



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Jordan Country Brief August 2020

In Numbers



494,529 refugees assisted through cash-based transfers in August 2020

821 Jordanians and refugees benefited from livelihood activities

US\$ 147 million six months net funding requirements (October 2020 – March 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. WFP's 2018 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment shows a worsening food security situation among refugees in Jordan which has been aggravated by the COVID-19 situation.

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. While no figures are available post-COVID, this is likely to have deteriorated further. The unemployment rate among men stood at 18.1 percent compared to 24.4 percent among women.

In addition, Jordan carries the social, economic and environmental burden 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: **10.7 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **0.723**

Income Level: **Upper Middle**

2018 Gender Inequality Index: **0.469**

Operational Updates

- WFP continued providing monthly food assistance in the form of cash-based transfers to 494,529 refugees residing in camps and communities. The majority of refugees benefiting from this assistance come from Syria, with a minority from Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, and Somalia.
- WFP expanded the coverage of its General Food Assistance programme to include an additional 14,400 refugees (5,164 households) through cash transfers. The expansion, part of WFP's COVID-19 response plan, comes in response to the increased vulnerability among vulnerable populations in Jordan.
- To improve accessibility of food assistance, WFP expanded its ATM network in communities. The expansion now allows refugees to access more than 800 ATMs around Jordan with their e-cards following an agreement with WFP's financial service provider.
- WFP is engaging with the National Centre for Security and Crisis Management on a new capacity strengthening project focussing on disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response.
- WFP continued to provide technical assistance to the National Aid Fund (NAF) for its ongoing programmes in support of vulnerable Jordanian families delivering virtual information sessions on digital payments and financial literacy to 2,958 Jordanian households recently included into NAF's cash programme.
- WFP finalised the preparatory work of the upcoming "NAF recertification process" targeting the current caseload of 100,000 households. Home visits to around 15,000 households will start in September with plans to complete home visits to all targeted households by the end of the year.

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Photo: Ali, a Syrian youth living in a refugee camp, buys bread from one of WFP's bakeries located inside the camp. Over 110,000 refugees in camps benefit from WFP's food assistance.

Jordan Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 - December 2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
700 m	164 m
2020 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (October 2020 – March 2021)
238 m	147 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.

- In August, WFP received confirmation from the Government that school feeding activities supporting 420,000 school children in camps and communities will continue. School Feeding will resume in September/October.

- WFP continued to work with the Ministry of Agriculture targeting more than 200 participants (70 percent Jordanians, 30 percent Syrian refugees) in various activities, including seedling production for forests across the country, maintenance of five forests established by WFP and the Ministry in 2019 and pruning activities in Ajloun governorate. Participants receive monthly cash assistance to help meet their food needs.
- WFP and its partner, Dar Abu Abdullah (DAA), continued supporting 1,000 Jordanians and refugees with sustainable economic opportunities. The 15-month project empowers individuals through capacity building, job matching and micro and home-based businesses in three main sectors: food production and agriculture, handicrafts and digital finance.
- WFP and its national partner, NAJMAH, finalised the preparatory work for a new project that will provide on-the-job training and job placement opportunities for 1,500 Jordanians and refugees. The project will start in September.
- WFP is holding discussions with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Ministry of Agriculture on the potential digitization of the agriculture sector in Jordan.
- WFP donated a high-technology hydroponic unit to the Ministry of Agriculture’s research station in Madaba to support research and training for students and local communities on hydroponics.
- WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF are working on the launch of the joint comprehensive vulnerability assessment that will build understanding on the overall vulnerability picture in the country, with results expected in 2021.

Funding

- WFP’s General Food Assistance programme in support of refugees is facing a pipeline break in November 2020. If additional funds of USD 32 million are not secured, WFP will be forced to cut food assistance to around 495,000 refugees supported by WFP in camps and communities.
- WFP requires an additional USD 2 million to continue its support to 420,000 school children benefiting from the National School Feeding Programme until the end of the year.

Donors

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