



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES



WFP Jordan Country Brief May 2021

Operational Context

Jordan is an upper-middle-income country, with a population of 10.9 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 WFP's mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping approach (mVAM) implemented in March 2021 showed that 8.4 percent of Jordanian households and 21 percent of refugees are considered food insecure, with an additional 51 percent of Jordanian and 67 percent of refugees vulnerable to food insecurity. Female-headed households, small households, and households with disabilities have disproportionately 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 and youth unemployment rates reached an unprecedented 50.0 percent. In addition, Jordan carries the social, economic and environmental burden of hosting over 666,000 Syrian and 88,600 refugees of other nationalities registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Through the Country Strategic Plan (2020-2022), WFP Jordan is rebalancing its portfolio more 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 is increasingly prioritized to deliver transformative and equitable results for Jordanians and refugees bypassed by socio-economic opportunities. WFP has been present in Jordan since 1964.



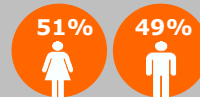
Population: **10.9 million**
Source: Jordan Department of Statistics

Human Development Index (2019): **0.729**
Source: UNDP Human Development Reports

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

Gender Inequality Index (2019): **0.450**
Source: UNDP Human Development Reports

In Numbers



622,411 Total number of beneficiaries reached in May 2021

526,329 beneficiaries assisted through cash-based transfers

7,020 beneficiaries benefited from livelihood activities

USD 118.1 million six months net funding requirements (June - November 2021)

USD 58 million realistic requirements for General Food Assistance until the end of 2021

Operational Updates

- In May, over 526,000 refugees residing in camps and host communities received WFP's monthly food assistance in the form of cash-based transfers. This includes about 40,000 refugees integrated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic using dedicated funds from the United States of America. Most refugees come from Syria, with a minority from Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, and Somalia.
- In Za'atari and Azraq camps, WFP developed a direct delivery system for the camp shops to provide in-kind food assistance to beneficiaries quarantined in isolation compounds using biometrics. After the process was implemented, the demand for food parcels decreased sharply with beneficiaries preferring to rely on food stocks at home rather than paying for a parcel. The total number of COVID-19 cases in both camps has reached around 3,450 cases since August 2020.
- WFP continued providing food assistance for its full caseload in May and will continue to do so in June. However, WFP will start implementing its re-targeting / prioritisation exercise in July given the likely funding shortfalls. While most of the caseload of 114,000 households will continue to receive assistance, it is estimated that around 21,000 beneficiaries, will be excluded from assistance. This re-targeting exercise enables vulnerable families who previously did not receive WFP assistance to be included in the new list of beneficiaries. Beneficiaries will be informed about these changes at the beginning of June, while WFP continues to keep the Government, cooperating partners and donors updated regularly through meetings and written communication.
- After receiving last minute contributions in May, WFP postponed carrying out beneficiary prioritisation exercise and associated cuts in assistance to July. WFP has established a prioritization plan to maintain assistance for the most vulnerable households as long as possible. However, unless more funding is received, further cuts will likely occur in September. By October, if no further funding is received, WFP will not be able to provide assistance to any refugees including those in camps. All preparations for the July cuts were finalised by the end of May.
- WFP held a meeting with the National Centre for Security and Crises Management (NCSCM) to present the areas of cooperation included in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and both parties agreed to hold a signing ceremony in June. WFP will support the NCSCM to develop risk monitoring and impact analysis platform, facilitate South-South and triangular cooperation, provide capacity building workshops and trainings, and conduct two simulation exercises with the Government and humanitarian stakeholders.
- WFP's technical assistance provided to the National Aid Fund (NAF), the main social protection net in Jordan, continued. In May, WFP and its service provider completed adjusting the NAF Management Information System to fully automate the payment and the home visit validation processes. Physical home visits for a NAF programme reaching the target of 160,000 households were carried out, and virtual information sessions for over 3,000 NAF beneficiaries were conducted.

Photo Caption: Women in Za'atari camp shopping in the camp shop. (WFP/Mohammad Batah).

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WFP Country Strategy

Jordan Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 - December 2022)	
Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
700 m	323 m
2021 Requirements	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June – November 2021)
235 m	118.1 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.

- (continued) WFP is currently in the process of recruiting two specialists for NAF covering Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).
- WFP has finalized the draft National School Feeding Strategy in consultation with the Ministry of Education (MoE).

The strategy will ensure effective, efficient implementation and strengthen the Government's ownership of school feeding.

In parallel, WFP and MoE are in the process of signing a technical assistance agreement to support the implementation of the National School Feeding Strategy. The agreement highlights areas of capacity strengthening that are aligned with the workplan of the strategy. The strategy is now pending approval by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) and the Prime Minister.

- In May, WFP distributed date bars to 13,500 children in Za'atari and Azraq camps through a general distribution to caregivers and parents. In Communities, WFP distributed date bars through local NGO Tikiyet Um Ali (TUA) to over 90,000 students who benefit from TUA's national in-kind food assistance once per month.
- Under the EU-MADAD funded project, WFP has signed an implementation agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) under which seedlings production started in May 2021. This project will enhance resilient livelihoods and food security of host communities and Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon by promoting sustainable agricultural development. Forestry and rangeland activities will start in June.
- The human capital development project in partnership with NGO Dar Abu Abdallah (DAA) continued targeting 1,000 vulnerable Jordanians and refugees to teach marketable skills, with focus on youth and women. Participants who received training can demonstrate noticeable improvements in their skills. In May, 25 participants were employed in sustainable jobs after completing the fundamental trainings and 190 participants started creating assets and selling products.
- In partnership with the National Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition (NAJMAH), WFP is targeting 5,700 vulnerable Jordanians and refugees with training on market-driven professions with subsequent job matching. The training is based on identification of real vacancies in their communities for sustainable income/livelihoods. Results of the mid-term review, undertaken in March and finalized in May, indicated that 75 percent of participants developed new skills and knowledge and over 60 percent are interested to continue working with the same business owner as their internship in a sustainable manner.
- WFP and the MoA have supported 300 small-holder farmers by establishing water-harvesting tanks and stone walls, combined with on-farm plantation activities, to increase water-use efficiency, decrease soil erosion and increase production.
- WFP and UNICEF launched the innovation laboratories programme in late April and published a call of interest for training of young entrepreneurs. Over 200 applications were received out of which 20 applicants will be selected for the training. The programme will then select five participants to received further funding to develop their projects, ensure access to sustainable resources and support them with mentorship along their journey. The laboratories will create a food security innovation programme for youth and adolescents in Jordan in 2021.

Funding

- WFP in Jordan continues to be short in funding to support over half a million refugees in the country; under current planning, there will be a partial pipeline break in July 2021 forcing WFP to reduce the number of beneficiaries reached in order to support the most vulnerable refugees as long as possible. Even with prioritisation of the most vulnerable, the funding pipeline will be completely dry by the end of October. WFP needs USD 58 million to continue providing food assistance to refugees as planned in 2021.

Donors

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