



## WFP Jordan Country Brief



June 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:  
**USD 10,111**

**Main  
Photo**

Credit: WFP/Mohammad Batah  
Caption: Salateen Al Tarab, whose members benefit from WFP food assistance, is a Syrian band that performs at events in refugee camps and in Jordanian cities spreading a message of peace.

## In Numbers

**492,169** Syrian refugees assisted through cash-based transfers

**3,305** Vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees assisted through livelihood support.

**781 mt** of bread distributed to refugees in two camps

**USD 98.7** million required until December 2018

**634,146** people assisted in  
June 2018

51%



49%



### Political Updates

- Following a general strike that took place on 30 May against price increases and the income tax draft law, tens of thousands of people in the capital Amman and several other cities took to the streets in protest for 8 consecutive days. Demonstrations were organised by 33 of Jordan's professional associations and civil society groups. Protesters demanded the resignation of the government, dissolution of parliament, cancellation of the raising of taxes, scraping the new income tax law and a complete overhaul of the governments approach to economic and social policies. The protests subsided following the resignation of the government and the appointment of a new Prime Minister, Omar Al-Razzaz.
- The UN is concerned about the deteriorating situation in South West Syria, following the military offensive, which forced a significant number of people to flee from eastern Dara'a to areas near the Jordanian border. The escalation in fighting has cut off major supply routes, which has led to price hikes on items such as food. Since 27 June, humanitarian access to most parts of the cross-border operational area is suspended. WFP, through its cross-border operation prior to this suspension, and preparedness measures such as prepositioning food inside Southern Syria, was able to respond immediately with food and ready-to-eat (RTE) rations. WFP and other UN agencies are working closely to ensure those stranded at the border receive life-saving assistance.

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## WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD) July-December
<b>Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (January - December 2018)</b>		
<b>259.3 m</b>	<b>132.9 m</b>	<b>98.7 m</b>

## WFP Country Activities

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>SO 1</b> | Provide unconditional resource transfers to Syrian refugees.<br>Provide school meals and nutrition related communication and behavioural change activities to refugee children.                   |
| <b>SO 2</b> | Provide unconditional resource transfers to vulnerable Jordanians.<br>Provide school meals and nutrition related communication and behavioural change activities to children in host communities. |
| <b>SO 3</b> | Provide asset creation and livelihood support activities including through individual capacity strengthening to vulnerable Syrians and Jordanians.  |

## Programmatic Updates

- In June 2018, home visits to elderly and disabled cases commenced for the joint WFP and UNHCR validation exercise. Additionally, catch-up days were held in early June for those who were unable to attend validation. To date, the exercise has successfully validated 97 percent of the beneficiaries.
- 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 the governorates of Irbid, Jarash and Ajloun in August 2018. Preparations are also underway to roll-out blockchain technology in host communities.
- Utilizing the OneCard Platform, WFP transferred USD 1.2 million to 59,000 Palestinian refugees on behalf of UNRWA.
- WFP continued the implementation of its livelihood activities providing around 700 work opportunities in forestry, plantation and animal production for vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture. In addition, WFP started the preparations to the livelihood component with National Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition (NAJMAH). For the first time, WFP introduced an electronic registration application and will, through participants' e-cards, also document attendance

electronically. Both solutions have been developed by WFP Jordan's Business Analysis Unit, and data is hosted by the Triangulation Database.

- In partnership with Tkiyet Um Ali (TUA), WFP distributed 36 mt of vegetable oil to 140,000 vulnerable Jordanians in complement of TUA's food basket. In addition, WFP distributed 130 mt of dates to 95,500 Syrian refugees in camps.

## Challenges

- WFP urgently requires an additional funding of USD 98.7 million to cover its life saving activities 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 the approximately 500,000 currently assisted vulnerable populations.

## Top 10 Donors

USA, Germany, Norway, Canada, Australia, Private Donors, Russian Federation, Japan, Kuwait and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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