



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Jordan Country Brief July 2020

In Numbers



479,617 refugees assisted through cash-based transfers in July 2020

820 Jordanians and refugees benefited from livelihood activities

US\$ 124.1 million six months net funding requirements (August 2020 – January 2021)

Operational Context

Jordan is an upper-middle-income country, with a population of 10.7 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 19.03 percent during the first quarter of 2020 - an increase by 0.3 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2019. The unemployment rate among men stood at 18.1 percent compared to 24.4 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

- WFP signed an agreement with the Government of Jordan, represented by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, for the implementation of WFP's three-year Country Strategic Plan 2020 – 2022 with a budget of USD 700 million in support of Government entities, vulnerable Jordanians and refugees.
- During July, 479,617 refugees living in camps and communities continued to redeem WFP's cash assistance both at ATMs and at contracted food retailers across the 12 governorates.
- WFP and its partners have started the inclusion process for almost 20,000 refugees as part of COVID-19 emergency response. WFP will transfer the cash assistance as soon as the distribution of e-cards is completed. For the first time, e-cards are being distributed via biometric authentication of the refugees thanks to the roll-out of EyePay Phones, which scan and verify the iris of the refugees and track the e-card being distributed.
- Within the framework of the Mobile Money for Resilience Initiative, funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, WFP and the Middle East Payments Systems have signed a Grant Agreement with the Central Bank of Jordan aimed at integrating WFP contracted shops, used by refugees, into the mobile money eco-system to allow refugees access a wider network of financial instruments.
- Within the framework of the OneCard Platform, WFP has supported the provision of cash assistance for about 300 beneficiaries on behalf of the Collateral Repair Project (CRP) and started the preparatory work to facilitate the payments in August on behalf of UN Women, UNRWA and CRP.

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Photo: a Jordanian woman benefiting from one of WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture's forestry project engaged in reforestation activities.

Jordan Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 - December 2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
700 m	158 m
2020 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (August 2020 - January 2021)
238 m	124.1 m

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.

- A new capacity strengthening project proposal has been discussed with National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, and funds have been secured to start implementation. The project focuses on developing a risk monitoring and impact analysis platform. WFP will provide infrastructure upgrades as required, technical expertise, knowledge transfer including South-South collaboration, and on-the-job training.

- In July, WFP continued the provision of technical assistance to the National Aid Fund (NAF) for the various ongoing programmes. The assistance focused on the implementation of home visits for more than 10,000 vulnerable Jordanians, as well as the provision of virtual information sessions on digital payments and financial literacy.
- WFP also supported NAF in terms of beneficiaries' feedback mechanisms in view of the bread subsidy payments, foreseen to take place in August. In terms of NAF payments systems integration and automation, WFP has achieved an important milestone completing the integration of NAF's database with the e-wallet database of Jordan Payments & Clearing Company. Thanks to this new feature, NAF can now verify the e-wallet status and have a faster enrolment for new beneficiaries. The integration with various payments service providers, as well as with the Central Bank of Jordan is in progress.
- Jointly with the World Bank, WFP had a series of consultations with NAF in view of the 2020/21 expansion plans. The tripartite meetings have so far focused on the timeline and methodology for beneficiaries' data verification (e.g. via home visits), as well as for the digital payments enrolment.
- WFP worked with UNICEF, UNESCO and other partners from the education sector on a "Safe back to school" campaign including support on outreach, national media campaign, and feeding activities planned in August and September.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, rehabilitation of forests, seedling at the plant production stations and pruning of Ajloun forest continued in July with special measures in place for COVID-19.
- Through the partnership with Dar Abu Abdullah, an outreach and market study was conducted in July to further identify priority sectors and vulnerable populations. Under this project, 91 women who attended a handicraft workshop produced 21,000 stuffed sheep that were sold during Eid Al-Adha.
- In view of digitizing all the cash payments across the various CSP activities, WFP has started the consultations with its school feeding and resilience partners to rollout mobile money as a payment modality. Participants will receive financial literacy training and courses on e-wallet registration modalities.

Donors

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