

MAPPING: KEY FIGURES

NATIONAL REPORT: JORDAN

ICA-EU PARTNERSHIP



Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT.....	3
I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	3
II. PUBLIC NATIONAL STATISTICS	4
III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	4
II. KEY FIGURES.....	5
I. ICA MEMBER DATA	5
II. GENERAL OVERVIEW	5
III. SECTOR OVERVIEW	6
III. GRAPHS	7
I. PERCENTAGE OF COOPERATIVES PER SECTOR.....	7
IV. ANNEXES.....	8

Jordan- Key Figures National Report

I. Introduction and context

This report is part of a global mapping exercise launched by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and its regional offices within a partnership signed with the European Commission for the period 2016-2020, which aims to strengthen the cooperative movement and its capacity to promote international development. Other research projects include a worldwide legal frameworks analysis, and several thematic researches on themes of significance for cooperatives.

Responding to challenges and existing knowledge gaps facing the cooperative movement, this research provides exhaustive information on cooperatives worldwide. This has been achieved by collecting the input of ICA members through an online questionnaire, and completing it with relevant national statistics, in order to obtain an accurate picture of the national situation. Mapping out cooperatives in each country provides a more precise picture of the cooperative context at national and regional levels, enhances the movement's visibility, networking, partnerships, opportunities, as well as advocacy, and empowers cooperators by providing them tools for positive change.

Within this framework, the present report showcases information about the cooperative landscape in Jordan.

i. Historical background

The cooperative movement in Jordan started with establishment of the Cooperative Development Department (CDD) in 1952 following the first cooperative law issued in 1952. The Jordan Central Cooperative Union (JCCU) was established by 247 primary cooperative societies in 1959. This was complimented by establishment of the Cooperative Institute in 1963 and Cooperative Auditing Union in 1964.

The number of cooperative societies reached 709 in 1967. The cooperative movement suffered a serious setback in the aftermath of the June 1967 war, as over half of the societies were in the West Bank (at that time cooperatives in the West Bank were affiliated to the JCCU), where activities were suspended. Because of this conflict, the Government of Jordan took over the responsibility of cooperative development by establishing an autonomous but quasi-governmental agency, the Jordan Cooperative Organization (JCO), which absorbed the JCCU, the Cooperative Institute and the Audit Union. The Cooperative Law of 1971 changed the nature of Jordan's cooperative sector by placing all functions and responsibilities of the hitherto autonomous apex bodies under the JCO as 'super apex'. Since the Government held most seats on the

3



Board of Directors of the JCO, this resulted in effective government control over the cooperative movement. Established in 1978, the Jordan Cooperative Bank (JCB) disbursed between 16 to 20 per cent of the total institutional credit between 1980 and 1985.

The Central Bank stopped the JCB from operating because it was on the brink of bankruptcy. The JCO continued from 1968 until 1997. During this period, the cooperative bank was established which provided loans, trading services, and production requirements. Agricultural cooperatives were also set-up during this period.

By 1997, the financial situation of JCO had become alarming and the government dissolved the organisation replacing it by the Jordan Cooperative Corporation (JCC). JCC was established in accordance with the new Cooperative Law 1997.

In 2021, JCC and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) launched the National Cooperative Strategy for Jordan for 2021-2025 on the occasion of the International Day of Cooperatives to promote and develop cooperatives in Jordan.

ii. Public national statistics

Public national statistics on cooperatives in Jordan have been taken from the statistics published by Jordan Cooperative Corporation (JCC) for the year 2019-2020.

NUMBER OF COOPERATIVES

In 2019-2020, there were 1,507 cooperatives.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

In 2019-2020, there were 134,495 members in cooperatives.

iii. Research methodology

The aim of the mapping research is to collect and make publicly available reliable and up-to-date data to understand what the cooperative movement represents in the targeted country. With this view, the data detailed in the present report has been collected using the methodology detailed below.

The methodological tools include a questionnaire used to collect the data, which was distributed online to the members, as well as a methodological note provided for further guidance. They were built jointly with all ICA regional offices with the support of external experts from the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse) and are applied in a harmonised way in all the target countries.

The classifications used in the research are consistent with the internal system used within the ICA movement (e.g. on membership status and types of cooperative organisations) and with standards increasingly adopted in recent studies and by international organisations like the ILO – e.g. using international classifications of economic activities such as the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) rev. 4, which ensures the comparability of statistics both nationally and internationally, as well as with statistics on other forms of enterprises.

Regarding the target organisations, considering that a worldwide survey has very challenging goals, and while the value of directly collecting data from non-member cooperatives must be recognised, the present Mapping exercise targets cooperative organisations members of the ICA.

Furthermore, in order to complete the ICA members' data, the decision was taken to also look at external sources, to provide additional and more exhaustive cooperative statistics for the country. As a result, the data is collected following two strategies contemporaneously: 1) collecting statistics already available in the country; 2) carrying out a survey targeting ICA cooperative members.

The Mapping report for Jordan was prepared using the information made available in the statistics report on cooperatives by the Jordan Cooperative Corporation (JCC) and the legal framework analysis report for Jordan prepared under the ICA-European Commission partnership.

II. Key figures

Jordan has one ICA member organisation:

1. Jordan Cooperative Corporation (JCC)

JCC is an independent organisation formed by the government which supervises the cooperative sector (societies and unions) and works to raise the economic, social, cultural and local communities. They promote self-reliance to achieve the social and economic benefits of cooperatives. It became a member of the ICA in 2018.

i. ICA member data

The data on ICA membership in this section was collected from the statistics report on cooperatives by the Jordan Cooperative Corporation (JCC) for the year 2019-2020.

ii. General overview

The present section provides an overview of data from ICA member in Jordan.

Category	JCC
Year	2019-2020
Number of cooperative memberships	1,507
Number of individual memberships	134,495

Table 1: Cooperative statistics representing ICA membership in Jordan

iii. Sector overview

The sectors used below correspond to the categories used in the ISIC rev. 4. to classify the economic activities carried out by the organisations concerned.

Cooperatives in Jordan are present in diverse sectors including multipurpose, agricultural, housing, utility and mutual, etc.

Sectors	Percentage of cooperatives (2019-2020)
Multipurpose	50.4%
Agricultural	20.7%
Housing	10.8%
Utility and mutual	4.3%
Other	13.8%

Table 2: Cooperatives per sector in Jordan (2019-2020)

III. Graphs

i. Percentage of cooperatives per sector

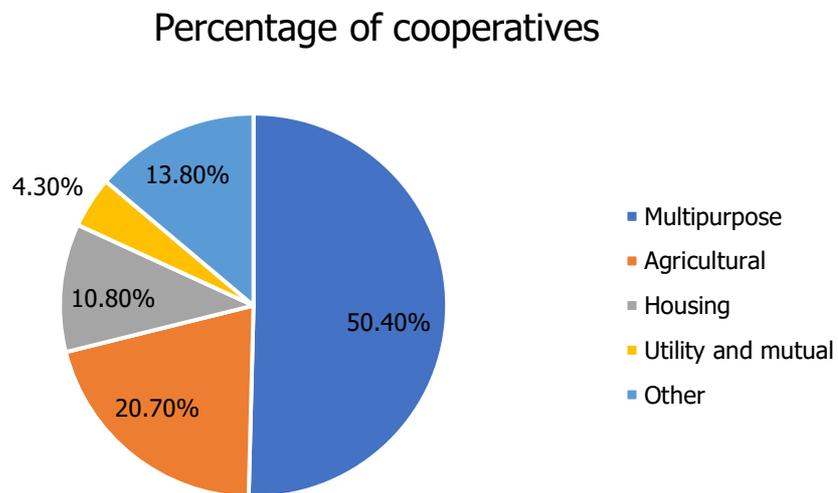


Figure 1: Percentage of cooperatives per sector in Jordan (2019-2020)

IV. Annexes

Sources and contacts are listed below.

Sources

1. [Legal framework analysis report for Jordan, 2021](#).
2. JCC (2020). [Statistics on cooperatives](#).

Contacts

Further details on the Mapping research and other country reports are available on www.coops4dev.coop

The production of this report was overseen by staff from ICA-AP Office. For any further information or clarification, please contact mappingresearch@ica.coop

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