

WFP Jordan Country Brief January 2021

In Numbers

499,914 Refugees assisted through cash-based transfers in January 2021

8,237 Jordanians and refugees benefited from livelihood activities

USD 75.1 million six months net funding requirements (February - July 2021)

51%

49%

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, dwindling energy and water resources.

The results of mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping approach (mVAM) implemented in December 2020 showed that 3 percent of Jordanian households and 25.7 percent of refugees are considered food insecure. Female-headed households, small households, and households with disabilities have disproportionally poor food consumption. According to the Department of Statistics, the unemployment rate reached 24 percent during the third quarter of 2020, an increase of 5 percent compared to the third quarter of 2019, again attributed to the COVID pandemic. The unemployment rate among men reached 21.2 percent compared to 33.6 percent among women. In addition, Jordan carries the social, economic and environmental burden of hosting over 660,000 Syrian and 90,000 refugees of other nationalities registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Through the Country Strategic Plan (2020-2022), WFP Jordan rebalances its portfolio towards Jordan itself, in line with the country's priorities linked to the 2030 Agenda. Strengthening the capacities of national institutions, strategies and programmes, in addition to providing support for livelihoods, will increasingly be prioritized to deliver transformative and equitable results for Jordanians bypassed by socio-economic opportunities. WFP has been present in Jordan since 1964.



Population: **10.75 million**
Source: Jordan Department of Statistics

Human Development Index (2019): **0.723**
Source: UNDP Human Development Reports

Income Level: **Upper Middle**
Source: World Bank Data

Gender Inequality Index (2018): **0.469**
Source: UNDP Human Development Reports

Operational Updates

- Almost 500,000 refugees residing in camps and host communities received monthly food assistance in the form of cash-based transfers in January. Most refugees benefiting from this assistance came from Syria, with a minority from Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, and Somalia.
- As part of WFP's response to COVID-19 funded by the United States of America, 16,390 refugees (5,850 households) directly impacted by the pandemic have been included in the Unconditional Resources Transfer since August 2020. They will reach around 20,000 refugees by February.
- In Za'atari and Azraq camps, WFP continued to provide in-kind food assistance (a mix of welcome meals and food parcels) to beneficiaries quarantined in the isolation compounds. The total number of COVID-19 cases reached in both camps was around 1,800 cases. Sadly, COVID-19 has caused ten deaths in the camps.
- As part of WFP collaboration with the Government's National Aid Fund (NAF), Jordan's main provider of social welfare assistance, to improve its social targeting, WFP completed the recertification process of its 70,000 targeted households through household visits. WFP, through a cooperating partner, is developing a tool for virtual household visits to document and test living conditions of NAF beneficiaries.
- WFP continued its support for the Ministry of Education (MoE) in drafting the National School Feeding Strategy, holding consultations with the Steering Committee members on the draft Strategy, as well as clarifying their roles and responsibilities. After final technical discussions with the Ministry of Education, WFP will present the strategy document to the Minister in late February for his endorsement.
- WFP started preparations for resuming School Feeding activities (distribution of date bars) with the Government's decision to reopen schools gradually starting from February. Agreements with the cooperating partners were signed and action plans were discussed and approved.
- Implementation of the assessment on the "Impact of school feeding suspension during online education" has started. After a training with the cooperating partners, data collection has launched in camps. The assessment will measure the need to continue the School Feeding Activity and inform potential alternative delivery mechanisms in case schooling remains virtual.
- WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture continued working on various activities targeting 900 participants (70 percent Jordanian, 30 percent Syrian refugee). Moreover, WFP continued supporting 250 smallholder farmers with establishing water tanks to harvest rainwater for use in the summer. Participants will receive monthly cash assistance to help them meet their food needs.

Photo Caption: Families in Azraq and Za'atari camps can buy milk from WFP contracted shops using their cash assistance to provide their children with nutrients like Calcium and Potassium.

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WFP Country Strategy

Jordan Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 - December 2022)	
Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
700 m	286 m
2021 Requirements	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (February – July 2021)
235 m	75.1 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:**
- Act 1:** Provide nutrition-sensitive food assistance to refugees and other crisis-affected populations.
 - Act 2:** 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:**
- Act 3:** Support the Government in reforming and expanding national social protection schemes.
 - Act 4:** 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:**
- Act 5:** 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:**
- Act 6:** With other actors, develop a comprehensive food security and nutrition sector plan linked to other sectors and supported by a coordination structure.
 - Act 7:** Facilitate knowledge exchange between partners and the Government to promote piloting and scaling of innovative approaches to achieving the SDGs.

- In partnership with the National Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition (NAJMAH), WFP continued to support over 7,500 vulnerable Jordanians and refugees with training in professions required in the market. Candidates are matched with jobs based on identification of vacancies in their communities so they can secure sustainable livelihoods.

- WFP’s human capital development program in partnership with the local NGO partner, Dar Abu Abdallah (DAA), continued in January. The program supports 1,000 vulnerable Jordanians and refugees with sustainable economic opportunities through cash for work. DAA provided participants with foundational skills training. The monthly cash assistance helps participants meet their food needs.
- WFP’s preparations for the agricultural activities funded by the European Union (MADAD Project) are ongoing including forestry, rangeland, production of seedlings and water harvesting. WFP is currently working with FAO to finalize the farmers registry.
- With the support of WFP, the first and second chapters of the National Food Security Strategy have been completed along with the first round of consultations with the Government and the UN stakeholders by mid-February. A high-level meeting is scheduled with relevant Ministers, donors and representatives from the Royal Court at the end of February to discuss the opportunities and challenges within the National Food Security Strategy.
- The “Decapolis” pilot continued in January by onboarding 100 small farmers across Jordan. This is an innovative traceability platform aiming to support regulatory agencies and improve the livelihoods of food producers and smallholder farmers. It provides tracking of premium agricultural products through the end-to-end supply and production chains in compliance with quality control standards. Farmers and retailers are now able to use the platform.
- WFP continues to work with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) on a potential partnership for capacity enhancement of the Ministry. A capacity needs mapping exercise using WFP’s corporate tools and other areas of potential cooperation are under discussion including improving the Monitoring and Evaluation framework of the Ministry.
- WFP’s new pilot targeting model for refugees is currently being validated by RB and HQ VAM. The targeting exercise will be rolled-out in May 2021.
- In partnership with UNHCR and the “Joint Hub”, WFP will conduct a mobile essential need assessment (mENA) among non-Syrian refugees between February and March. The assessment will inform joint targeting for non-Syrian refugees.
- Together with FAO and IFAD, WFP is finalizing the third edition of the “Joint Food Security Update” report.
- WFP is finalizing the agreement with UNICEF on social innovation laboratories to create a combined food security innovation programme for youth and adolescents in Jordan in 2021.

Funding

WFP requires an additional USD 75.1 million to ensure continuity of WFP’s assistance until end of July 2021 to respond to the needs of one million Jordanians and refugees.

Donors

Australia, Canada, EU MADAD, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Norway, ROK, Russia, KSA, UNWOMEN, UK, USA and private sector (Cartier, Choithrams and Seven Circles).