintaining national food security. They facilitated international cooperation, ensured the continuity of trade routes, and secured foreign aid and logistical support. These efforts enabled Jordan to sustain strategic food reserves and supply citizens with essential food items during both full and partial lockdowns.

**Implications:** The findings underscore the potential of diplomacy as a proactive mechanism for enhancing food resilience in crises. They offer a policy-relevant model for small or resource-constrained states to leverage diplomatic networks for internal stability.

**Conclusions:** Jordanian diplomacy effectively mitigated the impact of COVID-19 on food security. This study contributes to the broader discourse on the role of foreign policy in national resilience and emergency preparedness.

### Key words

Food security, Agriculture, Food Diplomacy, COVID-19.

## Introduction

His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein has affirmed that since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, food security has emerged as a paramount national priority in Jordan and was declared the most pressing challenge for the year 2021. (The Royal Hashemite Court, 2020) This concern encompasses key pillars such as agriculture, food supply, self-sufficiency, and self-reliance in the provision of essential commodities (Food Security Strategy, 2020).

The continued rise in population has directly led to an increased demand for food. Given that Jordan imports nearly all of its basic food crops—including approximately 100% of cereals and wheat—this dependence imposes substantial financial pressure on the state treasury. Without enhanced domestic agricultural productivity, this burden is expected to escalate. While the agriculture sector has doubled its contribution to national GDP from 2% to 4% over the past five years—primarily driven by domestic consumption—Jordan remains a major net importer of food, a condition unlikely to shift in the near to medium term.

Consequently, there is a growing need to adopt innovative agricultural technologies, including hydroponic systems and the digitalization of agricultural input-output decision-making. These methods are expected to significantly boost the sector's efficiency, raise its GDP contribution, expand national exports, and increase employment opportunities for Jordanian workers. The government has launched an integrated agricultural investment plan aimed at improving productivity, which will, however, require additional supportive resources such as water and electricity (Central Bank of Jordan, 2021).

In response to the challenges posed by the pandemic, the government took notable steps to ensure the availability of basic food commodities. Wheat

reserves, for instance, reached record levels—sufficient for 14 to 17 months of national consumption. The Ministry of Industry and Trade also introduced an early warning system to monitor the availability of key commodities such as milk, sugar, legumes, and vegetable oils. Furthermore, lockdown measures were structured in a way that permitted uninterrupted movement of personnel involved in food production and agriculture, thereby safeguarding the continuity of food supply chains. In parallel, government agencies in coordination with non-governmental organizations and relief funds formed a social protection task force that distributed financial aid to over 151,000 families and more than 145,000 food parcels in response to the socio-economic repercussions of the COVID-19 crisis (Tamer Rousn, 2020) (Ministry of Industry and Trade, 2022).

## Problem of the Study

Since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, Jordan—like many other countries—implemented lockdown measures that included the closure of borders and temporary shutdowns of several food production and distribution facilities. These restrictions, although necessary to limit the spread of the virus, disrupted the movement of goods and services across supply chains, thereby threatening both national and household-level food security. The interruption in the availability and accessibility of essential food items raised concerns about the country's ability to meet the nutritional needs of its population during crisis conditions. (Aday & Aday, 2020) (Elsahoryi et al., 2020).

In response, Jordanian diplomatic efforts emerged as a vital component of the state's broader strategy to stabilize food systems. With the activation of defense laws that governed nationwide closures, representatives of Jordanian diplomacy played a key role in securing continued access to international markets,

facilitating bilateral agreements for food imports, and ensuring logistical support through diplomatic channels. These interventions aimed to uphold the national interest by maintaining food availability, mitigating shortages, and supporting the resilience of Jordan's food supply infrastructure amid the ongoing pandemic-induced challenges. (Brown & Studemeister, 2001).

### Hypothesis of the Study

Given the national decisions and emergency measures implemented during the full lockdown period of the COVID-19 pandemic to preserve social and economic stability, this study hypothesizes that Jordanian diplomacy played a constructive and positive role in achieving the national interest. Specifically, it assumes that diplomatic interventions contributed significantly to maintaining food security in Jordan by ensuring access to essential commodities, securing international support, and stabilizing food supply chains during a time of global disruption. (Dai et al., 2010).

Accordingly, the study is based on the following hypothesis:

Jordanian diplomacy positively contributed to maintaining national food security and achieving internal stability during the 2020 COVID-19 lockdown.

### Purpose of the Study

The primary purpose of this study is to investigate the role of Jordanian diplomacy in preserving the stability of national food security during the pandemic lockdowns imposed in 2020. (Snow & Cull, 2020) This objective reflects a broader interest in understanding how foreign policy tools can be mobilized in times of global crises to protect domestic welfare. (Cornago, 2008).

Specifically, the study aims to:

1. Examine the efforts and mechanisms employed by Jordanian diplomacy to maintain food security within the country during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic closures.
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of diplomatic actions in contributing to a sustained state of food security from the onset of the pandemic, with a focus on the period of national lockdowns.

### Question of the Study

In light of the widespread disruptions faced by food systems globally during the COVID-19 pandemic—particularly in their ability to ensure adequate food provision for populations—Jordanian diplomacy took proactive steps to address food security challenges. This study therefore seeks to answer the following primary research question:

Has Jordanian diplomacy been successful in maintaining and managing the food security challenges that emerged as a result of the nationwide lockdowns imposed during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic?

The research question aims to explore the effectiveness of diplomatic strategies and interventions undertaken by the Jordanian government in mitigating the impact of the crisis on national food systems and ensuring the continued availability of essential food commodities to citizens.

### Methodology of the Study

Crisis Decision-Making Approach:

Decisions taken during times of national or global crises—such as the COVID-19 pandemic—are often critical and time-sensitive. This study applies a crisis decision-making framework, particularly focusing on the role of Jordan's National Center for Security and Crisis Management (NCSCM), which coordinated

the national response through the activation of a crisis cell. This framework was instrumental in guiding Jordanian diplomatic efforts aimed at safeguarding the national interest, maintaining public health, and securing stable relations with international partners in accordance with the evolving nature of the pandemic. (Al-Ajlouni, 2021).

#### Jordanian Diplomacy:

Jordanian diplomacy, rooted in the legacy of the Hashemite Kingdom since the founding of the Emirate in 1921, has long been a cornerstone of the country's regional and international positioning. Through decades of turbulence, war, and political realignments in the Middle East, Jordan has maintained a consistent diplomatic presence characterized by moderation, balance, and pragmatism. Notably, Jordan has served as a voice of reason and reconciliation, supporting Arab unity and fostering strong bilateral and multilateral relationships without compromising its sovereign policy positions. (Cornago-Prieto, 2008).

This diplomatic tradition has evolved institutionally, particularly with the establishment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1939, later renamed in 2013 as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates. This transformation expanded its mandate to include greater support and outreach to Jordanian citizens abroad. Jordanian diplomacy is further reinforced by the International Cooperation Departments within various ministries, all working collaboratively to serve national objectives (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, 2022).

The main responsibilities of these departments include

1. Developing and strengthening cooperative relations with foreign governments and international donors to secure financial and technical support for development projects.

2. Continuously exploring funding opportunities and maintaining an up-to-date database on available financial mechanisms and their eligibility criteria.

3. Identifying suitable financing sources that align with national project priorities and conditions of funding agencies.

4. Preparing and facilitating the conclusion of financing and cooperation agreements, overseeing their implementation, and addressing any obstacles that may hinder progress.

5. Organizing visits and coordination efforts with international delegations in collaboration with the Ministry's Public Relations Department. (Hopkins, 2015).

Through these coordinated diplomatic and institutional efforts, Jordan sought to preserve food security and uphold its national resilience throughout the COVID-19 pandemic crisis (Al-Ajlouni, 2021; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, 2022) (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, 2022).

#### The Impact of COVID-19 in Jordan on Food Security:

The COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on economies worldwide, and Jordan was no exception. Classified by global organizations as the most severe economic downturn since World War II, the pandemic created a health crisis that rapidly evolved into a shock to global economic systems and labor markets. International labor organizations expressed concerns about massive job losses or wage reductions, deepening the economic toll. Economists emphasized the need to inject liquidity to support the private sector and stabilize employment. (Abu-Mater et al., 2020).

Jordan, with an already sluggish economy (GDP growth below 2% since 2016), experienced further contraction during the pandemic. Unemployment rose to approximately 25% in 2020, disproportionately affecting women and youth, while household incomes declined. The crisis paralyzed the tourism sector—one of Jordan's primary economic pillars—and led to a GDP contraction of around 5%. (Bunte & Dagevos, 2009).

While modest recovery was anticipated, the pandemic's extended restrictions led to Jordan's first economic recession in over 30 years, with an official contraction rate of 1.6% and a national unemployment rate exceeding 23% (Central Bank of Jordan, 2020) (Central Bank of Jordan, 2021).

Food security was directly affected by this downturn. Measures like quarantine, isolation, social distancing, and travel bans disrupted supply chains, contributing to a global food crisis. Ministries in Jordan were directed to improve food security in response. Although Jordan has achieved self-sufficiency in some commodities (e.g., vegetables, poultry, milk, eggs, and olive oil), the country remains heavily reliant on food imports: approximately 95% of wheat and barley and 100% of rice and sugar. Jordan annually imports over \$1 billion in food and agricultural products. (Guo & Yannelis, 2020).

This high dependence underscores the importance of effective trade and supply strategies, particularly during global crises. Moreover, food loss and waste throughout the supply chain exacerbate vulnerability and lead to significant losses in natural and financial resources. According to a 2016 U.S. Department of Agriculture report, Jordan imports 95% of all consumer goods, reaffirming its classification as a net food importer (Ministry of Agriculture, 2021).

This study will highlight the major agreements and diplomatic interventions undertaken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during 2020 to sustain national food security, drawing on official data from the Ministry's Media Center.

The following are actions undertaken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates during the time of total closure caused by the Corona pandemic, which contributed to food security stability: (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, 2022).

The ministry and the World Food Program are discussing ways to enhance continuous cooperation between the kingdom and the food program. The World Food Program has also implemented its programs within the framework of the existing bilateral partnership based on its plan related to the Kingdom for the years 2020-2022 in support of the Kingdom's efforts to bear the burden of Syrian refugees and enhance the Kingdom's response to crises and build capacities, especially after coronavirus swept the world, which will affect the food supply to and from Jordan. (World Food Programme, 2022).

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry discussed with the Foreign Ministry of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) cooperation and coordination between the two countries in confronting the COVID-19 pandemic and its repercussions on the economy and security in the region, which will reflect this on foreign food trade and the two parties' keenness to preserve food supplies.

Note: the most significant imports from the UAE are fish, dairy, natural honey, milling products (barley), sugar and its products, cocoa and its preparations, and miscellaneous food preparations. The most significant exports to the UAE are edible vegetables, plants, roots and tubers, edible fruits and vegetables, cereal-based preparations, and miscellaneous food

preparations.

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry discussed, with the Palestine Liberation Organization, cooperation between the Kingdom and Palestine in facing the coronavirus crisis and cooperation in facing its repercussions, especially in the difficult circumstances that imposed additional challenges on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), as it is facing an acute financial crisis that provides services to refugees facing a financial crisis (UNRWA, 2020).

Note: UNRWA provides food aid to Palestinian refugees in Jordan (UNRWA, 2020).

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Vice President of the European Commission (Josep Borrell), discussed the latest developments of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on the Jordanian economy and ways to enhance and coordinate measures with the Kingdom and the European Union to contain the spread of the new virus and its consequences. The Vice-President of the European Commission also affirmed the European Union's support to the Kingdom in its efforts to deal with the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigate its impact on the Kingdom's economy and its development path.

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry made phone calls with the Foreign Ministry of the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Republic of Lebanon, and the Republic of Tunisia and discussed with his counterparts cooperation and coordination in confronting the coronavirus pandemic with the kingdom.

Note: The food supply route to the mentioned countries is rich and green, and the most important

exports and imports are vegetables, fruits, dairy products, live animals, meat, and others.

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry discussed with the Russian Foreign Ministry ways of solidarity and cooperation in facing the Corona pandemic and its consequences, and the Russian Foreign Minister affirmed his country's readiness to provide any available assistance in dealing with this unprecedented challenge.

Note: Russia is one of the most significant grain exporters to Jordan, and this was reflected in the increase in the quantities of food imports for the year 2020.

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry and the USA Foreign Ministry affirmed solidarity in confronting the pandemic and its economic repercussions on the Jordanian economy, and they discussed ways to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries. They also reviewed the prospects for developing relations between the two countries in all fields. They emphasized the strength of the distinguished company to which the two countries had committed themselves economically, commercially, and defensively. It also expressed gratitude to his American counterpart for the steps she had taken to speed up the delivery of financial support within the framework of the Kingdom's aid program to deal with the pandemic.

Note: The food trade movement with America is rich and green.

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry held talks with the German Foreign Ministry on the most important bilateral and regional issues, and Germany is an essential partner to the Kingdom with strategic relations that witness continuous cooperation and play a key role in efforts to overcome crises, especially the coronavirus crisis, and achieve security and stability, as Germany

is the second-largest economic supporter of Jordan.

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry held a tripartite meeting with the Greek and Cypriot Foreign Ministries within the framework of the cooperation mechanism that was launched in 2016 to enhance cooperation and increase coordination in efforts to resolve regional crises and achieve security and stability. The ministers stressed the continuation of work to deepen cooperation in the economic, investment, and agricultural fields and to benefit from the opportunities provided by the signed agreements in various fields, the most important of which is agriculture. They also stressed solidarity in facing the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic consequences.

The discussions between the Jordanian Foreign Ministry and the Romanian Foreign Ministry focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation and solidarity in confronting the epidemic and developing relations in all fields between the two countries.

Note: The Kingdom imports large quantities of cereals, live animals, meat, fruits, and other foodstuffs. Jordan and Iraq are discussing ways to strengthen brotherly relations and increase cooperation in all fields. They also affirmed the continuation of practical steps to implement cooperation agreements signed by the Kingdom and brotherly Iraq in the fields of energy, industry, trade, investment, and other areas that serve common interests. (Rasul, 2021)

Note: Iraq imports food from Jordan, and it is a food trade corridor for Europe.

The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOP) (Ministry of Planning, 2020).

This is one of the Jordanian official bodies that represent diplomacy in the Department of International

Cooperation at the Ministry through setting policies and programs represented in agreements, grants, and soft loans from other countries. It has had an effective role in maintaining the stability of food security during the period of closure from the epidemic, directly and indirectly.

According to a report issued by the ministry, the value of foreign aid contracted and provided to Jordan during the period 11/1/7/0202 amounted to \$57.1 billion and includes: All regular grants and additional grants to counter the emerging corona pandemic, soft loans, and additional grants to support Jordan within the framework of the Jordan Response Plan for the Syrian crisis (support for the general budget and support for development projects in host communities), in addition to about (124 million US dollars) of the total support provided for Syrian refugees in Jordan within the framework of the Jordanian response plan to the Syrian crisis, which includes providing direct aid, food aid and medical aid providing shelter, etc. (Ministry of Planning, 2020) (Ministry of Planning, 2020).

Foreign support to confront the emerging Corona pandemic amounted to nearly 35 million dollars, which included most sectors that support food security in one way or another.

Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) (Ministry of Agriculture, 2021).

The MOA is one of the most important government agencies working on achieving food security by promoting agricultural and productive production and markets to expand food access and contribute to improving and using food supplies.

It also has an agricultural diplomatic role in the Department of International Conventions and Coop-

eration, which means active participation in relevant international and regional organizations and the holding of international conventions by assets, promoting economic opportunities for agricultural producers, and following local and international business opportunities. (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2006)

The agricultural sector is one of the sectors least affected by the consequences of the pandemic, due to the different nature of agricultural activities, as well as the results of curfew and closure measures on industry compared to other economic sectors. This is also due to high external demand, which has contributed to alleviating the consequences of the pandemic, as demonstrated by the growth of agricultural exports by 4.2 percent. Despite the pandemic, the agricultural sector grew by 1.6 percent compared to 2.6 percent in 2019. The sector maintained its contribution to the overall GDP growth rate at basic constant prices by 0.1 percentage point, while maintaining its relative importance for GDP at 5.5 percent. The slowdown in the sector's performance was partly due to a decline in investment due to a decline in the capital of new agricultural companies registered with the MIT in 2020 to JD 12.1 million, compared to JD 23.1 million in 2019. (CJB, 2020).

The Department follows the Department of International Cooperation and the Organizations Section. (The information below is from the Ministry of Agriculture, Yearbook 2020.) (Ministry of Agriculture, 2021).

One of the most important achievements of the Department of International Cooperation during the closure period:

- Preparation of cooperation with states and monitoring common agricultural issues, especially the consequences of the Corona pandemic on the sector.

- The arrangement for the interviews with ambassadors and diplomatic missions.

- Follow up on the average cross-border cooperation program with the MOP and Prime Minister and Supports to obtain the program for 2020.

- Preparing memorandums of understanding for agricultural cooperation with countries (Russia, Venezuela, and Syria).

- Participation in the meetings of the Agriculture, Trade, and Customs Committee with the European Union.

- Participation in the ministry's efforts during a curfew following the corona pandemic and work within the hotline team to answer farmers' inquiries and follow up on their applications.

The achievements of the organization's section during the lockdown period:

- Coordination of the participation of representatives of the Ministry at conferences, seminars, meetings, exploratory tours, and international and regional workshops in cooperation with the concerned authorities.

- Cooperation with FAO and the World Food Program in the preparation of a project on electronic trade for the agricultural sector (FAO, 2020).

- Coordination and arrangement of communal meetings and meetings of relevant authorities in international organizations (the World Bank and the United Nations for Agricultural Development, FAO, the International Organization for Agriculture, and the Barry Institute of International Advanced Agriculture Studies on the Mediterranean), participating in those

meetings, and discussing cooperation in alleviating the impact of the pandemic Technically agricultural and the agricultural sector (FAO, 2020).

Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT) (Ministry of Industry and Trade, 2022).

This is one of the most prominent ministries concerned with strengthening the national economy and enabling and strengthening the axis of food security and consumer protection and ensuring market quality at appropriate prices and improving foreign trade systems through external accessories, which are foreign trade policy managers and achieved through the affiliation of international economic and trade conventions (WTO) and ongoing negotiations, as well as bilateral trade agreements between Jordan and other countries and to oversee the preparation and follow-up of these conventions and follow-up projects to assess the implications of their application and to develop them in contributing to the promotion and development of the Jordanian economy. (Information below is from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Yearbook 2020.) (Ministry of Industry and Trade, 2022).

One of the achievements of the Department during the study period to maintain food security stability:

- The meetings of the Group of Twenty (G20) countries on international trade and investment, which are devoted to discussing measures to support global economic recovery in light of the repercussions of the emerging coronavirus pandemic.

Note: The G20 members are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the European Union.

- Meetings of the economic team concerned with enhancing cooperation between Jordan and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

- Meetings of the economic and social team within the framework of the League of Arab States to discuss the promotion and development of joint Arab action to address the COVID-19 crisis.

#### Ministry of Labor (MOL)

The MOL provides an appropriate work environment and strengthens the labor market for all sectors, including the food sector in all its branches. Thus, the Ministry indirectly supports food security. The Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry, which represents the concept of diplomacy, follows up labor agreements with foreign and Arab countries, works to activate them, and forms follow-up and liaison committees with all international organizations to enhance and raise the level of the labor market in all sectors. (Abu-Mater et al., 2020) (The information below is from the Ministry of Labor, Yearbook 2020.).

Among the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry's achievements during the lockdowns from the pandemic:

Work on the draft emergency fund during Corona, which aims to expand income protection for targeted groups and those who are not registered in the Social Security Institution.

Signing agreements with the International Labor Organization to establish companies that employ Jordanians in agriculture with social security and health insurance.

Signing a memorandum of understanding with the International Labor Organization, which aims to enhance the implementation of the legal provisions and

conditions related to inspections and those concerned with work, work conditions, and protection of workers while they work, coinciding with the repercussions of the pandemic.

The achievements of the Department of International Cooperation of the Social Security Corporation, under the MOL umbrella, for the period of study:

The Department of International Cooperation participated in seminars and workshops with the Arab Labor Organization (ALO), the most important of which was a symposium on "The Challenges of Financial Sustainability for Social Security and Social Security Institutions in the Light of the Corona Pandemic" sponsored by the Director-General of the ALO.

The Department of International Cooperation held regular meetings with UNICEF, in coordination with its regional office in Amman, to monitor and clarify the procedures and responses of the social protection system in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, especially the Public Institution for Social Security, in light of the Corona pandemic.

Ministry of Environment (MOE) (Ministry of Environment, 2022).

The MOE seeks to implement the concept of a green economy, which means sustainable economic growth in light of the preservation of the environment and its various elements. One of the most important sectors that the Ministry focuses on is the agriculture and water sector, which takes place through cooperation and coordination with its partners in the public and private sectors, in addition to international cooperation.

The Ministry had an active role in maintaining the stability of food security during the pandemic, and the

role of the Department of Policies and International Cooperation had a diplomatic role at the internal and external levels during the period of closure from the pandemic, the most important of which are: (The information below is from the Ministry of Environmental, Yearbook 2020.) (Ministry of Environment, 2022).

Follow up on the ministry's procedures during the closure periods of the pandemic and issue a report on that.

The ministry contracted with the Green Environment Company at the beginning of the crisis to collect waste from the quarantine areas entering Jordan from 17/3/2020 to 10/4/2020 in the Dead Sea and Amman.

In partnership with the German Federal Government, the German Agency for International Cooperation provided material and organizational support for the strategic preparation of the Ministry of Environment for the years 2020-2022. The strategy supports the field of food security, especially during the pandemic period (Ministry of Environment, 2022).

Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) (Ministry of Water and Irrigation, 2022).

Water security is the brother of food security. The MWI is one of the most important sectors that support national food security. One of the strategic goals of the ministry is to strengthen water efforts and join hands to overcome water criticality in a country classified among the water-poor countries. The Jordanian state, with permanent royal interest, has been able to enhance water resources and put an end to the aggravation of the water situation, which requires everyone to support these efforts and to contribute effectively through the good national response accustomed to all segments. (The information below is from the Min-

istry of Water and Irrigation from Yearbook 2020.)  
(Ministry of Water and Irrigation, 2022).

The water sector has made exceptional efforts in supporting all official and civil agencies to confront the Corona emergency pandemic and is still continuing their efforts to mitigate the effects of this pandemic on fellow citizens, especially during times of ban and comprehensive ban, as the MWI continues to implement its effective plans and programs and various scenarios to secure needs on time.

Among its most important achievements that contributed to stabilizing food security during the embargo period through external cooperation with international organizations:

The MWI, with the cooperation and support of an initiative to raise the efficiency of the water sector, launched an initiative funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID): (USAID, 2020).

The ministry discussed ways of cooperation between an initiative project to raise the efficiency of the water sector, funded by USAID, which aims to promote important and practical practices, namely, the continuous maintenance of the water tank in homes and its facilities such as the float and others. On the other hand, the necessity of acquiring a home groundwatertank in real estate was taken into account if it does not already exist, as well as the use of the water sprinkler when needed instead of the water hose, stressing that these positive behaviors will greatly contribute to raising the efficiency of water use and reducing the value of the household bill. This will reflect positively on the economic reality of the Jordanian family and preserve the quantities of water and ensure its fairness and efficiency to the neighbors to provide a backup storage capacity of domestic wa-

ter (USAID, 2020).

The Ministry appreciated the continuous support and unlimited cooperation from the project of an initiative to raise the efficiency of the water sector, funded by the USAID, on these initiatives, which aim to adopt effective behaviors in water conservation and the importance of reporting noticeable water leakage or attacks along with the adoption of programs for maintenance of all household utilities. This reduces water wastage and achieves peace of mind and satisfaction in the values of water bills (USAID, 2020).

The MWI and the Swiss Embassy discuss the completion of the national program to confront the threat of floods:

The ministry discussed aspects of cooperation with the Swiss Embassy, especially in the field of supporting the national program for mapping floods, which is implemented by the ministry and the water authority in cooperation with the NCSCM, and supporting water projects and ways to enhance them, especially in light of the corona pandemic.

The ministry is keen on the importance of strengthening cooperation and benefiting from the Swiss expertise in responding to the challenges of the water sector in Jordan, indicating the importance of this national program through the NCSCM, which is funded with the support of the Swiss government. This was with the aim of identifying and analyzing all risks and developing solutions and measures to be taken by all national authorities and institutions, using all modern technological means, early warning systems, evacuation plans, access to a Jordanian national program for mapping floods, identifying all measures to be taken in advance within the framework of the national strategy for disaster risk reduction, and supporting all state institutions in facing flood challenges.

## Outcomes and Analysis

Jordan successfully sustained food reserves, improved food monitoring, and maintained export activities. Agricultural exports grew by 4.2%, and sectoral GDP contribution remained stable. These outcomes illustrate the effective coordination between diplomatic and national institutions in buffering against global disruptions. (Raouf et al., 2020)

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- First: Fareedah Mohammad Obeid, research of food security, AL\_Ahliyya Amman University.
- Prof. Mazen Ahmas Sudgi Alougili, Professor of International Relations, Jordan University.

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## **Biography of researchers**

### **Farida Obaid**

Master's in Food Security and Diplomacy from the University of Jordan (2022). A lecturer at the Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Al-Ahliyya Amman University. Her academic and research focus is on food security and food technology.

Email: [f.obaid@amman.edu.jo](mailto:f.obaid@amman.edu.jo)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0006-1354-0913>

### **Mazen Alougili**

Professor in the Department of International Relations and Regional Studies at the Prince Hussein bin Abdullah II Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, University of Jordan, specializing in political science and international relations, with extensive experience in academic research and teaching in these fields.

Email: [m.alougili@ju.edu.jo](mailto:m.alougili@ju.edu.jo)

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0005-2708-5416>