



# Two years after its formation: Jordanians' opinion of the government of Dr. Bishr Al-Khasawneh

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Center for Strategic Studies-University of Jordan



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CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

## **Public Opinion Poll:**

Two years after its formation: Jordanians' opinion of the government of **Dr. Bishr Al-Khasawneh**

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Please note that the opinions expressed in the survey represent the opinion of the respondents only, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Center, the University of Jordan, or their employees.

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## Introduction:

In continuation of the Center for Strategic Studies' approach in studying citizens' opinions and impressions and analyzing the trends of Jordanian public opinion, this poll was conducted to evaluate the performance of Dr. Bishr Al-Khasawneh government two years after its formation; where the current government was formed in 12/Dec/2020, and the center conducted the government formation poll in the period 13-19/10/2020, then the 100 days in power poll during the period 24-31/Jan/2021, the two hundred days in power poll during the period 16-21/May/2021, one year in power poll on 26/10/2021, and the one year and half in power poll during the period 27/3-2/4/2022, the two years in power poll (this poll) was conducted during the period 2-7/10/2022. The total sample size was 1200 Jordanian citizen who are aged 18 years that and above, that were selected from 150 blocks from all over Jordan (50% males, 50% females).

64 data collectors and supervisors participated in the data collection process. The margin of error in the national sample was ( $\pm 2.5$ ) at a confidence level of (95.0%).

This poll also explores the Jordanian citizens' attitudes and their assessment of the government's performance in a number of main topics, in addition to evaluating its capabilities to implement the tasks mentioned in the letter of assignment (كتاب التكليف السامي), In addition, the poll aimed to identify the trends of public opinion regarding the way things are going in Jordan, and the most important problems facing Jordan today. And to measure the attitudes and opinions of citizens about the economic situation in Jordan, trust in state institutions, threats to Jordan's national security, and societal trust and happiness in Jordan.

## Main results

### ● The Government: Trust and performance

- ❖ 33% of Jordanians trust Dr. Bisher Al-Khasawneh's government two years after its formation, compared to 52% who trusted it in the formation poll in October 2020, recording a 19-point decrease.
- ❖ Third of the Jordanians (33%) believe that the government was able to assume its responsibilities for the past two years, compared to 53% who believed that when it was formed (October 2020), a drop of 20 points.
- ❖ 33% of Jordanians believe that the prime minister was able to assume his responsibilities after two years in power, compared to 56% who believed in his ability in the formation poll in October 2020, recording a 23-point drop.
- ❖ 32% of Jordanians believe that the ministerial team was able to assume their responsibilities after two years in position, compared to 53% who believed so in the formation poll in October 2020, recording a decrease of 21 points.
- ❖ 32% of Jordanians trust the Prime Minister Dr. Bishr Al-Khasawneh, compared to 68% who do not.
- ❖ Jordanians' optimism about the government decreased from 55% to only 29% after two years of formation, and (71%) of Jordanians are not optimistic about the current government.
- ❖ The government did not succeed in implementing/achieving nineteen out of twenty-two items/files that the government was assigned to work on in the High Commission letter (كتاب التكليف السامي).
- ❖ Only 11% of Jordanian believe that the government has succeeded in providing job opportunities.
- ❖ The government succeeded in the files/topics: support for the Palestinians (59%), support for the armed forces (56%), and only (52%) believe that it succeeded in: focusing on tourism, improving and diversifying the tourism product, and consolidating the principle of the rule of law (47%).

- **What has changed: Al-Khasawneh compared to Al-Razzaz and Al-Mulqi**

	Hani Mulqi (April 2018)	Omar Razaz (January 2020)	Bisher Kaswaneh (October 2022)
The direction of the country ( negative direction)	68	63	80
The ability of the government to assume its responsibilities	30	41	33
The prime minister's ability to assume his responsibilities	29	45	33
The ability of the ministerial team to assume its responsibilities	31	32	32

- **Ministries that require amendment**

- ❖ The majority of Jordanians believe that the ministries that require amendment are the following: The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Labor.

- **Future prospect: where are we heading?**

- ❖ The vast majority of Jordanians, at (80%), believe that the Kingdom is moving in a negative direction, and only (18%) believe that the Kingdom is moving in a positive direction.
- ❖ The main reasons for heading towards the negative direction are the following: Deteriorating economic conditions (35%), rising prices and the cost of living (24%), high unemployment rates (16%), government confusion in decision-making (6%), and the spread of corruption, Wasta and nepotism (Favoritism) (6%).

- **The Government's Economic Policies and Measures**

- ❖ The majority of Jordanians (85%) believe that the government's economic policies and measures have failed in reducing the economic burdens, the large increase in prices (Inflation rate) or poverty and unemployment rates. The results showed that only (23%) of Jordanians believe that government

economic policies and measures have contributed to controlling and reducing the employment of expatriate workers, (21%) believe that they have contributed to ending poverty, (18%) believe that they have contributed to reducing the unemployment rate, and (18%) believe that they have contributed to controlling the rise in prices, and only (15%) believe that they have contributed to regulating the rise in fuel prices.

**The Arab Army (86%), the Department of General Intelligence (84%) and General Security (83%) enjoy the confidence of the vast majority of Jordanians, while the confidence has declined in public and private universities (58%, 47%, respectively) and the media (from 48% to 41%), Parliament (from 20% to 17%) and political parties (12%).**

- **Challenges facing Jordan:**

- ❖ Considering the local challenges/problems facing Jordan today, (44%) of the respondents agree that the high unemployment rates and lack of job opportunities are a priority and the government should start addressing them immediately. Followed by (24%) for the high prices, the high cost of living and low salaries (24%), and (11%) for the high poverty rates
- ❖ As for the most important non-economic challenges the country is facing and must be addressed by the government are the internal security challenges (drugs, theft, crimes...etc) ranking at (33%), the deterioration of the level of government services (health, education, roads, infrastructure...etc.) at (27%), followed by the financial and administrative corruption, waste and nepotism (16%).

- **The current economic situation: between individual optimism and pessimism at the public level**

**The living conditions: the individual, the family and the society**

- ❖ The majority of Jordanians (85%) believe that the economic condition in Jordan is heading in a negative direction.
- ❖ (66%) of the respondents describe the current economic situation of their family as worse than a year ago, and only (8%) describe it as better than last year.

- ❖ The majority of Jordanians (51%) believe the economic situation of Jordan next year will get worse, while (43%) of the Jordanian believe that their economic situation during the next 10 months will deteriorate.
- ❖ The majority of Jordanians (60%) are not optimistic about the Jordanian economy during the next two years.
- **Economic Modernization Vision 2030**
- ❖ Only 38% believe that the government is serious about implementing the Economic Modernization Vision 2030, and only 37% of Jordanians believe that the government will be able to implement it.
- **Jordan's national security threats:**

#### **External threats:**

- ❖ The majority of Jordanians (61%) believe that Israel is a threat to Jordanian National Security. 54% believe that is Iran, while 12% believe that wars and terrorist organizations threaten Jordanian national security.

#### **Local/internal threats:**

- ❖ Corruption and poor economic conditions (23%), drugs, smuggling and royalties (14%), and frequent crimes (7%) are considered internal threats to Jordan's National Security.
- **Social Trust: The Erosion of Social Capital**
- ❖ Lack of trust among members of the Jordanian society
- ❖ The vast majority of Jordanians (69%) do not trust most people in Jordan (they believe that the majority of people in Jordan cannot be trusted).
- ❖ Jordanians' trust is confined within the families, as 94% say that they trust their family members. After the family, they place friends (69%), and in the third place, neighbors and acquaintances (67%), then clan members (63%), and co-workers (55%).
- **Happiness in Jordan: Happy Individuals, Unhappy Society**
- ❖ The majority of Jordanians (79%) do not believe that Jordanian society is a happy society. However, 58% of Jordanians describe themselves as happy. Half of Jordanians (51%) describe themselves as optimistic to some extent, while (31%) describe themselves as not optimistic.

## Results according to selected indicators

- ❖ The most educated Jordanians, males and elderly persons, and among all the governorates (Karak, Tafileh, Ma'an, Aqaba), people from Ajloun governorate, are the least confident in the government of Dr. Bisher Al-Khasawneh. As for trust in the Prime Minister, young people (18-34 years old) are the least confident, in addition to the most educated, males, and inhabitants of the southern governorates (Karak, Tafileh, Maan, Aqaba), Mafraq, and Ajloun.
- ❖ The most educated, elderly people, and the residents of all southern governorates and Ajloun, have the least trust in the government's ability to assume its responsibilities since its formation until now (during the past two years). They also have the least trust in the ability of the Prime Minister and his team to assume their responsibilities since the formation of the government until now. Conversely, residents of the northern and central regions have trust in their ability (the government, the president, the ministerial team) to assume the responsibilities of the time.
- ❖ The most educated Jordanian males, and the residents of the Southern governorates in general, and the governorate of Mafraq in particular, are the least optimistic about the government, two years after its formation.
- ❖ The oldest and most educated Jordanians, and the residents of the Southern governorates, the governorate of Mafraq, and its capital Ajloun, are the least likely to believe that things are moving towards a positive direction.
- ❖ Young people (18-34), educated people (post-secondary education), and residents of the southern governorates and of Ajloun believe that the Jordanian economy is moving towards a negative direction.
- ❖ Females, young people and the most educated people describe themselves as happy and optimistic, while males, the least educated people, and residents of the southern governorates are the least optimistic about the future.