



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Jordan Country Brief December 2018

Operational Context

Jordan is an upper middle-income country, with a population of 10 million, of which 2.9 million are non-citizens, including refugees. Jordan is also a resource-poor, food-deficit country with limited agricultural land, no energy resources and scarce water supply.

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 Jordan, particularly among 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.

According to the Department of Statistics, unemployment soared to 18.7 percent during the second quarter of 2018 – the highest rate in 25 years. The unemployment rate among men stood at 16.6 percent compared to 26.8 percent among women.

WFP has been present in Jordan since 1964.



Population: **10 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper Middle**

2017 Gender Inequality Index: **108**

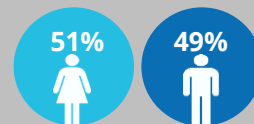
In Numbers

488,243 Syrian refugees assisted through cash-based transfers

3,750 Jordanian and Syrian benefiting from economic opportunities

USD 60 m six months (February - July 2019) net funding requirements

490,324 people assisted
in December 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP continued its work with the Government of Jordan and the World Bank for the provision of Technical Assistance to the National Aid Fund (NAF)'s Reform Plan under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Development. WFP piloted the disbursement of NAF entitlements through mobile money for 500 Jordanians in Azraq town. A specific call centre was established to respond to inquiries on the mobile money pilot. In coordination with iMMAP, a baseline study of the mobile money pilot in Azraq was conducted with 262 vulnerable Jordanian households in December. A follow-up study is planned in early 2019. The study will assess the effects of the shift in modality (from cash distribution at post offices) on beneficiary households, with a focus on access and accessibility to assistance.
- Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan Bin Talal as the lead convener, the Strategic Review - a comprehensive study that addresses progress and priority actions required to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 - was launched in December. The review brought together many stakeholders, including ministries, donors, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to form a common understanding of food security; identify gaps and put forward solid recommendations that will form Jordan's national food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture plans until 2030.
- WFP continued its external consultations for the formulation of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2020–2022 with the Government of Jordan, UN agencies and donors. A meeting with stakeholders will take place in early 2019 to present the concept note.
- WFP, in partnership with IrisGuard, will be conducting regular verification of Syrian refugees receiving WFP's assistance through biometric identity authentication using iris-scanning. WFP will install verification stations around Jordan, which will be used to verify Syrian refugees in host communities.

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

Total Requirement for 2019	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
265.3 m	87.4 m	60 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.

- In host communities, Syrian refugees in 11 out of 12 governorates continued to receive unrestricted cash transfers that can be withdrawn from ATMs or restricted food vouchers that are redeemable at WFP-contracted shops, or a combination of both. Monthly monitoring activities showed that 36 percent of beneficiaries redeemed their assistance as e-vouchers, 49 percent as cash, 13 percent as both, while the remaining have not redeemed their assistance yet. According to the Food Security Outcome Monitoring, dietary diversity of Syrian refugees receiving unconditional cash transfers increased. Refugees also reported higher purchasing power. The roll-out of this modality will be completed by early 2019.
- At the end of December, WFP concluded its daily in-kind bread distribution to Syrian refugees in camps. WFP, through its supplier, has established eight bread sales points where refugees will be able to buy bread through the iris-scan payment system. As of January 2019, WFP will increase the monthly transfer value from JOD 20 to JOD 23 (USD 28 to USD 32), to cover the cost of bread. This shift

will increase refugees' flexibility, allowing them to buy bread from both bread selling points and WFP-contracted supermarkets inside the camps. Sensitisation sessions for the supplier on food quality as well as safety, gender and protection were held.

- As part of the Technical Assistance provided to the Ministry of Education (MoE), WFP conducted a session with the school feeding focal points from the Directorate of Education in Quweismeh. The session introduced the recently developed food commodity tracking application. The application will help to track date bars dispatched by WFP; assist MoE in addressing gaps during the feeding months and; provide efficient and accurate tracking of the date bars distribution plan. WFP will pilot the application in all schools under the Directorate of Education in Quweismeh as of February 2019.
- WFP partnered with 1001 Inventions organization to launch "1001 Meals". The new initiative started in Azraq camp offering Syrian children in refugee camps access to healthy meals, coupled with valuable learning opportunities to improve their wellbeing. The initiative aims to help feeding children while inspiring creativity, curiosity and hope through story-telling about the lesser known pioneers from the historic golden age of science and innovation in the Middle East.
- In schools located in poverty pockets and identified with the Government, WFP continued to implement rehabilitation activities with the National Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition, focusing on the rehabilitation of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. The focus is also on schools receiving healthy snacks from WFP. Jordanians and Syrians engaged in the activities continue to receive their entitlements through the OneCard platform that supports the Paperless Resilience Operations (PRO) – digitising all relevant processes such as registration, cards distribution and attendance.
- As part of its capacity strengthening of the Department of Statistics (DoS), WFP held an "ArcGIS online training" on advanced tools and applications in data visualisation. The training covered a broad range of GIS skills to enhance knowledge sharing and dissemination among the GIS specialists of both DoS and WFP staff. WFP also conducted a training on Food Security Data Analysis for DoS and Tkiyet Um Ali, focusing on the Consolidated Approach in Reporting Indicators for Food Security.

Donors

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

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Caption: Syrian school children in Azraq camp participate in 1001 meals initiative.