Operational Context

Jordan is an upper-middle-income country, with a population of 11 million, 74 percent of whom are below the age of 30. Jordan is also a resource-poor, food-deficit country with dwindling energy and water resources and limited agricultural land. It carries the social, economic and environmental burden of hosting around 676,000 Syrian refugees and 86,500 refugees of other nationalities registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as of June 2022. The results of WFP’s Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) of the first quarter of 2022 showed that almost 81 percent of refugees in communities and 90 percent of refugees in camps are either food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. Female-headed households, small households, and households with disabilities have disproportionately poor food consumption. According to the Department of Statistics, Jordan’s unemployment rate was 22.8 percent during the first quarter of 2022; with an improvement of 2.2 percent compared to the same quarter in 2021. Unemployment is 20.5 percent among men compared to 31.5 percent among women. Youth unemployment rates remain at high levels with around 40 percent in 2021. Through the Country Strategic Plan (2020-2022), WFP Jordan is rebalancing its portfolio more towards the Government, in line with priorities linked to the 2030 Agenda. The focus is on strengthening capacities of national institutions, strategies and programmes, in addition to providing support for livelihoods to deliver transformative and equitable results for Jordanians and refugees bypassed by socio-economic opportunities. WFP has been present in Jordan since 1964.

In Numbers

- 461,850 people assisted in July 2022
- US$ 14.1 m cash-based transfers made
- US$ 114.7 m six months (August 2022-January 2023) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- In July, WFP provided food assistance to around 461,400 vulnerable refugees residing in camps and host communities through cash-based transfers. These included 4,200 Syrian refugees who received their assistance through mobile money for the first time. Most refugees come from Syria (96 percent), with a minority from Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia and other countries.
- WFP, through cooperating partners, completed the July distributions of dates to refugees in Za’atari, Azraq and King Abdullah Park camps. The dates were donated by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief). The date distributions will continue to vulnerable Jordanians in August.
- As part of the technical support provided to the National Aid Fund (NAF), WFP has been supporting NAF to validate the eligibility of vulnerable Jordanian families enrolled on the NAF Programme for cash assistance; WFP is supporting the validation of 106,000 households out of a total 120,000. In July, with the support of WFP’s contracted service provider, NAF successfully validated more than 8,000 households through physical visits. In August, after completing the remaining 3,000 physical visits, NAF will have completed the validation of the eligibility of all Jordanian families for its cash programme.
- As part of WFP’s Monitoring and Evaluation support to NAF, WFP, through the cooperating partner, completed the data collection of a representative sample of NAF beneficiaries for the Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) exercise. The final report will be ready in September.
- WFP stopped the school feeding activities in July due to the summer vacation but is planned to resume in September. WFP continues working with the Ministry of Education on the preparations for the school feeding activities in the next scholastic semester.
- Under the ‘EU-MADAD’ funded project, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), in cooperation with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), continued supporting 125 participants to rehabilitate four national forests in Irbid, Balqa and Jerash Governorates. Participants receive their monthly entitlements through WFP e-wallets.

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Photo Caption: Hasna is a 6-year-old Syrian girl born in Za’atari camp. She is among the many Syrian children who do not know life outside the camps. WFP’s food assistance is a lifeline for some 80,000 refugees inside Za’atari camp and millions outside the camp. WFP/Mohammad Batooh
In July, WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), supported the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC) to launch the Climate Change Hackathon. The hackathon contributes to finding innovative solutions to environmental challenges facing Jordan and the world through deploying artificial intelligence and digital manufacturing technologies. WFP will provide training and mentorship sessions in the fields of innovation, food security and agriculture. At the end of the hackathon, the panel will choose three solutions to be financially and logistically supported by ZINC for implementation.

Under the leadership of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), WFP is implementing an agricultural programme to increase the capacities of vulnerable smallholder farmers and micro and small agri-food enterprises. In addition to the 200 participants selected in June, WFP selected another 250 participants in July through the WFP self-registration system. Participants will work for two months and receive their entitlement through the WFP e-wallet. WFP selected another 50 participants to work on water-harvesting projects for two months starting July, focusing on rehabilitating gabion walls.

**Challenges**

- WFP's funding gap remains significant until the end of the year. If WFP was to increase the ration to maintain beneficiary purchasing power at the same level it was in 2018 when WFP fixed the current transfer value, WFP would require USD 97.6 million to cover the needs for 465,000 beneficiaries until the end of the year. Even to maintain the current transfer value, WFP would require some USD 73 million until the end of the year without cutting beneficiary numbers or reducing assistance values.

- Between August 2022 and January 2023, WFP requires USD 105.4 million to cover the food requirement of 465,000 refugees maintaining the current transfer values. Additionally, WFP Jordan requires USD 3.2 million to provide daily school meals to 433,000 vulnerable students for the same period.

- With these significant funding constraints, WFP Jordan is not able to maintain the same level of food assistance to all the refugees in host communities. As a result, and to ensure continuity of assistance to the families most in need and avoid cutting the assistance for some families, WFP is reducing the level of assistance for all refugees living in the communities starting September 2022 by approximately one-third.

**Donors**

Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Cyprus, EU MADAD, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, KSA/KSrelief, Luxembourg, Norway, ROK, Russia, Switzerland, UK/FCDO, USA/BHA, UAE/MBRGI, and private sector (BMGF, Cartier, Careem, Choithrams, Dubai Holding, Mastercard, Seven Circles and Talabat).