



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## WFP Jordan Country Brief July 2023

### Operational Context

Jordan is a lower-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 (UNHCR) as of July. 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-second quarter (prior to any assistance reduction or re-targeting) showed that the overall food security of refugees has been stable compared to 2022. However, certain household groups (women-headed, unemployed, and with persons with a disability) remain more vulnerable to food insecurity and resort to negative coping strategies. Findings also showed a major increase over one year in the average amount of debt among refugees. Alarming, debts are mostly used for food purchases, rent, and health-related expenses.

Jordan's Department of Statistics announced the unemployment rate reached 22 percent during the 2023-first quarter; marking a decrease by 0.9 percent compared to the 2022-first quarter. The youth unemployment rate remained high at 46 percent.

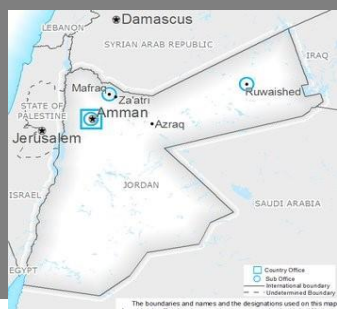
Under WFP's five-year Country Strategic Plan-CSP (2023-2027), WFP continues its provision of unconditional food assistance for vulnerable populations in Jordan, including refugees, as well as providing technical assistance for national social protection programmes and systems. WFP refocuses its education and nutrition activities and expands its climate action to strengthen adaptive livelihoods and sustainable management of natural resources and food systems.

Population: **11.4 million**

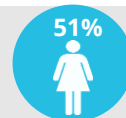
Income Level: **low-middle income**

Chronic malnutrition: **7.4% of children between 0-59 months in refugee**

2021-2022 Human Development Index: **0.72 (102 out of 191 countries)**



### In Numbers



**In July 460,000 refugees were assisted** with unconditional food assistance through cash-based transfers, with a total of **USD 10.5 million**

**Over 465,000 refugees assisted** between January and July with **USD 95 million** cash-based transfers

**USD 123.8 million are needed for the next six months** (August 2023-January 2024) as net funding requirements

### WFP's Humanitarian Response

Food assistance to refugees in communities and camps

- An unprecedented **severe funding shortfall** is forcing WFP to significantly scale back its monthly food assistance for the 465,000 refugees - the majority of whom are Syrian.
- WFP was able to consistently provide its monthly food assistance to targeted refugees between January and July 2023 through cash-based transfers, with around USD 95 million disbursed.
- In July, 460,000 vulnerable refugees in camps and host communities were assisted with USD 10.5 million as cash-based transfers. Due to the funding shortfalls, WFP's assistance in July was reduced by one third for all beneficiaries in communities (346,000 people). Starting August, all beneficiaries in camps (119,000 people) will also receive assistance reduced by one-third.
- In July, WFP and UNHCR completed preparations for a joint targeting exercise for refugees in communities, starting August. This will result in the scaling back of approximately 50,000 refugees from WFP's assistance and stretch the limited available funding in August and September. Consequently, the overall number of refugees eligible to WFP assistance will decrease by nearly 12 percent; from 460,000 to an estimated 410,000 beneficiaries by September.
- Thanks to recently received contributions from donors, WFP will be able to provide food assistance at reduced levels in September. However, from October to December 2023, a total of about USD 30 million is needed to continue providing assistance at the reduced levels.
- WFP is strategizing to enhance the stability of its assistance through strong ongoing advocacy emphasizing the criticality of funding. Meanwhile, WFP is working to ensure a medium-term clear communication strategy is in place for the response to refugees' needs.

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**Photo Caption:** WFP is utilizing the available limited funds to provide the monthly food assistance to the most vulnerable refugees in Jordan. ©Mohammad Battah

## WFP Country Strategy

### Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
<b>997 m</b>	<b>137 m</b>
2023 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (August 2023 – January 2024)
<b>230 m</b>	<b>123.8 m</b>

#### Strategic Result 1: Access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Vulnerable crisis-affected populations in Jordan, including refugees, meet their food and nutrition needs through the year.

**Focus area:** *Crisis Response*

##### Activities:

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

#### 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 1: 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 17: Capacity 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 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

- Following the announcement of the reductions and re-targeting, UNHCR and WFP conducted joint community engagement sessions across Jordan where refugees expressed their anger and frustration. They shared their concerns about the increased levels of debt, scarcity of job opportunities, and resorting to extreme coping strategies, such as child labour and early marriage.

## Supporting the Government of Jordan

### Capacity Strengthening

- As part of WFP's support to the National School Feeding Programme, WFP is currently preparing for the scholastic year 2023/2024 in terms of food procurement, staff recruitment and programmatic optimization efforts.
- WFP is providing technical expertise and capacity strengthening for the Government to operationalize the National Food Security Strategy. WFP is working to establish 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 and the Ministry of Agriculture agreed on a series of food waste initiatives that will be launched during the coming months.
- As part of ongoing technical support to the National Aid Fund (NAF), WFP validated the eligibility of around 13,500 NAF households. In addition, WFP has been supporting NAF to generate evidence on the impact of their assistance using the Food Security Outcomes Monitoring (FSOM) exercise, on a quarterly basis since 2022. In July, WFP supported NAF in the publication of the final FSOM report for 2022.
- In collaboration with the National Centre for Security and Crisis Management (NCSCM), WFP deployed the Platform for Realtime Impact and Situation Monitoring (PRISM), a national drought risk analysis platform, and will shortly initiate technical training for the NCSCM staff.

## Building Resilience

### Sustainable Access to Livelihood Opportunities

- Following the conclusion of a large-scale multi-year cash-for-asset project that promoted sustainable agricultural structures in Jordan, WFP conducted a social cohesion study to generate evidence on the efficacy of the project in addressing the impact of the Syrian crisis on the agriculture sector. The results showed an improvement in inter-community relationships among Jordanians and Syrian refugees who participated in the project. Overall, more than 2,400 participants were enrolled in the project since October 2021.

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