Operational Context

Jordan’s income classification has been lowered by the World Bank in 2023 from upper-middle to lower-middle-income category. This revision was prompted by approximately 50 percent population increase over the past 15 years. The massive presence of refugees in Jordan is one of the main drivers of population growth. Jordan hosts the world’s second-highest share of refugees per capita. Some 660,000 Syrian refugees and 80,000 refugees from other countries (UNHCR) as of June. This adds 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.

WFP’s monitoring results for the 2023-first quarter showed that the overall food security of refugees has improved and returned to pre-COVID levels. However, certain household groups (women-headed, unemployed, and with persons with a disability) remain more vulnerable and resorting to negative coping strategies. Findings showed a 25 percent increase over one year in the average amount of debt among refugees both in host communities and camps. Alarming, debts are mostly used for food purchases, rent, and health-related expenses. Jordan’s Department of Statistics announced unemployment rate to reach 22 percent during the 2023-first quarter; marking a decrease of 0.9 percent compared to the 2022-first quarter. The youth unemployment rate remained high at 46 percent. WFP has been present in Jordan since 1964. Under its five-year Country Strategic Plan-CSP (2023-2027), WFP continues its large-scale provision of unconditional food assistance for vulnerable populations in Jordan, including refugees, as well as providing technical assistance for national social protection programmes and systems. WFP refocuses its education and nutrition activities and expands its climate action to strengthen adaptive livelihoods and sustainable management of natural resources and food systems.

In Numbers

- **504,000 people assisted** in June 2023
- **USD 13.9** cash-based transfers transferred
- **USD 127.7 m** six months (July-December 2023) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- In June, WFP provided monthly food assistance to around 457,000 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.
- Due to a significant funding shortfall, WFP informed all beneficiaries in communities about a reduction of the transfer value by one-third starting from July. The announcement resulted in a significant surge in calls to WFP’s call centre. The affected beneficiaries expressed frustration and anger, voicing concerns that the reduction would negatively impact their food security and lead to increased debt.
- To support the National Financial Inclusion Strategy, WFP has been transitioning its cash-based transfers from using WFP-owned accounts (e-cards) to mobile money, the only refugee-owned account model presently authorized by the Central Bank of Jordan. By June, 32 percent of WFP-assisted Syrian refugees in communities and camps (around 150,000 WFP beneficiaries) received assistance through this modality.
- WFP continued the distribution of 500 mt 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. The distribution will be concluded in August.
- Based on a recent national nutrition survey and formative research, WFP is dedicating efforts to improve nutrition, dietary habits and health for women with anaemia and high-risk pregnancies. In cooperation with Caritas and the International Medical Corps (IMC), WFP continued the second phase of its nutrition awareness campaign. The Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) campaign supported 2,500 pregnant and breastfeeding refugee women and influencers in host communities through visual tools and interactive activities.
- WFP conducted a study to assess the effectiveness of the SBCC activities on pregnant and breastfeeding women, and their influencers in communities and camps. The findings demonstrated significant improvements in dietary diversity in the recipients of the SBCC campaign from October 2022 to March 2023.

Photo Caption: The Ambassador of France in Jordan visiting a nutrition awareness session (SBCC) in Za’atari camp.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Result 17: Capacity building</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Requirements (in USD)</td>
<td>Total Received (in USD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>997 m</td>
<td>144 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023 Requirements (in USD)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July - December 2023)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>230 m</td>
<td>127.7 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strategic Result 1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Access to food

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:
- Act 1: Provide unconditional resource transfers to refugees and other vulnerable populations to support access to food.

Strategic Outcome 2: Access to food

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.
- 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 Outcome 3: Access to food

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 17: 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

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

Challenges

As part of WFP’s technical support to the national school feeding programme, WFP is currently assessing the feasibility of various financing options in collaboration with the Government to foster the national programme’s sustainability and effectiveness. The assessment’s final results will be presented to the Government in July.

Under the technical support provided to the National Aid Fund (NAF), WFP initiated a data collection exercise using a new questionnaire to collect NAF beneficiaries’ education, skills and employment details. This is in line with NAF’s graduation vision for connecting employable beneficiaries with work and training opportunities.

Moreover, WFP completed the validation of more than 5,000 NAF households to verify and confirm their eligibility. WFP also seconded a national Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) specialist to lead evidence-generation efforts at NAF as per their results framework and enhance NAF’s M&E capacity.

WFP is providing technical expertise and capacity strengthening for the Government of Jordan to operationalize the National Food Security Strategy. WFP is supporting the creation of a national Food Security Management Information System (FSMIS). By October 2023, the FSMIS will enhance the efficiency and accuracy of data collection, analysis, and monitoring of food security indicators.

Under the same pillar, WFP supported the Ministry of Agriculture, with the launch of a Food Waste Management Enabler initiative in June. The initiative is aligned with the national food security strategy. It will roll out a number of interventions to provide an in-depth understanding of food loss and waste. It is expected to raise awareness, and foster positive and responsible production and consumption behaviour.

In partnership with UNICEF, WFP launched in June the second cohort of the Youth in Food Security and Climate Innovation programme. The programme will empower 30 youth innovators in food security and provide them with capacity-building programmes in entrepreneurship and innovation to increase their employment opportunities.

Donors

Australia, Canada, EU/MADAD, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia/KSrelief, Norway, Switzerland, UK/FCDO, USA/BHA, and private sector (BMGF, Choithrams, Mastercard, and Talabat).