



# WFP Jordan Country Brief

## WFP Assistance

Jordan, Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) (January - December 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	260.6 m	67 m

\*March - August 2018

The Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) includes three strategic outcomes to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis and its effect on the most vulnerable Jordanians, while also positioning WFP as a strategic partner of the Government of Jordan towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger).

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Food insecure Syrian refugees, including school-aged children have access to safe, adequate and nutritious food throughout the year.

In the context of a protracted displacement, the core activities of WFP in Jordan in 2018 will remain focused on providing unconditional food assistance to Syrian refugees.

This Outcome responds to the basic food requirements of the most food insecure refugee households who rely on WFP food assistance to maintain their food security. It also supports the school attendance of refugee children through the provision of nutrition-sensitive school meals while seeking to improve the nutritional status of girls and boys through nutrition education initiatives.

This Outcome will emphasise WFP Jordan's role as a contributing force towards achieving programme quality enhancements and innovations that are empowering for women and men, and girls and boys, as well as being made available to other partners, stakeholders and country offices. Specifically considered in this outcome is the sharing of WFP's cash-based transfers (CBT) expertise and tools with the wider humanitarian community to enhance coordination and efficiency of humanitarian assistance. Institutional support will seek to improve the national services and systems offered to poor Jordanian households.

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Vulnerable Jordanians, including school-aged children are enabled to meet their basic food and nutrition needs all year long.

Under this Strategic Outcome, WFP supports the Government of Jordan in its assistance targeted at vulnerable Jordanians and will seek to support the capacity of key ministries including to design and implement effective, equitable and efficient programmes and provide advisory services. WFP will increasingly share with national

## Highlights

- WFP continued the implementation of "choice" modality in three governorates: Balqa, Zarqa and Madaba for about 60,000 Syrian refugees.
- Following the expansion of blockchain technology to cover Azraq and Za'atari camps, in February, WFP reloaded over USD 3 million for over 106,000 beneficiaries using the innovative technology.
- WFP participated in a multi-donor mission conducted between 5-8 February in Jordan and Lebanon. The mission focused on cash assistance in the region.

institutions the experience and expertise built while responding to the refugee crisis.

In 2018, these efforts will build the foundation for WFP's expected heightened role moving forward in institutional capacity strengthening. As such, activities under this outcome will serve to provide an entry point towards areas likely to grow in the future CSP, including the sharing of WFP expertise and tools and institutional support notably to the national school meals programme and to broader social protection efforts, grounded in gender equality.

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Vulnerable women and men in targeted refugee and Jordanian communities sustainably improve their skills, capacities, and livelihood opportunities by 2018.

Strategic Outcome 3 aims to strengthen the self-reliance of refugees and the resilience of vulnerable Jordanians by investing in their skills, capacities and public asset base in communities and municipalities hosting a large number of refugees.

WFP will use its unique position to leverage conditional food assistance to support the recovery of vulnerable individuals, communities, and systems affected by the Syrian Crisis and to strengthen their resilience in the long term. This strategic outcome invests in the education, training, and assets of vulnerable Jordanians and Syrians to transform the crisis into an opportunity for everyone, in a way that strengthens social cohesion and fosters gender equality at the local level. Activities will take into account gender-specific targets.

This TICSP for 2018 is aligned with the Jordan Response Plan (2017-2019), and its associated plans, including those of the United Nations and to WFP's Vision 2020.

## In Numbers

**493,420** Syrian refugees assisted through CBT

**26,202** Syrian School children assisted in camps

**2,000** Jordanians and Syrians assisted through seasonal resilience activities

**People Assisted**  
February 2018



**Main Photo** Credit: WFP/Mohammad Batah  
Caption: Syrian refugees can use their e-cards to purchase food from any of the 200 WFP-contracted shops throughout Jordan.



**February 2018**

## Operational Updates

### Removal of Bread Subsidy and Increase in Taxes

Effective 1 February, the Government of Jordan removed bread subsidy and increased taxes on food and non-food commodities.

To better understand the impact of these measures on the purchasing power of WFP beneficiaries, WFP conducted an analysis to assess the impact on the 11 commodities that comprise the referential food basket which serves as the basis to determine the transfer value provided to Syrian refugees.

Based on the results of the analysis, WFP will be looking at the level of food assistance provided to vulnerable Syrian households.

### Choice Modality

WFP continued the implementation of “choice” modality in three governorates: Balqa, Zarqa and Madaba for about 60,000 Syrian refugees. In February, 43 percent of “choice” beneficiaries chose to redeem assistance as e-voucher, 39 percent as cash, 12 percent as both, while the remaining did not redeem their assistance.

WFP will expand the “choice” to include Amman governorate with an additional number of 130,000 beneficiaries by April 2018. Preparations for the expansion of the modality began in February and will continue through March.

### Healthy Kitchen Project

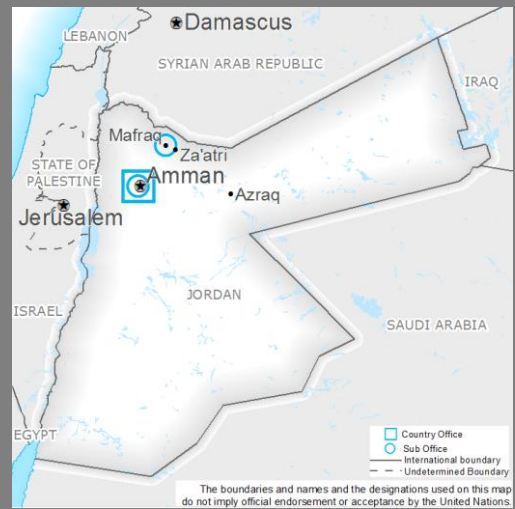
WFP in partnership with World Vision resumed its school feeding activities in Za’atri and Azraq camps. Around 26,000 Syrian children attending formal education received freshly baked meals consisting of a baked pastry, a piece of fruit and a piece of vegetable. Meals were prepared by Syrian women and men working in the kitchens, thus creating economic opportunities for refugees in camps. Workers received monthly cash-based transfers in return for their work.

As per the feedback received from workers, WFP will be providing transportation for the workers with priority given to women, people with disabilities, nightshifts and long-distance commuters.

### Zero Hunger Strategic Review

His Royal Highness Prince Hassan bin Talal, the lead convenor, inaugurated the first Stakeholder Consultations for the Zero Hunger Strategic Review. The review will provide a comprehensive analysis of the challenges Jordan faces in achieving SDG 2 by 2030 taking into consideration the linkages between SDG 2 and the other SDGs, as well as regional dynamics, human dignity, refugees and social protection.

The country-led inclusive exercise involves a wide range of actors including all relevant government entities, civil society, national and international NGOs, private sector and donor organizations. WFP will be providing technical capacity to the lead convenor and the research team with the review process.



Jordan is a lower middle-income country, with a population of 9.5 million, of which 2.9 million are non-citizens, including refugees. Despite this classification, it is a resource-poor, food-deficit country with limited agricultural land, no energy resources and scarce water supply. According to the Department of Statistics, unemployment soared to 18.2 percent during the first quarter of 2017 - the highest in 25 years - from 15.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2016. The unemployment rate among men stood at 13.9 percent compared with 33 percent among women.

Nationwide, 12 percent\* of all Jordanian households suffer from food insecurity, while 5.7 percent are vulnerable to food insecurity. The 2016 WFP Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise revealed that a majority of Syrian refugee households living in host communities continue to be either food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity, at 72 percent, while showing an improvement over 2015 levels which peaked at 85 percent.

In line with the Jordan Poverty Reduction Strategy, which put in place a series of social programmes aimed at increasing employment opportunities, curbing unemployment, combating poverty and offering in-kind and cash assistance for the poor and marginalized groups within Jordanian society, WFP introduced innovative and sustainable solutions by developing resilience-based approaches.

WFP’s programmes are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17 and the Government strategies and policies such as Jordan 2025, the National Food Security Strategy (2014–2019), Jordan Response Plan for the Syria Crisis (2016–2018), and the United Nations Assistance Framework (2015–2017).

WFP has been present in Jordan since 1964.

\*According to the recent FAO report

Syrians refugees registered by UNHCR: 657,628 (04 February)

Jordanians living in food insecurity: **12%**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

GNI per capita: USD 5,160 (2014)

## Top 10 Donors

Germany, USAID, Canada, Australia, France, Norway, Japan, Kuwait, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and China.

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