1. **Pleas provide information on existing or new local and national laws, policies and programs that proved to effectively ensured people had access to adequate food and nutrition in the past three years. (This may include but not limited to, measures such as direct cash transfers; universal school meals; support for territorial markets ; support for food workers; support for peasants; pastoralists; fishers and other small food production).**

Governmental and non-governmental organizations contribute to eradicating poverty in Jordan by providing various financial, food and in-kind assistance to support families and other segments that are in need. Recent years saw intensified efforts to prepare other relevant strategies and plans such as the school nutrition programme, the National Food Security Strategy and others that contribute to maximize the effort of eradicating poverty.

- Preparing a national nutrition strategy 2022-2030 guided by local nutrition situation analysis and in line with the regional nutrition strategy.

* The National Strategy for Social Protection 2019-2025 The National Strategy for Social Protection reflects Jordan’s staunch commitment to ensuring that all citizens enjoy dignified living, work opportunities, and access to social services. It is rganized around the following objectives:

1. Ensure private-sector-focused labour market, decent working conditions and social insurance.

• Increase work-related protection including identifying child labour. • Expand employment opportunities.

• Increasing efficiency of government expenditure on work programmes, including technical and vocational training.

1. Provide targeted social assistance

• Improve social assistance programmes.

• Simplify and consolidate the existing social assistance programmes, and expand targeting the poor.

• School feeding programme to improve quality; enhance poverty-targeting of beneficiary schools; and raise awareness of healthy nutrition.

1. Provide universal, high quality, basic services including education, health care, and services to individuals with special needs

• Ensure equitable educational services for all, including for the poor and children with disabilities.

• Align the education system with the labour market.

• Reach universal and equitable health insurance. • Improve primary health care services.

1. Protection of the most vulnerable and poorer segments was central to the Government’s response, with efforts including ongoing regular cash transfers and emergency cash transfers. The emergency cash transfers specifically targeted daily workers impacted by the lockdowns and there was also an increase in the number of families supported under the National Aid Fund (NAF).

1. **What food security policies from the past three years does your government envisage converting into permanent programs?**
2. Launching and implementing the universal health insurance system by 2023.
3. The National Plan for Sustainable Agriculture for the years 2022-2025 includes 73 projects aimed at improving the living conditions of farmers, increase the productivity of the agricultural sector, and improve the efficiency in the use of irrigation water.
4. The National Food Security Strategy 2021- 2030 aims at achieving four main pillars focusing on ensuring food availability, improving access to food, enhancing food stability and its optimal use, in addition to strengthening food security governance.
5. Monitoring the security, safety, and quality of imported and locally produced food products in all stages of the food production chain (from farm to table), in accordance with the highest international standards in the field of food safety and security
6. **What measures, if any, has your government taken to address rising corporate power and profits in the food and agriculture sector, in terms of redistribution and avoiding excessive market concentration?**

• Financial: Several measures were implemented to enhance local revenues collection through countering tax and customs evasion. Laws were adopted related to tax collection, and administrative and organizational measures were implemented to limit tax evasion, increase inspections and quality audits, while work is also underway on dealing with distortions in a manner that would ensure tax fairness and raise audit efficiency instead of imposing new or increasing taxes. In parallel, work is implemented to control and rationalize current expenditures to reduce the budget deficit.

• Investment: Strengthening public private partnerships (PPPs) and attract more foreign investments in implementing national projects. An initiative was launched to study attracting FDI and its role in achieving sustainable development through focusing on four development pillars: creativity and innovation, gender equality, the green economy and decarbonisation, employment and training. A ministry dedicated to investment was established in 2021 to enhance the investment environment and remove obstacles before investors. The ministry includes a special unit for PPPs. There is a draft modern investment law that guarantees the protection of investments, and enables them with a focus on value added investments. The by-law for income tax in the development zones was adopted to enhance investments in these areas.

1. **Pleas provide information about any steps which have been taken in support of local small food producers to ensure stronger links between local producers and consumers and improved access to healthy nutritious diets.**
2. Jordan has a range of free trade agreements with multiple partners which contribute to strengthening the national exports base. In an innovative effort to support Jordan deal with the impact of the Syrian crisis, Jordan and the EU have signed unto the decision to simplify the rules of origin. This allows for increasing the ability of Jordanian exports to access European markets and attract foreign investments to the Kingdom. In parallel, Jordan worked to support Syrians in accessing the labour market through providing them with work permits.
3. Establishing a complex for agricultural industries which will operate on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis.
4. Stimulating agricultural industries in the industrial cities
5. Launching an investment in treasury lands for agricultural purposes / Al-Sarhan and Al-Hammad, in partnership with the private sector
6. Launched The investment project in government agricultural stations by the private sector.
7. Implementing the rural products exhibition in Amman and Irbid(in King Abdullah II Gardens)
8. **Pleas also describe any initiatives which have been undertaken to enhance local governments’ capacity to fulfill the right to food.**

Jordan recently launched its Economic Modernization Vision comprising of two main pillars; the first focuses on unleashing potential to achieve comprehensive sustainable growth and the second on improving the quality and standards of living for all Jordanians. The vision aims to meet an expected demand for one million jobs in the next decade. It expands over 360 initiatives across various sectors, as part of eight national economic growth drivers that include high-value industries, future services, investment and actions with respect to education, sustainability and achieving a greener Jordan.

1. **Currently many countries have developed national food pathways. How, if at all, does this national food pathway of your country meet right to food obligations?**

This includes issues such as the following:

1. International cooperation and solidarity

* Jordan’s invaluable partnerships with its friends from the international and donor

community have been essential in making progress thus far. Moving forward on its

development journey, Jordan will continue to build on these ties and strive for stronger foundations of cooperation and coordination. At the same time, Jordan understands the importance of activating and encouraging partnerships at all levels in this next phase, especially with the private sector.

1. **Improving food production and conservation by enhancing cultural and biological diversity in food system;**

Developed the legislative and organizational environment, as well as launched strategies and work plans, key among them are:

* The National Strategy and National Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Agricultural/food production sector,Transport and Waste Management in Jordan for 2016-2025.
* The National Food Security Strategy 2021-2030 that included in its goals affirming the efficient use of resources and reduction of food and production waste.
* The National Plan for Sustainable Agriculture (2022 – 2025) was launched earlier this year. It included 73 projects that aim to learn from the COVID-19 crises experience, improve living conditions of farmers, increase agricultural productivity, and improve efficiency of irrigation. The Plan also aims to promote and support domestic farming in rural areas to support the food security of the poorest groups in rural areas and the Badia, through projects that aim to increase the income of poor rural households, create work opportunities through subsidized loans, provide water to livestock breeders in the Badia, and support agricultural land reclamation projects in rainy areas.
* Implementing a project to increase the private sector’s participation in food systems by reclaiming vast areas in the Jordanian Badia and establishing agricultural and food processing compounds in Al-Aghwar Al-Janoubeyyeh.
* Implementing an initiative to evaluate consumption trends among the people of Amman to serve the purposes of nutritional programs of the Ministry of Health. In addition, implementing food safety practices based on an unpublished survey that aims to track consumption knowledge and practices to inform awareness messages

1. **Has your government taken or plans to take any steps towards s just transition to agro ecology?**

Most of the Jordanian Gov. efforts to meet the above mentioned goal were reflected in establishing the legislative and organizational environment, including to develop strategies and plans. Of significance is the issuance of the Environment Protection Law no. 6 in 2017 and the by-law to obtain environmental genetic material and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits accrued for their use in 2021, in addition to the National Strategy for Biodiversity and its Action Plan 2015-2020, the National Drought Strategy 2015-2020, the launch of the guide of the red list of endangered plants (first edition in 2014 and the second in 2017), and the guide of the red list for endangered animals in 2020.

• Continue with efforts to protect the environment, with Ajloun and Azraq reserves being placed on the international green list of reserves, placing Petra on the network of natural reserves and preparing the file for its nomination as a natural reserve. Fifa nature reserve was declared as the lowest Ramsar Point in the world in 2017, and Birqa and Dahek reserves were declared in 2018, which helped increase the percentage of land protected according to the international commitments for bio-diversity.

* Establishing a green tourism division to work on integrating natural heritage and biodiversity into the tourism sector. • Prepare the charter for biodiversity friendly tourism meant to classify tourist facilities.

1. **Please share any other general challenges and lessons learnt from the pandemic that can inform long-term solutions for tackling national and international food insecurity.**

The pandemic was and continues to be a test of Jordan’s resilience in the face of severe economic and social hardship. Confronted by it, Jordan had to face the daunting and difficult task of balancing the health of citizens, residents and refugees with the need to safeguard the national economy, protect long-term livelihoods, and mitigate increased poverty and unemployment. Jordan’s policies were thus grounded in scientific assessments, based on which gradual and studied measures to support the economy were taken.

* Our response was further predicated on the importance of transparency and open communication. We believe this was critical to building trust in the Government’s response, facilitating the collective effort and solidarity required to help mitigate the pandemic’s impact. The business sector faced liquidity and cash flow challenges, including the effects of supply chain disruptions that impacted demand for products and services. The decrease in government revenues, in addition to slowed productivity and output, together with increased expenditure to counter the pandemic, ultimately resulted in a GDP contraction of 1.6% in 2020, the first suffered by the economy in decades (though it is still considered among the lowest in the world). Jordan also witnessed increased budget deficits and public debt to GDP levels. These fiscal challenges impacted Jordan’s ability to allocate financial resources to key programmes and priorities, including climate change and adaptation, whilst international assistance was diverted to dealing with the pandemic.
* Increased burden on social protection services because of the lockdowns as vulnerable families’ employment, sources of income and productive projects aimed at employing the poor were disrupted.
* Unemployment increased dramatically, reaching 23.2% in2020.
* Supply chain disruptions affected food availability, resulting in changes in food consumption patterns in terms of quality and access.
* Increased groundwater pumping, with initial readings suggesting an increase in demand by 10% during the lockdown.
* An increase in electrical energy consumption accompanied this.
* The pandemic contributed to a delay in the implementation of capital expenditure projects.

**lessons learnt from the pandemic that can inform long-term solutions for tackling national and international food insecurity.**

* The fund Himmat Watan was launched to support the country’s efforts to counter the pandemic and mitigate its repercussions. Funded through private sector donations, it contributed to building a sense of communal solidarity and mutual support among all in the face of the pandemic. Funding received was channeled to support efforts in the health care sector, and contribute to measures to alleviate the impact of the virus on vulnerable and underprivileged communities.
* Within the social protection system, many governmental and non-governmental organizations provide direct support to families that are food insecure o vulnerable to food insecurity, through monthly cash and/or food support.
* Work to encourage and support family farming in rural areas to enhance national food security for the poorest groups in the countryside and the Badia, through projects that aim at increasing the income of poor rural families and creating job opportunities through subsidized loans, in addition to providing water for livestock breeders in the Badia and supporting agricultural land reclamation projects in rainy areas.
* The National Plan for Sustainable Agriculture for the years 2022-2025 includes 73 projects aimed at improving the living conditions of farmers, increase the productivity of the agricultural sector, and improve the efficiency in the use of irrigation water. The National Food Security Strategy 2021- 2030 aims at achieving four main pillars focusing on ensuring food availability, improving access to food, enhancing foodstability and its optimal use, in addition to strengthening food security governance. Monitoring the security, safety, and quality of imported and locally produced food products in all stages of the food production chain (from farm to table), in accordance with the highest international standards in the field of food safety and security. The Food Safety and Security Strategy in Jordan was developed for 2018-2024.

**The path to recovery and building back on more resilient grounds**

Jordan’s strong fiscal and monetary response to the pandemic and which reached JD3

billion, coupled with the vaccination drive and the opening-up of economies, enabled a

return to economic growth, registering 2.2% in 2021. Moving forward, however, Jordan wants to ensure that our development is anchored on foundations of resilience so that we can better withstand the impact of future crises. We also aspire to drive recovery through green measures and the mainstreaming of climate actions into national and local development planning. Jordan’s COVID-19 recovery plans are captured in the near term in its Government’s Economic Priorities Programme 2021-2023 (GEPP). The Programme was developed after many rounds of meetings and consultations, including with the private sector through the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, as well as the Jordan Strategy Forum and the Jordan Economic Forum. Meetings were also held with the heads of committees of both houses of Parliament to gain consensus on the objectives and priorities that would best contribute to the recovery. Meetings underlined the importance of addressing unemployment, stimulating economic activity, and maintaining overall monetary and fiscal stability.