

## Biometrics

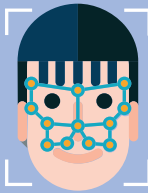
The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly. The agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and find solutions for them worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees.

### What are biometrics and biometric authentication?

Biometrics is the study and analysis of human body prints. ‘Bio’ means life and ‘metric’ means measurement. Every person has some characteristics that are unique to them. Biometric authentication identifies who you are. This technology identifies people based on their physical characteristics and includes fingerprints, facial features, or iris scan.

### Why and how does UNHCR collect biometrics?

Biometrics data is now considered an integral part of UNHCR registration data and is processed in 79 UNHCR operations globally. Biometric data allows UNHCR to record and protect your identity as yours, and yours alone. This also helps to avoid duplications and prevent fraud. The introduction of biometrics has brought direct benefits to refugees, UNHCR and partners alike. UNHCR Jordan scans iris as a form of biometric data for all persons above the age of five, with healthy eyes.



### What are the benefits of biometrics (eye print) for refugees and UNHCR?

- 1- Improvements in the delivery of protection, assistance, and solutions.
- 2- Establishing and preserving identities of people of concern across UNHCR operations globally.
- 3- Biometrics protect refugees receiving cash assistance from fraud and ensure nobody can impersonate them when withdrawing the cash assistance, they are entitled to. Additionally, it is safe and easy to use – you do not need to worry about your ATM card &/or PIN.
- 4- Biometrics also anchor the unique form of personal identity of people of concern in lieu of holding passports or other identity documents, when necessary

## With whom is my personal and biometric data shared?

UNHCR does not share your biometric data with anyone. All data collected by UNHCR is treated as confidential.

At the time of registration, UNHCR staff seek your consent to share your basic biodata (not biometrics) with other humanitarian actors for the purpose of assistance or other protection services. UNHCR is also obliged to share basic biodata of refugees and asylum seekers, (names, date of registration, arrival date, entry point and legal status) with the Government of Jordan for purpose of protection, including prevention from refoulement, (deportation). However, your biometric data is not shared with partners or the Government of Jordan.

In no circumstance does UNHCR Jordan share your biodata, including biometric data, with the government of your country of origin.

## In case UNHCR wishes to share the biometrics data with a third party, will another consent be taken from the refugee? Will the third party keep the data confidential?

Biometric data is not shared with any third party.

## Is my personal and biometric data safe?

All data that you provide during registration interview, including biometric data, is stored on UNHCR servers with multiple data protection layers.



## Can I check what is happening with my personal data after I am registered?

Refugees, asylum seekers or other people of concern can check what data UNHCR holds about that at any time after you register with UNHCR.

You also have the right to ask about which third parties your biodata has been, is being or will be shared

## Can I object to the processing of my biometric data?

Yes, you have the right to object to the processing of your biometric data if you have a legitimate ground related to your personal situation. Your objection will be assessed by our senior registration staff on a case-by-case basis. A refusal to biometrically enroll does not impact your status with UNHCR.



**In case of resettlement or departure to any other country, will the biometric data be shared with the respective countries?**

UNHCR does not share biometric data with any resettlement country. However, some resettlement countries (USA, UK) match and crosscheck the biometric data collected at the departure stage with the one captured by UNHCR, to confirm the identity of persons leaving.

**Does UNHCR Jordan collect data for refugees living outside of Jordan? If yes, why cannot the data be transferred from other UNHCR country offices to Jordan in case refugees move from or to Jordan?**

We only register and collect data for refugees inside their country of asylum.

**Am I eligible for monthly cash assistance if I provide my biometrics (eye print) to UNHCR?**

The monthly cash assistance is provided to the most vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees following household assessments and is not related to your provision of biometric data.

**Why does UNHCR use biometrics for withdrawal of cash assistance?**

The use of biometrics for withdrawal of cash assistance is to ensure timely and reliable delivery of cash assistance and to avoid delay due to loss or theft of ATM cards and forgotten pins. Also, the use of biometrics ensures that **only** persons previously identified for the cash assistance are allowed to withdraw it.

Despite this, the use of biometrics isn't mandatory to receive cash assistance and a small proportion of cash assistance beneficiaries do receive their cash assistance through alternative means.

**Can I collect my cash assistance without use of biometrics (eye print)?**

In case of any medical conditions that might affect the capture and use of your iris scan please contact the help line to inform UNHCR. You can either request an ATM card upon providing valid medical records or ask a family member from your case file to be assigned as an alternate cash collector.

### Does Cairo Amman Bank have my biometrics (iris scan)?

UNHCR does not share your biometrics with any partner organizations, including Cairo Amman Bank. Rather, when you scan your iris at ATM, computer software validates your identity against UNHCR database, and sends confirmation that you are person of concern to UNHCR. Then, the Cairo Amman Bank, release the cash at ATM.

### Does U-Wallet have my biometrics (iris scan)?

UNHCR does not share your biometrics with any partner organizations, including Uwallet. Rather:

- During onboarding at Uwallet, Umniah staff will share and explain to you in detail which data UNHCR will share with Uwallet. You will be asked to sign a written consent to allow UNHCR to share your name, UNHCR individual number, nationality, gender and date of birth with Uwallet.

- During monthly authentication at Uwallet authentication touchpoints, when you scan your iris at the iris camera, computer software validates your identity against UNHCR data base, and sends confirmation that you are person of concern to UNHCR. Then Uwallet can release the cash to your mobile Uwallet

### Is it a requirement to verify our biometrics data occasionally? If yes, what is the procedure for that?

Biometrics are normally checked and verified during the renewal procedures of UNHCR issued documents. Biometric data is checked prior to each RSD and RST interview.

