



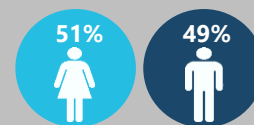
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Jordan Country Brief April 2020

## In Numbers



**480,000** refugees assisted in April 2020

**US\$ 122 million** six months net funding requirements (May - October 2020)

### Operational Context

Jordan is an upper-middle-income country, with a population of 10.5 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 5.7 percent are vulnerable to food insecurity. Over 15.7 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 shows a worsening food security situation among Syrian refugees in Jordan.

According to the Department of Statistics, unemployment stood at 19 percent during the fourth quarter of 2019 - an increase by 0.3 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2018. The unemployment rate among men stood at 17.7 percent compared to 24.1 percent among women.

In addition to that, Jordan burdens the social, economic and environmental impacts of hosting the 650,000 Syrian and 90,000 refugees of other nationalities registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, WFP has been present in Jordan since 1964.



Population: **10.5 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **0.735**

Income Level: **Upper Middle**

2018 Gender Inequality Index: **113**

### Operational Updates

- General food assistance (GFA) through cash-based transfers in support of 480,000 refugees in camps and communities, as well as technical assistance to the Government are ongoing at the same scale. WFP has a presence in both Azraq and Zaatari camps through field staff.
- To allow refugees access to food commodities before the beginning of Ramadan, WFP reloaded May cash assistance for refugees on 20 April (earlier than originally planned). A staggered approach was adapted in camps, using blockchain technology, to limit overcrowding at contracted shops.
- Cash distribution for 1,000 Syrian refugee families, who were on leave permits when the curfew started and have not managed to return to camps, will start in May in collaboration with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). Due to the different modalities utilized in camps and communities, refugees can only redeem their assistance at WFP's contracted shops in refugee camps via blockchain as e-vouchers.
- WFP deployed mobile ATMs to rural areas in Irbid and Mafraq to address accessibility issues which refugees are facing in redeeming their cash assistance in communities (with a focus on people with disabilities and those residing in remote areas). WFP is following WHO and the Ministry of Health regulations to limit the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. In addition to the use of facemasks and gloves, hand sanitizers are available for refugees to use and the ATMs are regularly being disinfected.
- WFP started door-to-door card distributions for around 3,000 refugees in communities who either lost or damaged their cards through its partner. A protocol for safe distribution during COVID-19 was developed. WFP is following up with families via call surveys to confirm that they have received their cards.

**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)

**Photo:** A refugee, benefiting from WFP's food assistance, using one of WFP's deployed mobile ATMs in Irbid to withdraw cash while following WHO and MoH health regulations. ©WFP Jordan

## Jordan Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 - December 2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>700 m</b>	<b>134 m</b>
2020 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (May - October 2020)
<b>238 m</b>	<b>122 m</b>

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Crisis affected populations in Jordan, including refugees, meet their food and nutrition needs throughout the year.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

**Activities:**

- Provide nutrition-sensitive food assistance to refugees and other crisis-affected populations.
- Provide tools, systems and training to the Government to enhance its emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food.

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Vulnerable populations in Jordan, including children, are covered by adequate social protection schemes by 2022.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

**Activities:**

- Support the Government in reforming and expanding national social protection schemes.
- Provide nutrition-sensitive school feeding to targeted children.

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food.

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Vulnerable populations in Jordan, with a focus on women and young people, are more self-reliant and have better livelihood opportunities by 2022.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

**Activities:**

- Provide livelihood support (training, income-generating opportunities, asset creation) to vulnerable people in rural and urban settings, with a focus on women and young people.

### Strategic Result 4: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Partnerships in support of the Sustainable Development Goals in Jordan are strengthened through effective and innovative solutions from WFP and its partners by 2022.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

**Activities:**

- With other actors, develop a comprehensive food security and nutrition sector plan linked to other sectors and supported by a coordination structure.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange between partners and the Government to promote piloting and scaling of innovative approaches to achieving the SDGs.

- As a contingency plan, WFP prepositioned 500 food parcels (each sufficient for a family of five for a month). Parcels will be stored at a WFP warehouse and will be dispatched as needs arise. WFP is also repositioning approximately 4,000 welcome meals to Zaatari and Azraq camps for refugees moving from communities to camps.
- WFP is supporting Syrian refugees returning from communities to Azraq camp, who are currently in self-isolation at the

designated area set up by UNHCR, through the provision of meals and bread.

- WFP complaint and feedback mechanism operates through two channels, the call-centre and the physical helpdesks in camps. The call-centre responds to an average of 2,300 calls per week from refugees on WFP's food assistance. Most inquiries are related to reload of cash assistance, inclusion requests in WFP's programme, and e-card distribution. The helpdesks in both camps receive around 200 inquiries per week. Both men and women of all age groups access the channels and inquire on the same types of issues.
- WFP continues to disseminate [key messages](#) to refugees on COVID-19 lockdown updates, access to assistance, shops opening hours and food safety through WhatsApp, text messages, and social media.

## Monitoring

- WFP finalized its remote monitoring exercise for refugees receiving WFP's food assistance in camps and communities. Findings highlighted the importance of assistance as the main source of income for most families during the pandemic. Most of the refugees (80 percent) found the early provision of cash assistance helpful, since it allowed them to stock-up on food in view of the limited movement. The full report can be accessed [here](#).
- Findings from the joint WFP/UNHCR/UNICEF Rapid Needs Assessment highlighted an increase in the levels of food insecurity across all refugee households who have lost access to livelihoods and other sources of income. Of those surveyed, 32 reported not having enough to eat in the past week. The assessment also noted an increase in food prices – reported by 55 percent of households. In terms of food stocks, 40 percent of surveyed households had no food stocks. When households reported food stocks, the quantities were limited for a few days (83 percent). The assessment also noted the potential impact of COVID-19 on the food supply chain in Jordan that largely depends on food imports. Logistical disruptions in international supply chains are likely to result in a hike in food prices and unavailability of some food commodities.
- WFP in collaboration with FAO conducted the second Rapid Food Systems Assessment. The qualitative assessment uses primary and secondary data and covers Government measures, food production, access to market, food and water consumption, food systems for refugees in camps and vulnerable people, stock levels of imported food, and international Government measures. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

## Donors

Australia, Canada, EU, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Saudi Arabia, UK, USA, Cartier Philanthropy, MAF Carrefour Jordan.