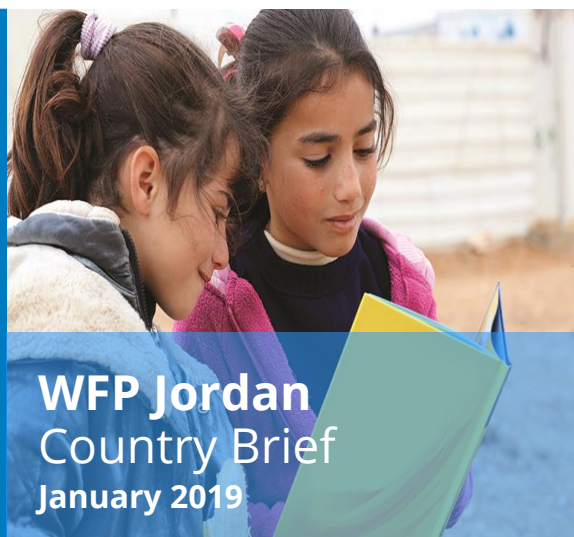




World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Jordan Country Brief January 2019

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

492,148 people assisted
in January 2019



488,398 Syrian refugees assisted through cash-based transfers

3,750 Jordanian and Syrian benefiting from economic opportunities

USD 54.6 m six months (February - July 2019) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- WFP held its second round of external consultations with the Government of Jordan, NGOs, UN agencies, donors and partners to present the concept note for the Country Strategic Plan 2020-2022.
- WFP continued to work closely with the National Aid Fund in support of 500 Jordanians as part of the mobile money pilot in Azraq. In coordination with iMMAP, a baseline study for the pilot was completed and shared with partners.
- In host communities, Syrian refugees in 11 out of 12 governorates continued to receive cash transfers that can be withdrawn from ATMs, food vouchers redeemable at WFP-contracted shops, or a combination of both. Monthly monitoring activities showed that 31 percent of beneficiaries redeemed their assistance as e-vouchers, 54 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 improved. Refugees also reported higher purchasing power.
- WFP started working with new cooperating partners in camps and host communities for the implementation of its food assistance programme targeting Syrian refugees. The Norwegian Refugee Council will be WFP's partner in Zaatari and Azraq camps; ACTED will be the partner in the northern host communities and Save the Children Jordan in the southern host communities. Partners received trainings on several topics related to financial reporting, monitoring and evaluation, field operations, escalation mechanisms and coordination. The training included dedicated sessions on gender, protection, accountability to affected populations and sexual exploitation and abuse.

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Photo Caption: WFP is investing in the future of girls supported through the school feeding programme.
WFP/Mohammad Batah

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
505.3 m	292.7 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February – July 2019)
265.3 m	54.6 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 launched a new modality for the provision of bread in Azraq and Za'atari camps. Eight bread selling points were established through the private sector where Syrian refugees can purchase fresh bread through the EyePay system. With the conclusion of the in-kind bread distribution, WFP increased 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 throughout the week from 7am – 5pm.
- WFP and IrisGuard signed a service agreement for the 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.

- WFP continued to work with UN Women on the blockchain pilot to assist Syrian refugee women participating in UN Women's cash for work programmes at the Za'atari and Azraq camps. The partnership stems from WFP's Building Blocks project, which already provides cash transfers to 110,000 Syrian refugees in camps through a blockchain based system.
- As part of the H2Grow project, 20 farmers were selected to pilot the low-tech hydroponic units. Participants will receive a low-tech unit to be used to cultivate green fresh fodder at the household level. Participants were selected according to WFP's vulnerability criteria prioritising households headed by women, youth and people with disabilities. Participants received technical trainings on the hydroponic techniques.
- Rehabilitation of schools continued in Irbid, Amman and Balqa governorates. 750 Jordanians and Syrians engaged in the rehabilitation activities continue to receive their entitlements through the OneCard platform that supports the Paperless Resilience Operations – digitising all relevant processes such as registration, cards distribution and attendance.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Royal Health Awareness Society, conducted a food testing exercise aimed at diversifying snacks provided to schoolchildren. Six new nutritious recipes were assessed in terms of feasibility and offered to school children for their feedback. Further steps will be taken to assess cost, time of preparation and mapping of ingredients before introducing the snacks.
- WFP and the National Centre for Security and Crisis Management (NCSCM) have held discussions to explore a potential partnership with the aim of strengthening NCSCM's capacity to prepare for and respond to emergencies through the development of tools and systems of early warning.
- WFP Jordan has joined the Gender Transformation Programme (GTP), a corporate tool that ensures gender mainstreaming in all areas, including programme, systems and partnerships. WFP will conduct a baseline assessment in the first quarter of 2019 to assess its progress towards achieving gender equality and women empowerment followed by the development and implementation of an improvement plan.

Donors

Germany, USAID, Canada, Ireland, Norway, Australia, Italy, Republic of Korea, Japan, France and Private Sector donors.