



## WFP Jordan Country Brief

May 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, 0.5 percent of Jordanian households are considered food insecure and an additional 13 percent vulnerable to food insecurity. Over 14 percent of the population lives below the poverty line and a third is considered transient poor. 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 Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17 and 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

**492,945** Syrian refugees assisted through cash-based transfers

**80,193** school children received school meals of which **55,846** Jordanians and **24,347** Syrians

**USD 98.6 m** required until December 2018

**551,621** people assisted in  
May 2018

51%



49%



### Political Updates

- During the last week of May, Jordanian Unions representing tens of thousands of employees in both the public and private sectors called for a general strike against price increases and the income tax draft law. In response, thousands flooded the streets of the capital and other cities in protest. Earlier this year, the Government of Jordan increased taxes and removed subsidies on basic commodities including bread - a staple commodity. WFP responded by increasing the level of assistance to ensure beneficiaries maintain the same purchasing power.
- The UN raised concerns over the deterioration of the situation in South West Syria, including the possibility of a military offensive, which could lead to significant number of people being displaced inside Syria or crossing the border into Jordan. The UN is working on a contingency plan to support 200,000 Syrians who may be affected by the rapidly changing situation. WFP is following up closely to ensure it has the capacity to respond to the potential influx swiftly. WFP is also monitoring the potential impact on the cross-border operation into Syria.

### Programmatic Updates

- WFP and UNHCR completed the initial phase of a country-wide validation of Syrian refugees receiving WFP's General Food Assistance in host communities. Home visits to elderly and disabled cases as well as catch-up days for those who missed the exercise will take place in June.
- Following the successful roll-out of the 'choice' modality in four governorates - allowing beneficiaries to both redeem their assistance in WFP-contracted shops, and cash out their entitlements in ATMs - preparations are underway to expand to three additional governorates. Preparations are underway to roll-out blockchain technology in communities.

Main  
Photo

Credit: WFP/Basel Madi  
Around 108,000 Syrian refugees in camps benefit from cash-based transfers to meet their food needs.

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## WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Net Funding Requirements June-December (in USD)
<b>Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (January - December 2018)</b>		
<b>259.3 m</b>	<b>102 m</b>	<b>98.6 m</b>

## 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.

- Through the OneCard Platform, WFP transferred around USD 1.7 million to 59,000 Palestinian refugees on behalf of UNRWA.
- WFP concluded its school meals activities for the scholastic year 2017 – 2018 by mid-May. Activities will resume in September.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, WFP continued the implementation of its livelihood activities providing up to 1,000 work opportunities in forestry, plantation and animal production for vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees.
- The first cycle of barley production using the hydroponic unit started in Azraq town. The cycle serves as a pilot to test the product, monitor the system, identify issues and propose options to further scale production. A total of 150 kg of fodder was produced and will be marketed locally at subsidised prices to livestock owners. This model uses 80 percent less space and 90 percent less water to produce nutritious green fodder than traditional methods. This is particularly important considering climate-related challenges that the agricultural sector faces in Jordan - especially the lack of arable land and shortage of water.

## 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 Palestinians from Syria and other nationalities; and iv) Poor and vulnerable Jordanian communities. Data analysis is currently underway. Preliminary results are expected to be shared by end the of July.

## 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 in Jordan will face a pipeline break by mid-July. WFP requires additional funding of USD 98.6 million until the end of the year. 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, Germany, Japan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Norway, Russian Federation, USA and Private Donors.