WFP Jordan
Country Brief
May 2023

Operational Context

Jordan is an upper-middle-income country, with a population of 11.4 million, 63 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. Jordan hosts the world's second-highest share of refugees per capita. Some 660,000 Syrian refugees and 80,000 refugees from other countries are registered with UNHCR as of May 2023. This massive presence of refugees has put unprecedented pressure on Jordan's budgetary and natural resources, infrastructure, and labour market. Nevertheless, Jordan has linked the attainment of its own national goals with a progressive approach to hosting refugees.

The results of WFP's Food Security Outcome Monitoring for the first quarter of 2023 showed that the overall food security of refugees has improved in the past year and returned to pre-COVID level. Certain household groups (women-headed, unemployed, with members with a disability, etc.) remain more vulnerable and more likely to resort to coping strategies that negatively impact their capacity to meet essential needs. The average amount of debt has increased by 25 percent among refugees in host communities and camps. Alarming, the dominant usage of debts is not for livelihood or business investment. Instead, food purchases, rent, and health expenses consume most of it. According to the Department of Statistics, Jordan's unemployment rate was 22 percent during the first quarter of 2023; marking a decrease of 0.9 per cent compared to the first quarter of 2022. The youth unemployment rate remained high at 46 percent.

WFP has been present in Jordan since 1964. Under the new five-year CSP (2023-2027), WFP continues its large-scale provision of unconditional food assistance for vulnerable populations in Jordan, including refugees, as well as its technical assistance for national social protection programmes and systems. It refocuses its education and nutrition activities and expands its climate action to strengthen adaptive livelihoods and sustainable management of natural resources and food systems.

Population: 11.4 million
Income Level: middle income
Chronic malnutrition: 7.4% of children between 0-59 months in refugee
2021-2022 Human Development Index: 0.72 (102 out of 191 countries)

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Photo Caption: The UN Resident Coordinator visiting a school in Madaba governorate to witness WFP's school feeding activities. @Mohammad Battah

In Numbers

975,000 people assisted in May 2023
US$ 13.9 cash-based transfers transferred
US$ 122.4 m six months (June-November 2023) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- In May, WFP provided monthly food assistance to around 456,000 vulnerable refugees in camps and host communities through cash-based transfers. Most refugees assisted come from Syria (96 percent), with a minority from Iraq (3 percent), and the remaining from Yemen, Sudan, Somalia and other countries.
- To support the National Financial Inclusion Strategy, WFP is gradually transitioning its cash-based transfers from the use of WFP-owned accounts (e-cards) to mobile money, which is the only refugee-owned account model presently authorized by the Central Bank of Jordan. In May, 30 percent of Syrian refugees in communities and camps (around 135,000 WFP beneficiaries) received assistance through this modality.
- To ensure continuous support to refugees across Jordan, WFP worked together with UNHCR through mutual cooperating partner, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), to maintain the helpdesks in the camps. Furthermore, upon the successful pilot of mobile helpdesks in the urban areas of the northern governorates in April, WFP and UNHCR continued their deployment to rural areas of the same region. WFP is also considering expanding to additional governorates in the south.
- WFP continued the distribution of 500 metric tons of dates donated by Saudi Arabia. Overall, 117,000 Syrian refugees in camps and 130,000 vulnerable Jordanians and Palestinians in communities will receive dates until June.
- WFP is dedicating efforts to improve nutrition, habits and health for women with anaemia and high-risk pregnancies. In cooperation with Caritas and the International Medical Corps (IMC), WFP launched the second phase of the nutrition awareness campaign for pregnant and breastfeeding refugee women in host communities, through Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC), using visual tools and interactive activities. In May, WFP identified and screened women to be enrolled in the programme starting in June. In addition to the counselling, WFP will distribute a cookbook with nutritious recipes using locally available and affordable ingredients, promoting good nutrition habits with simple advice on adopting healthier diets.
**WFP Country Strategy**

### Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

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### Strategic Result 1: Access to food

### Strategic Outcome 2: Extremely vulnerable populations in Jordan, including refugees, are covered by adequate social protection schemes by 2027

**Focus area:** Resilience building

| Activities:                       | • Act 2: Provide capacity strengthening to national social protection institutions.  
|                                   | • Act 3: Support the Government with technical expertise for the operationalization of the national school feeding strategy to provide nutrition-sensitive school meals to targeted children. |

### Strategic Result 2: Access to food

### Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable populations in Jordan, including refugees, have improved self-reliance, access to sustainable livelihood opportunities, and increased resilience to shocks by 2027

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

| Activities:                       | • Act 4: Build an interagency two-way referral system and an evidence-based advocacy strategy for refugee self-reliance and provide a livelihood support package to targeted refugees and vulnerable Jordanians.  
|                                   | • Act 5: Provide tailored climate adaptive support to smallholder farmers, pastoral communities and institutions responsible for natural resources management. |

### Strategic Result 3: Resilience Building

### Strategic Outcome 4: National and subnational institutions in Jordan have increased capacity to coordinate, manage and monitor food security and nutrition programmes, and respond to shocks by 2027

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

| Activities:                       | • Act 6: Provide technical expertise and capacity strengthening to the Government for the operationalization of the National Food Security Strategy  
|                                   | • Act 7: Provide technical expertise and capacity strengthening to national and local EPR/DRR institutions |

### Strategic Result 4: Resilience Building

### Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian and development actors have enhanced ability to support vulnerable populations in Jordan all year round through on-demand cash-based transfer services

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

| Activity 8:                       | Provide on-demand cash-based transfer services to partners |

### Strategic Result 5: Global partnership

### Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian and development actors have enhanced ability to support vulnerable populations in Jordan all year round through on-demand cash-based transfer services

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

### Strategic Result 5: Global partnership

**Challenges**

Between June and November 2023, WFP requires USD 115.8 million to cover the food requirement of 465,000 refugees in camps and communities with unconditional resource transfers, maintaining the current transfer values. Accordingly, as of July, WFP is reducing the value of its monthly assistance by one-third for 75 percent out of the 465,000 refugees supported.

### Donors

Canada, EU/MADAD, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) through the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSA/KSrelief), Norway, Switzerland, UK/FCDO, USA/BHA, and private sector (BMGF, Choithrams, Mastercard, and Talabat).