



WFP Jordan Country Brief

April 2018

Operational Context

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 18.5 percent during the first quarter of 2018 - the highest in 25 years. Unemployment rate among men stood at 15.3 percent compared to 30 percent among women.

Nationwide, 13.5 percent of Jordanian households are food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. Over 14 percent of the population lives below the poverty line and a third is considered transient poor. An analysis from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), further shows that poverty over the life cycle is concentrated among children, in particular those between the ages of 5 and 12, with proportions reaching 20% for this age group. The 2016 WFP Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise revealed that the majority of Syrian refugee households living in host communities continue to be either food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity.

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 Sustainable Development Framework (2018-2022).

WFP has been present in Jordan since 1964.

Population: **9.5 million**

2016 Human Development Index:
86 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower Middle**

Gross National Income per capita:
US\$ 10,111

In Numbers

494,519 Syrian refugees assisted through cash-based transfers

401,108 school children received school meals of which **375,849** Jordanians and **25,259** Syrians

USD 97.8 m six months (May - October 2018) net funding requirements

870,368 people assisted in April 2018

51%



49%



Programmatic Updates

- In mid-April, WFP in collaboration with UNHCR started a country-wide validation of Syrian refugees residing in host communities and receiving WFP's General Food Assistance. The main objectives are to ensure that WFP e-cards are possessed by targeted beneficiaries and confirm their physical presence in Jordan. By 30 April, 73 percent of beneficiaries were screened. The exercise will continue throughout May.
- Following the successful piloting of the 'Choice' modality in three governorates - allowing beneficiaries to both redeem their assistance in WFP-contracted shops, and by cashing out their entitlements in ATMs - the model was rolled out in Amman, the governorate with the highest beneficiary population. Monitoring findings indicate that the model is particularly efficient and well-received in this type of urban setting, due to high ATM accessibility and the wide range of market options. In total, 188,000 beneficiaries are benefitting from the "Choice" modality, and further expansions are prepared for.
- To ensure maintained purchasing power following a significant tax increase on food commodities in combination with the removal of a long-standing subsidy on bread, WFP increased the assistance provided to host community beneficiaries from JOD 20 to JOD 23 (USD 28 to USD 32) per household member for extremely vulnerable households, and from JOD 10 to JOD 15 (USD 14 to USD 21) per member for vulnerable households in April. The relatively higher increase for vulnerable cases is addressing a negative trend in terms of food security indicators compared to other groups within the Syrian refugee population.
- A team from the Boston Consulting Group joined the Country Office in April to provide a comprehensive overview of the payment ecosystem in Jordan, identifying potential solutions for WFP service delivery, and assess the different options. This will inform decision-making with regards to WFP's cash-based transfers activities moving forward.

Main
Photo

Credit: WFP/Mohammad Batah
Caption: The 'choice' modality allow beneficiaries the freedom of choosing how to redeem their assistance.

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WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Months (May-October) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (January - December 2018)		
259.3 m	100 m	97.8 m

WFP Country Activities

SO 1 Provide unconditional resource transfers to Syrian refugees.

Provide school meals and nutrition related communication and behavioural change activities to refugee children.

SO 2 Provide unconditional resource transfers to vulnerable Jordanians.

Provide school meals and nutrition related communication and behavioural change activities to children in host communities.

SO 3 Provide asset creation and livelihood support activities including through individual capacity strengthening to vulnerable Syrians and Jordanians.

- WFP signed an agreement with a local NGO (Tikyet Um Ali) to provide 168 mt of vegetable oil donated by Russia to 140,000 vulnerable Jordanians beneficiaries enrolled in the ongoing national food assistance programme.
- In accordance with the recently signed Data Sharing Agreement, WFP and UNHCR began the systematic exchange of data outlined in the document, aimed at enhancing efficiency in assessments, targeting, delivery, reporting etc.
- The CO prepared for a continuation of the partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture on Food for Assets-projects providing up to 1,000 work opportunities in forestry, plantation and animal production for vulnerable Jordanians and Syrians, starting in the beginning of May.
- With the objective to assess how WFP can optimize the food sourcing and supply chain of its Healthy Kitchen school meals model, a mission from Sodexo, HQ and the Regional Bureau in Cairo joined the Jordan CO during two weeks in April. The team shared strategic and operational recommendations that would allow WFP to achieve a higher number of school feeding days at current cost level, with a more nutritious meal.

Monitoring

- WFP is partnering with REACH to conduct the 2018 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment, targeting four specific populations: i) Registered Syrian refugees living in both camps and host communities. ii) Non-registered Syrians living in host communities, iii) Non-Syrian refugees, consisting of Iraqi, Yemeni, Sudanese and Other nationalities; and iv) Poor and vulnerable Jordanian host communities. The assessment is conducted using a mixed-methods approach, combining a nationwide quantitative survey with 9,000 respondents, and qualitative Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). Data collection began in March and is expected to be finalised by mid-May, with initial results expected in June.

Challenges

- Significant funding shortfalls continue to threaten WFP's ability to maintain assistance to refugees and to ensure that immediate food needs can be met. With the current levels of confirmed contributions, WFP's General Food Assistance activity in Jordan would be facing a pipeline break by end of May. WFP requires additional funding of USD 102 million for the next six months. Without this additional funding, WFP would be forced to either significantly reduce or completely cut the assistance provided to vulnerable populations.

Top 10 Donors

Australia, Canada, Carrefour, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Norway, USAID.