



منتدى الاستراتيجيات الأردني
JORDAN STRATEGY FORUM

The Global Health Security Index (GHSI): Where Does Jordan Stand & What is needed? To Enhance Resiliency

April 2022

1. Background

No one should underestimate human health. Indeed, access to affordable and high quality health care should be a major concern of all countries. Improving health care is an ethical and social imperative, and a necessary ingredient for long-term sustainable growth and development of economies. Good health improves people's wellbeing, and makes them more productive.

Two years after the first case of COVID-19 was reported, the virus, and its variants, still has generate immense human and economic costs. Indeed, the viruses have exposed the underlying fragilities of many health systems across the globe to withstand shocks. The pandemic has already claimed millions of lives. In addition, many more are suffering from ill-health as a direct or indirect consequence of the virus. The virus has placed immense pressure on health care services never seen before. The pandemic has also shown that effective health spending is an investment, not a cost to be contained. A stronger, more resilient health system that protects both populations and economies should be a core objectives of all governments. After all, good health improves people's wellbeing, and makes them more productive.

Within the context of the above-mentioned observations. It is useful to note that the 2021 Global Health Security Index (GHSI), which was first launched in 2019, has recently been published. The GHSI is an assessment and benchmarking of health security and related capabilities across 195 countries. The Index is developed by the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, together with Economist Impact, was first launched in October 2019.

The 2021 GHSI assesses countries across 6 categories.

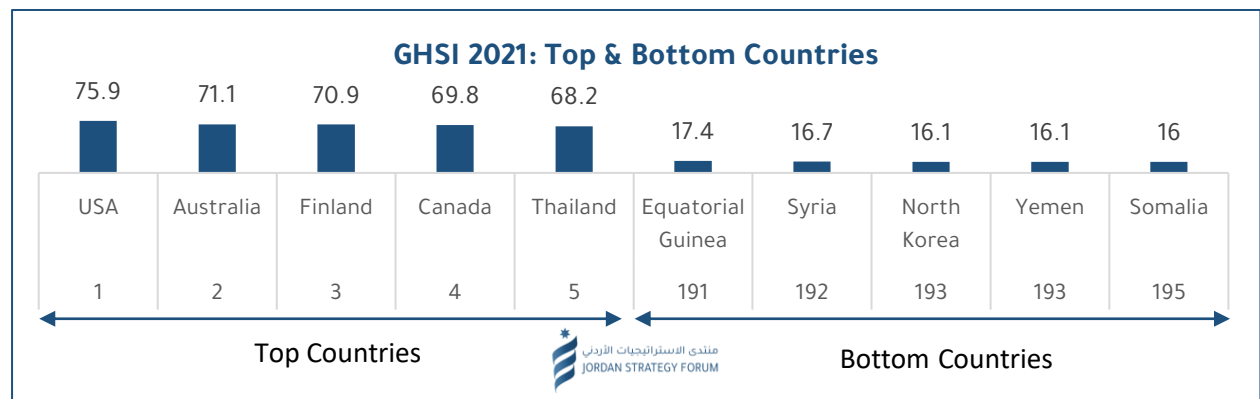
- 1. Prevention:** "Prevention of the emergence or release of pathogens, including those constituting an extraordinary public health risk in keeping with the internationally recognized definition of a Public Health Emergency of International Concern"
- 2. Detection & Reporting:** Early detection and reporting for epidemics of potential international concern, which can spread beyond national or regional borders".
- 3. Rapid Response:** "Rapid response to and mitigation of the spread of an epidemic".
- 4. Health System:** Sufficient and robust health system to treat the sick and protect health workers".
- 5. Compliance with International Norms:** "Commitments to improving national capacity, financing plans to address gaps, and adhering to global norms.
- 6. RISK ENVIRONMENT:** "Overall risk environment and country vulnerability to biological threats".

In this Policy Brief, the Jordan Strategy Forum (JSF) sheds some light on Jordan's scores and ranking on the GHSI. Naturally, the objective is to outline a number of recommendations whose aim is to enhance Jordan's standing on the Index.

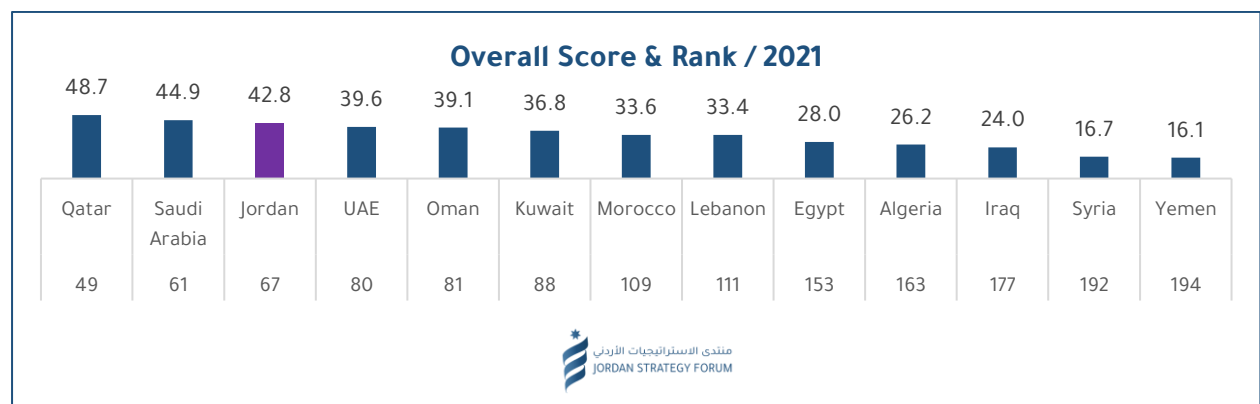
2. The Global Health Security Index: Where Does Jordan Stand?

Below, we outline a number of observations about Jordan's standing on the Global Health Security Index.

First, USA tops the world with a score of 75.9. Unfortunately, Somalia ranks last with a score of 16.

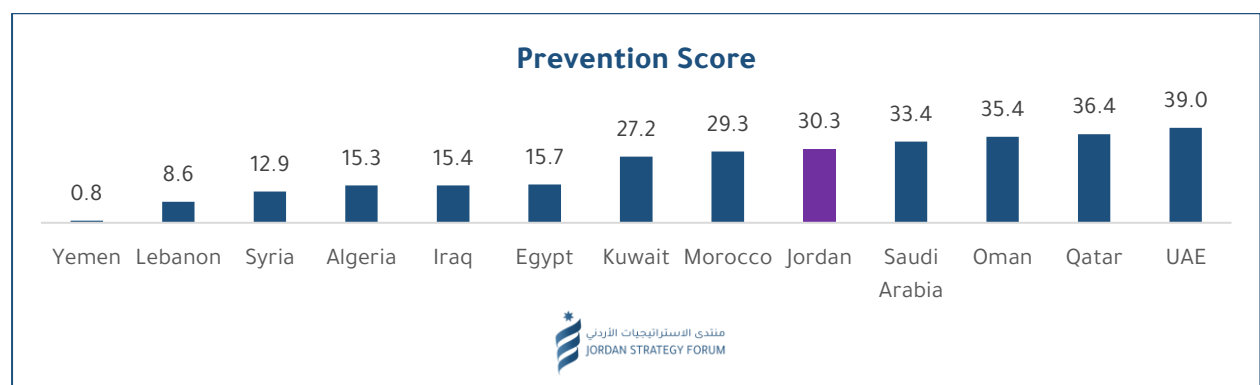


Second, Jordan's score (and rank) is relatively good. Indeed, with a score of 42.8, Jordan comes in 3rd among Arab countries, and 67th out of 195 countries.

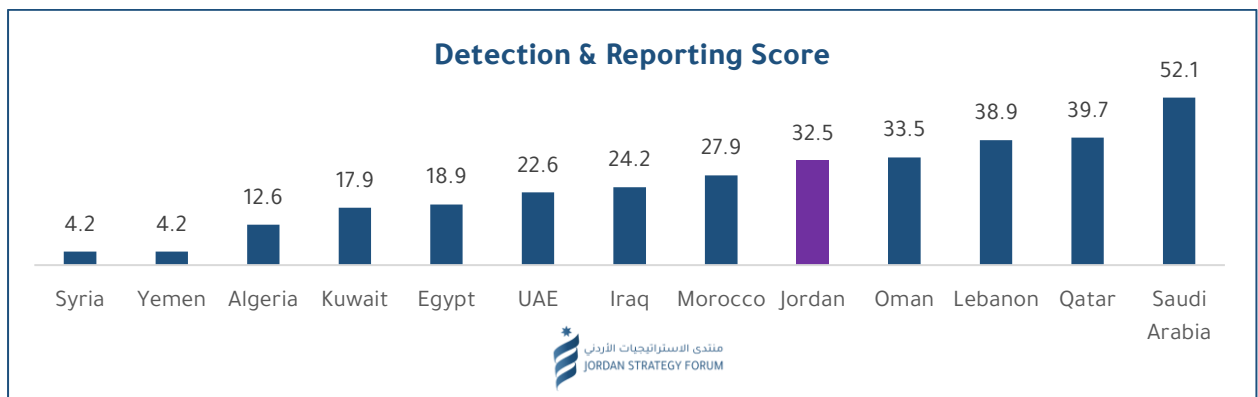


Third, in terms of the six categories of the Index, Jordan's scores are relatively good.

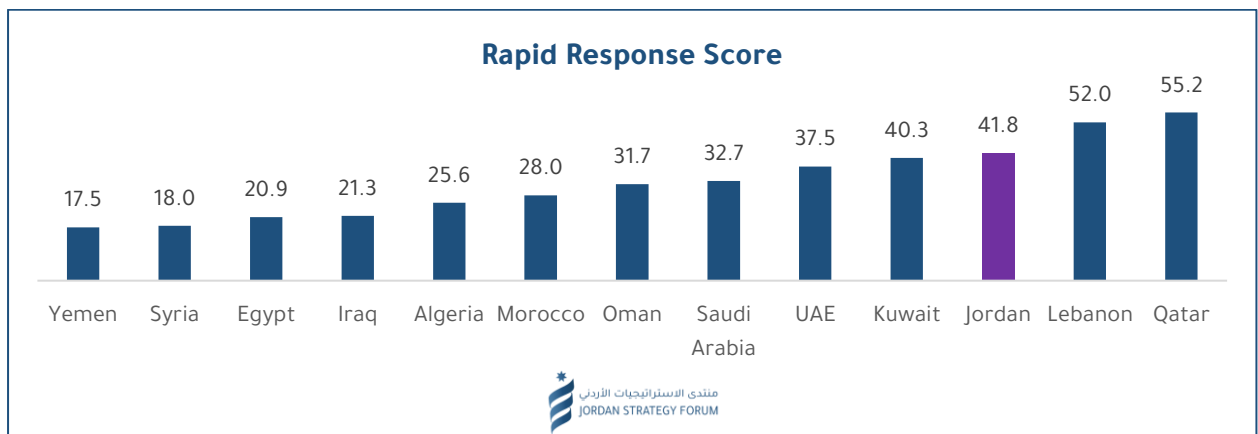
1. In prevention, Jordan's health system comes in 5th among Arab economies.



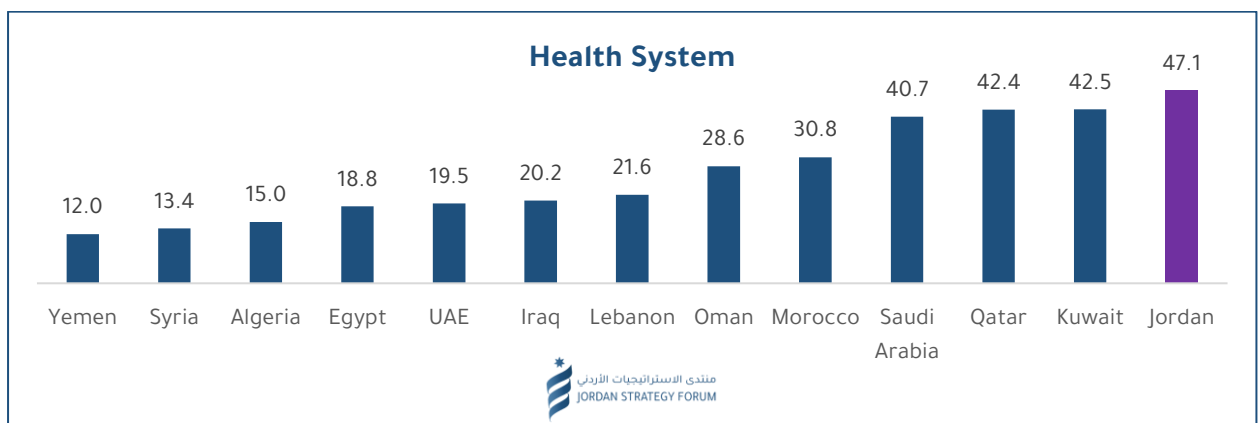
2. In detection and reporting, Jordan's health system comes in 5th among Arab economies.



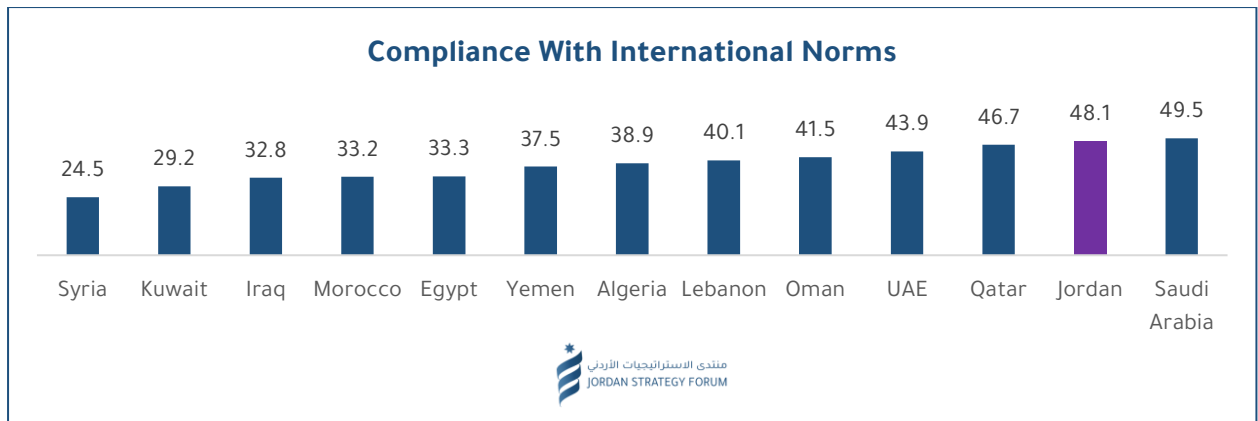
3. In rapid response, Jordan's health system comes in 3rd among Arab economies.



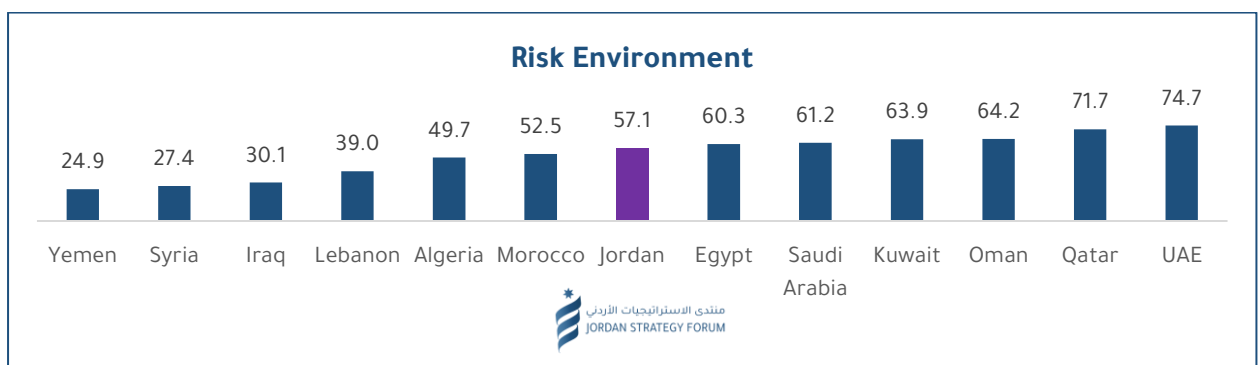
4. In health system, Jordan's health system comes in 1st among Arab economies.



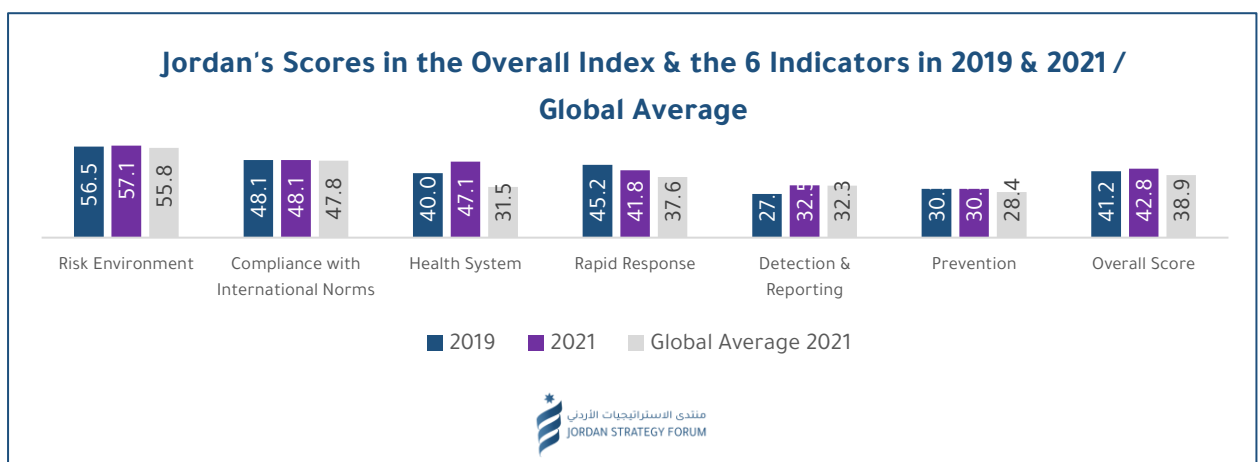
5. In compliance with international norms, Jordan's health system comes in 2nd among Arab economies.



6. In risk environment, Jordan's health system comes in 7th among Arab economies.



Within the context of the above-mentioned observations, it is encouraging to realize that Jordan's score has improved in the overall score. Even more encouraging is the fact that Jordan's score in "HEALTH SYSTEM" has increased from 40 in 2019 to 47.1 in 2021. The health system measures the sufficiency and robustness of the health system "to treat the sick and protect health workers". Indeed, in the "health system", Jordan's score is way above the global average.



3. The Global Health Security Index: What to Improve?

Based on the scores and rankings of Jordan on the GHSI, relevant stakeholders should consider where the country's score and rank are low. These include the followings:

1. **Prevention:** Jordan rankings are low in Zoonotic disease (tract and prevent diseases occurring at the human-animal interface in order to minimize the risk of novel and re-emerging zoonotic diseases reaching the human population), and in biosecurity (structures and systems to secure biological materials and research, especially those involving especially dangerous pathogens, in order to prevent accidental or deliberate misuse).
2. **Detection & Reporting:** Jordan rankings are poor in laboratory systems strength and quality (ability to rapidly and accurately identify the pathogenic cause of an outbreak informs disease detection, prevention and control, including the development of diagnostic testing and treatment option), and in real time surveillance and reporting (surveillance and reporting systems serve as early warning mechanisms that help detect and enact responses to infectious disease outbreaks that may threaten national, regional or global health security).
3. **Rapid Response:** Jordan rankings is poor in access to communications infrastructure (to ensure messages and information for a public health response is available to the general population, platforms such as internet and mobile use should be regularly accessible).
- 4.
5. **Health System:** Jordan ranking is poor in healthcare access (structures put into place to ensure access to affordable healthcare, to reduce the impacts of illness of workers, and to prioritize healthcare workers who get sick responding to emergencies).
6. **Compliance with International Norms:** Jordan rankings are poor in financing (robust, sustainable financing mechanisms are needed at national and international levels to strengthen global health security capacities and safeguard countries against epidemics and pandemics), and in cross-border agreements on public health and animal health emergency response (such agreements can help countries coordinate efforts when responding to an infectious disease emergency that spans national borders).
7. **Risk Environment:** Jordan ranking is poor in government effectiveness, (ability of the government to react in a coordinated, functional, non-corrupt and humane manner is vital to successfully overcoming a major health crisis).



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