



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Jordan Country Brief October 2023

Operational Context

Jordan is a low-middle-income country with a population of 11.5 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 654,000 Syrian refugees and 77,000 refugees from other countries are registered with UNHCR as of September. 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-third quarter (post assistance reduction) showed that the food insecurity for beneficiary refugees has dramatically increased. The percentage of moderately and severely food insecure families surged from 65 percent to 91 percent among beneficiaries in the community, and from 55 percent to 86 percent among those in camps. Refugees extensively resort to very harmful coping strategies. Children withdrawal from school doubled (12%), child labor multiplied fivefold (10 percent) and accepting degrading jobs doubled.

Jordan's Department of Statistics announced the unemployment rate has been almost stable during the 2023-second quarter with 22 percent. However, the youth unemployment rate remained alarmingly high at 46 percent.

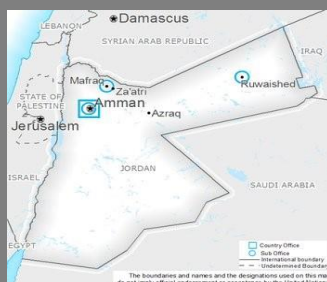
Under WFP's five-year Country Strategic Plan-CSP (2023-2027), WFP continues its provision of unconditional food assistance for vulnerable populations in Jordan, including refugees, as well as providing technical assistance for national social protection programmes and systems. WFP refocuses its education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

Population: **11.5 million**

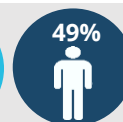
Income Level: **low-middle income**

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 October **410,000 refugees** assisted with
USD **7.5 million** cash-based transfers

USD 105.5 million are needed for the next six months
(November 2023-April 2024) as net funding requirements

WFP's Humanitarian Response

Food assistance to refugees

- In October, WFP Executive Director (ED) Cindy McCain visited Jordan to meet His Majesty King Abdullah II and discuss the urgent humanitarian needs of the Gaza Strip. The meeting also explored ways to enhance the partnership between Jordan and WFP, particularly in addressing the challenges of food insecurity among refugees and host communities. Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ayman Safadi, and Director of the King's Office Jafar Hassan also attended the discussion.
- During her visit, the Executive Director also met with Ambassadors and partners in Jordan to express her gratitude for their continuous support of WFP.
- WFP's funding shortfall for refugee assistance persisted in October. Therefore, WFP continued providing monthly food assistance to around 410,000 vulnerable refugees in camps and host communities with a one-third reduced cash transfer value. Total cash-based transfers to refugees in October were around USD 7.5 million
- Thanks to recently received contributions, WFP will be able to continue providing food assistance to refugees in camps and communities at reduced levels in November. However, a total of some USD 4.5 million is still required to continue providing assistance at the reduced levels in December.
- Amid a challenging funding landscape, WFP is working with partners to enhance the predictability of funding for 2024. This endeavour aims to improve the stability of assistance, fostering a sense of security for beneficiaries, which is especially important as the winter commences.
- To ensure that WFP assistance reaches targeted beneficiaries, WFP conducted an annual beneficiary verification process in October targeting all community households (56,000 households). The verification is facilitated through biometrically enabled cameras installed at 80 post offices in communities. At the end of October, over 90 percent of targeted beneficiaries verified their eligibility for assistance. The process will conclude by mid-November.

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Photo Caption: WFP is still facing a severe funding shortfall hampering its ability to sustain the full transfer value for refugees in camps and communities. ©Mohammad Battah

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
997 m	186 m
2023 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (November 2023 – April 2024)
230 m	105.5 m

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 partnerships

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

- WFP is undertaking dedicated efforts to improve nutrition, dietary habits, and health for women with anaemia and high-risk pregnancies. In October, WFP through its cooperating partners, continued the second phase of its nutrition awareness campaign. The campaign targeted 2,600 pregnant and breastfeeding refugee women and influencers (husbands, mothers-in-law, etc.) in camps and communities, through Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC), using visual tools and interactive activities.

Supporting the Government of Jordan

Capacity Strengthening

- As part of WFP's support to the National School Feeding Programme, WFP has continued its school feeding activities in camps and communities. In October, around 90,000 students in communities received healthy meals, and 430,000 students in camps and communities received date bars.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE), initiated a drawing competition organised in public schools that participates in WFP's school feeding activity. The competition aims to promote healthy eating habits among schoolchildren.
- With the generous contribution received recently from donors, WFP has successfully secured funding for the school feeding programme for the scholastic year 2023/2024.
- Under the technical support provided to the National Aid Fund (NAF), WFP, through its contracted service provider, successfully completed the validation exercise by conducting over 75,000 home visits. The verification confirms administrative data of NAF beneficiaries to ensure their eligibility for assistance.
- Additionally, WFP and its partner, Mindset, conducted information sessions for around 3,000 NAF beneficiaries. The information sessions focused on financial literacy, economic empowerment, and NAF's training and employment referral programmes.

Donors

Austria, Australia, Canada, EU/MADAD, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, KSA/KSrelief, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK/FCDO, USA/BHA, and private sector (Choithrams, Mastercard and Talabat).