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 January 2021 showed that 5 percent of Jordanian households and 22 percent of refugees are considered food insecure, an additional 65 percent are vulnerable to food insecurity. Female-headed households, small households, and households with disabilities have disproportionally poor food consumption. According to the Department of Statistics, the unemployment rate reached 25 percent during the fourth quarter of 2020, an increase of 5.7 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2019, again attributed to the COVID pandemic. The unemployment rate among men reached 22.6 percent compared to 32.8 percent among women. In addition, Jordan carries 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.

Operational Updates

• Almost 505,000 refugees residing in camps and host communities received monthly food assistance in the form of cash-based transfers in February. 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, WFP included an additional 2,900 refugees into its General Food Assistance to reach 20,400 refugees (7,100 households) who have lost their household income due to COVID since August 2020.

• In Za’atari and Azraq camps, WFP has continued providing 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 2,000 cases. Sadly, COVID-19 has caused 15 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, WFP transferred this month USD 1,370,000 as a financial contribution to NAF in support of its COVID-19 emergency cash assistance programme (Takaful 3). This programme supports 100,000 Jordanian families of daily labourers and informal workers who, along with the refugees, are particularly affected financially by the pandemic.

• To improve NAF’s social targeting, WFP started the validation process of Takaful 3 programme households in February and has so far completed over 16,500 virtual household visits using a tool developed with the cooperating partner to document the living conditions of NAF beneficiaries. WFP will also start providing virtual info-sessions for the same beneficiaries in March to support them with financial literacy including opening e-wallets.

• WFP has finalised the first draft of the National School Feeding Strategy under its support for the Ministry of Education (MoE). The document was sent to the Minister for his endorsement.

• WFP resumed its School Feeding activities (distribution of date bars) in camps following the Government’s decision to reopen schools in February. This assistance covers around 6,000 students in 30 schools. However, the schools closed again by the beginning of March forcing WFP to suspend school feeding activities once again. WFP is now planning the distribution to camp students as a take home ration and partnering with a local NGO, Tikiyet Um Ali, to deliver date bars to the most vulnerable families in the poverty pockets of Jordan who would likely have been beneficiaries at the schools.

• The data collection for the “Impact of school feeding suspension during online education” assessment is completed and the analysis will be finalized by the end of March.

In Numbers

505,164 Refugees assisted through cash-based transfers in February 2021

7,510 Jordanians and refugees benefited from livelihood activities

USD 88.1 million six months net funding requirements (March - August 2021)

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Photo Caption: Afnan is experimenting with the cultivation of lettuce using hydroponic techniques and contributing to the food production system.
### WFP Country Strategy

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in US$)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>700 m</td>
<td>288 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 Requirements</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US$)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(March - August 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>235 m</td>
<td>88.1 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

### WFP's Activities

- **WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture** continued working on various resilience activities targeting 850 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 receive monthly cash assistance to help them meet their food needs.
- **In partnership with the National Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition (NAJMAH),** WFP continued to support 6,000 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 enter sustainable livelihoods.
- **WFP's human capital development program** in partnership with local NGO Dar Abu Abdallah (DAA) continued in February. The program supports 660 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.
- **The development of the National Food Security Strategy** is ongoing. A workshop was held in February focusing mainly on identifying priority interventions with relevant Government stakeholders and UN partners. The document will be shared with partners for review by the end of March.
- **The "Decapolis" pilot** continued in February, onboarding 100 small farmers across Jordan and developing arrangements with large retailers to market their products. 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's new pilot targeting model for refugees and the prioritization strategy to reduce the caseload** given funding constraints are now finalized. The targeting and prioritization exercises will be rolled-out in May 2021. Almost 200,000 beneficiaries will be cut from assistance due to the lack of funds to continue their support.
- **Planning for Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) Q1 in camps and re-targeting longitudinal study are on-going. Data collection will commence the second week of March and continue until the first week of April (to be completed before Ramadan)**
- **WFP continued to work with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD)** on the potential partnership for capacity enhancement of the Ministry. A capacity needs mapping exercise using WFP’s corporate tools and areas of potential cooperation are under discussion including improving the Monitoring and Evaluation framework of the Ministry.
- **WFP organized a virtual field visit for the Australian Embassy** and is in the process of creating a Standard of Procedures for virtual donor visits for both camps and communities to show case the situation on the ground and WFP’s operation in Jordan.
- **WFP is at the final stages of approval for 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 88.1 million to ensure continuity of WFP’s assistance until the end of August 2021 to respond to the needs of one million Jordanians and refugees.

### Donors

- Australia, Canada, EU MADAD, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Russia, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, UN-Women, United Kingdom, United States of America and private sector (Cartier, Choithrams and Seven Circles).