



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Jordan Country Brief

August 2018

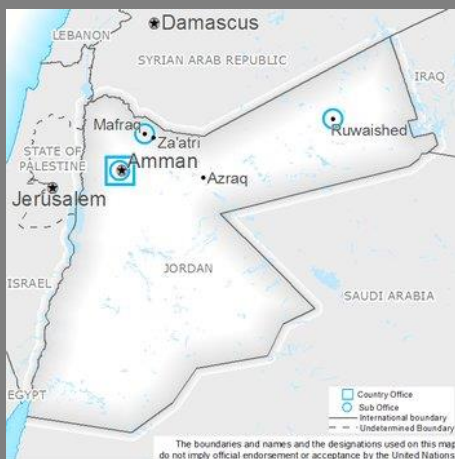


Operational Context

Jordan is a lower middle-income country, with a population of 9.5 million, of which 2.9 million are non-citizens, including refugees. 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 18.4 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 are 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 percent 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 has been present in Jordan since 1964.



Population: **9.5 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **86 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower Middle**

2015 Gender Inequality Index: **11**

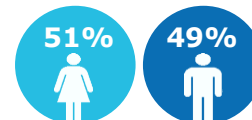
In Numbers

486,608 Syrian refugees assisted through cash-based transfers

4,350 Vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees assisted through livelihood support

USD 124 m six months (September 2018 - February 2019) net funding requirements, representing 48 percent of total

648,219 people assisted in August 2018



Operational Updates

- Based on the successful roll-out of the choice modality in four governorates – allowing beneficiaries to redeem their assistance in WFP-contracted shops or cash out their entitlements at ATMs or both – WFP expanded to three additional governorates in August: Irbid, Jarash and Ajloun. About 77 percent of Syrians assisted by WFP in communities are currently assisted through the choice modality. Results from the ongoing monitoring activities showed that 39 percent of “choice” beneficiaries redeemed their assistance as e-vouchers, 45 percent as cash, 14 percent as both, while the remaining did not redeem their assistance yet. According to the Food Security Outcome Monitoring, the share of households with an acceptable food consumption score was higher among ‘choice’ beneficiaries in the first quarter of 2018 (94 percent vs 81 percent).
- In partnership with Tkiyet Um Ali (TUA), WFP distributed 40 mt of vegetable oil and 161 mt of dates to over 158,892 vulnerable Jordanians complementing TUA’s food basket. WFP also distributed dates to Syrian refugees in Za’atri camp.
- WFP, in collaboration with UN Women, conducted training sessions for the Healthy Kitchen workers, whereby 265 participants in Za’atri and Azraq camps attended courses on fire-fighting, first aid and advanced English. Child care services and transport were provided to participants.
- Taking forward the results of the comprehensive supply chain review of the National School Meals Programme, WFP held a workshop with the Ministry of Education (MoE) with the objective of optimising stock management, transport, distribution and monitoring of the date bars’ supply chain. WFP jointly with MoE will prepare a detailed action plan to address challenges, identify areas of improvement and provide innovative solutions.

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018 - 2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Months (September 2018-February 2019) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
259.3 m	133.4 m	124 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

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

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Provide unconditional resource transfers to Syrian refugees.
- Provide school meals and nutrition related communication and behavioural change activities to refugee children.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food.

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

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Provide unconditional resource transfers to vulnerable Jordanians.
- Provide school meals and nutrition related communication and behavioural change activities to children in host communities.

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes.

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

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

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

- WFP introduced the “nursing hour” across all its livelihood activities entitling lactating mothers to a daily one-hour break which can be taken during the reporting time in agreement with field supervisors. This comes following WFP’s corporate advocacy to support breastfeeding as part of its mission to reach Zero Hunger by 2030.
- WFP, in partnership with the National Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition, continued the rehabilitation and maintenance of public assets (mainly schools) in four governorates: Mafraq, Irbid, Zarqa and Balqa. The project targets 4,350 people (50 percent Syrian refugees and 50 percent vulnerable Jordanians).

Monitoring

- In partnership with REACH, WFP conducted its first Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA) to look at the food security situation of Jordanians.

Findings showed that:

- 70 percent of households sampled among National Aid Fund beneficiaries in Jordan are either food insecure (11 percent) or vulnerable to food insecurity (59 percent).

- Food Consumption Score figures (FCS) are slightly higher among male-headed households compared to female-headed ones. About 85 percent of male-headed households have acceptable FCS, 12 percent have borderline and 3 percent have poor FCS compared with 83.5 percent, 13.5 percent and 3 percent respectively for female-headed households.
- Among the vulnerable Jordanian population assessed, 77 percent reported to have relied on less preferred and/or expensive food to mitigate lack of access to food. Around half also reported to have reduced the number of meals per day (54 percent), limited portion sizes (51 percent), relied on others to meet food needs (45 percent) and reduced food consumption for adults to meet the needs of children in the household (25 percent).
- Three out of four of both male and female-headed households utilised coping mechanisms negatively affecting the household’s ability to earn income and maintain food security in the longer-term. For example, taking on hazardous or degrading work, or selling productive assets. The most common strategies utilised are to buy food on credit and to reduce expenditure on essential non-food items such as medication or transportation.
- Of households surveyed, 80 percent of female-headed households and 66 percent of the male-headed ones, reported to have no working members. The non-working members are mainly absent from the labour market due to illnesses and childcare duties, but one in five also reported a lack of job opportunities.

Challenges

WFP requires additional funding to implement its Healthy Kitchen Project inside Azraq and Za’atri camps in support of 30,000 Syrian school children as well as over 400 Syrian women and men engaged in the sourcing, preparation and delivery of the meals.

Story from the field

Um Ibrahim is a mother of seven. Her family is among more than 5,000 households in Zarqa city that received cooking oil donated by the Russian Federation and distributed by our partners Tkiyet Um Ali. Our partnership with Tkiyet Um Ali helps over 158,892 vulnerable Jordanians.

Click [here](#) to know more about her story.

Donors

Germany, USAID, Canada, Norway, Australia, Kuwait, ROK, Japan, KSA, France and Private Sector.