

WFP Jordan Country Brief April 2019



In Numbers

876,552 people assisted
in April 2019



487,430 Syrian refugees assisted through cash-based transfers

412,995 Jordanian and Syrian school children receiving school snacks

USD 100 m six months (May – October 2019) net funding requirements

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 fourth quarter of 2018 - an increase by 0.2 percent compared to 2017.. The unemployment rate among men stood at 16.9 percent compared to 25.7 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**

Operational Updates

- WFP presented the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) concept note during the informal consultations with the Executive Board in April. WFP is currently drafting the full CSP document which will be presented, for approval, at the November Executive Board.
- Preparations continued to support the National Aid Fund (NAF) in the expansion of their cash programme. In coordination with the World Bank and other partners, WFP supported the preparations for household verification and digitization of the payment stream.
- As part of the financial and technical assistance provided to NAF, WFP established a Geographic Information System (GIS) unit. The unit was equipped with laptops and GIS related equipment and software. In addition, staff from NAF received on the job training provided by WFP to help them develop their GIS strategic vision and build their capacity.
- To ensure the most vulnerable cases among Syrians living in camps, such as people living with disabilities or elders belonging to a one-person household, have access to their monthly food entitlements, WFP allowed them to nominate an individual to serve as their alternative collector. As part of WFP's "Building Blocks project", collectors can use their iris to purchase food on behalf of the vulnerable case, through the blockchain technology.
- 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. According to the Food Security Outcome Monitoring, dietary diversity of Syrian refugees receiving unconditional cash transfers increased. Refugees also reported higher purchasing power.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
505.3 m	303 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (May – October 2019)
265.3 m	100 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.

- As part of the efforts to strengthen accountability to affected populations and enhance communication with beneficiaries, WFP launched a new digital help desk tool for Cooperating Partners (CPs) to be used at the physical helpdesks throughout the country. A training on the new tool and key messages to share with beneficiaries was held with all CPs helpdesks staff who will be able to electronically log all contacts with beneficiaries, enabling WFP to resolve beneficiary issues more effectively and efficiently.
- WFP expanded the “1001 Meals” to Zaatari camp offering Syrian children access to healthy snacks, coupled with valuable learning opportunities. The initiative, which is done in collaboration with “1001 Inventions” organization, aims to help feed children while inspiring creativity, curiosity and hope through story-telling. The activity included nutrition messaging promoting healthy eating habits.

- Building on the strong relationship between WFP and the Government of Jordan (GoJ), His Excellency the Prime Minister (PM) Omar Razzaz visited a site where WFP works with the National Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition on rehabilitating schools while providing healthy snacks to school children, in close partnership with the Ministry of Education. The PM thanked WFP for supporting the GoJ to achieve national priorities.
- Cartier Philanthropy visited WFP’s School Feeding Programme and met with Syrian women who prepare the daily snacks for the children. The mission also met with Her Majesty Queen Rania AlAbdullah. Cartier has contributed a multi-year funding of USD 900,000 (2018-2020) in support of the School Feeding Programme.
- WFP hosted a two-day mission from Forsman & Bodenfors to see WFP’s work on the ground. The mission witnessed how WFP is supporting both Syrian refugees and vulnerable refugees through humanitarian and resilience activities.
- WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF signed an agreement to conduct joint vulnerability assessments to understand the situation of vulnerable populations in the country and support the GoJ and development partners’ efforts to develop a comprehensive social protection response plan.
- WFP and the National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC) are exploring a potential partnership in areas related to agriculture including hydroponics, climate change, training and support to vulnerable smallholder farmers and pastoralists.
- WFP met with the Japanese Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Hidenao Yanagi, to discuss potential areas of collaboration and thank Japan for its recent contribution in support of WFP’s humanitarian intervention. Since the onset of the Syria crisis, Japan has contributed over USD 24 million in support of 500,000 Syrian refugees.

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