



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Jordan Country Brief

October 2018



## Operational Context

Jordan is an upper middle-income country, with a population of 9.5 million, of which 2.9 million are non-citizens, including refugees. Nonetheless, 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. WFP's 2018 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA) shows a worsening food security situation among Syrian refugees in Jordan.

WFP has been present in Jordan since 1964.



Population: **9.5 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **95 out of 188**

Income Level: **Upper Middle**

2017 Gender Inequality Index: **108**

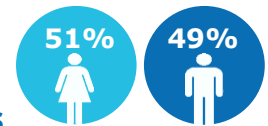
## In Numbers

**487,489** Syrian refugees assisted through cash-based transfers

**412,349** Jordanian and Syrian schoolchildren receive healthy snacks through the School Meals Programme

**USD 109 m** six months (November 2018 - April 2019) net funding requirements

**880,455 people assisted**  
in October 2018



## Operational Updates

- WFP started internal and external consultations for the formulation of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2020–2022. Consultations are being planned with the Government of Jordan, UN agencies, and national and international NGOs. The CSP will also be informed by the Strategic Review on Food and Nutrition Security, led by HRH Prince Al Hassan bin Talal, which will be launched in December.
- As of October, 83 percent of Syrians assisted by WFP in host communities are provided with unrestricted cash transfers by either withdrawing their assistance in cash from ATMs or as restricted food vouchers redeemable at WFP-contracted shops, or both. The roll-out of this modality will be completed by early 2019.
- WFP introduced the “nursing hour” for women working under the Healthy Kitchen Model. Lactating mothers are entitled 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.
- As part of WFP’s technical assistance, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and Scientific Research has requested WFP’s support to explore potential additional models for the national school meals programme, including a private sector model through which private companies would be contracted to provide school meals to school children. WFP undertook a study which included a visit to the private sector model implemented by Sodexo in France. During the visit, WFP explored the institutional and policy framework for school feeding in France, the different school feeding models in place and the role played by the private sector with the aim of informing the design of a potential private sector model for the Jordan National School Feeding Programme. The mission was attended by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Director of Education and a member of the School Health and Nutrition Department.

**Caption:** Syrian refugees shopping at one of WFP-contracted shops

**Contact info:** Rawan Alabbas ([rawan.alabbas@wfp.org](mailto:rawan.alabbas@wfp.org))

**Country Director:** Sarah Gordon-Gibson

Further information: [www1.wfp.org/countries/jordan](http://www1.wfp.org/countries/jordan)

## Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018 - 2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Months (November 2018 - April 2019) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
259.3 m	197.3 m	109 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 and the Secretary General of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and Scientific Research attended the Global Child Nutrition Forum held in Tunisia. The event is a learning exchange and technical assistance conference designed to support countries in the development and implementation of sustainable school feeding programmes. The Forum aims to highlight issues related to child nutrition around the world, foster cooperation between nations and encourage countries to develop and improve school nutrition programmes that return multiple benefits and address multiple Sustainable Development Goals. WFP Jordan is hoping that lessons learned from the event will help enhance the design of the National School Feeding Programme.
- WFP, in partnership with the National Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition, expanded its rehabilitation and maintenance of public assets (mainly schools) activities in Balqa and Irbid, and Amman. The project targets 4,350 vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian participants (50 percent

Syrians and 50 percent Jordanians) of whom 50 percent are women.

- *Dalili* application was piloted in Ajloun governorate for 60 households to test its feasibility. *Dalili* is a smartphone application that gives up-to-date information on food prices and special offers at contracted shops. Syrian refugees can browse nearby local stores and easily find the best prices and value for the products they purchase. They can also provide feedback on their shopping experience. *Dalili* is foreseen to expand throughout the country by the end of the year.
- WFP hosted a German delegation mission accompanied by WFP's Executive Director to Za'atari refugee camp where they met with Syrian refugees benefiting from WFP's support. The mission also visited one of WFP-contracted shops, school children receiving healthy snacks, one of the kitchens where the snacks are prepared by Syrian women and men, and a Syrian family.

## Challenges

- WFP's activities for 2019 (USD 265 million) target one million vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees. WFP requires USD 109 million for the next six months (November 2018-April 2019) to ensure the continuation of its support to affected populations.

## Story from the field

### How Um Ibrahim chose not to just survive, but to thrive

Six years ago, Um Ibrahim and her four children fled Syria after escaping war in their hometown of Daraa. The war forced them to abandon their home and their belongings — all that was familiar to them — and head for safety south of the Syrian-Jordanian border. They currently live in Za'atari refugee camp in northern Jordan.



Photo credit: WFP/Mohammad Batah

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

## Donors

Germany, USAID, Canada, Ireland, Norway, Australia, Kuwait, Republic of Korea, Japan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, France and Private Sector donors.