



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Jordan Country Brief March 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 a scarce water supply.

Nationwide, 0.5 percent of Jordanian households are considered food insecure and an additional 5.7 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, the proportion 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

879,996 people assisted
in March 2019



488,091 Syrian refugees assisted through cash-based transfers

414,201 Jordanian and Syrian school children receiving school snacks

USD 81.4 m six months (April–September 2019) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- In close coordination with the National Aid Fund (NAF), the World Bank and other actors, WFP conducted information sessions for over 1,000 households in Jerash as part of a pilot on digital payments, informing beneficiaries of the possibility to choose to receive their assistance (and sign up for) through mobile money or a basic bank account. In addition, WFP supported NAF in establishing a call-centre for the people they serve so that they have access to information on the cash programme, new payment pilots, or raise issues of concern in a safe and confidential way. A total of six new staff were trained and supported by WFP to utilise the call-centre ticketing system.
- Syrian refugees living in host communities 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, in 11 out of 12 governorates. Monthly monitoring activities showed that 28 percent of beneficiaries redeemed their assistance as e-vouchers, 57 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.
- Upon the United Nations Children's Fund request, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE), WFP included an additional 1,000 children attending kindergarten in Zaatari camp under its School Feeding Programme. Children started receiving healthy snacks prepared by Syrian women and men working in the kitchens. They consisted of a freshly baked pastry, a piece of fruit and a piece of vegetable providing children with 302 kilocalories. Most of the ingredients are sourced locally.

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WFP supports the education of Jordanian and Syrian schoolchildren in camps and communities by providing healthy school-snacks.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
505.3 m	306.3 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (April–September 2019)
265.3 m	81.4 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.

- Building on its partnership with the “1001 Inventions” organization, WFP launched the second phase of “1001 Meals” in Azraq camp offering Syrian children access to healthy snacks, coupled with valuable learning opportunities through films, books, science demonstrations, hands on workshops and educational projects. The initiative aims to help feed 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. The activity included nutrition messaging promoting healthy eating habits.
- Rehabilitation of schools continued in Irbid, Amman and Balqa governorates. Following the completion of the activities, sites were handed over to the relevant entities: the Ministry of Health, MoE and several municipalities which in return committed to carrying maintenance work for sustainability purposes.

Partnerships

- Building on the strong partnership with the Government of Jordan, WFP and the National Aid Fund (NAF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the collaboration over the expansion of the NAF's cash assistance programme. Under the three-year partnership, and building on its experience in digitizing cash delivery systems through innovative technologies, WFP will support the Government's plan to expand the social protection coverage for vulnerable Jordanians.
- WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture launched a project to enhance the food security of the most vulnerable Jordanian families. The project aims at creating 800 training opportunities in the agricultural sector through activities that focus on forestry, rangeland improvement, maintenance of water infrastructures and water harvesting, as well as the introduction of water conservation techniques such as hydroponics. Activities are planned to start in April and will continue until the end of 2019.
- WFP and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) signed a MoU, which aims to promote financial inclusion through mobile money services in Jordan. WFP and GIZ plan to work together to leverage the high penetration of mobile phones and the availability of a mobile payments infrastructure to improve access to remittances and other financial services through digital solutions. It also supports WFP's objective of providing Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians with the widest range of modalities to redeem their monthly cash transfers.

Story from the Field

It is 35 degrees outside, and you can feel the thick desert heat fill your pores. From inside Abu Mohamed's air-conditioned home, drinking a cup of mint tea, it's hard to tell that we are at a refugee camp.

To read more about the how Syrian refugees and the WFP created life and a healthy economy in a refugee camp in Jordan, click [here](#).



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