



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Jordan Country Brief December 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.

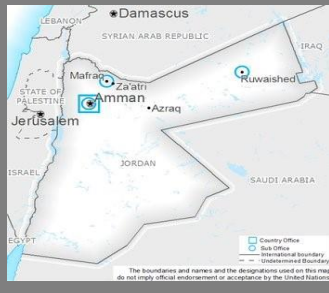
Jordan hosts the world's second-highest share of refugees per capita. Some 649,000 Syrian refugees and 75,000 refugees from other countries are registered with UNHCR as of December. This adds unprecedented pressure on Jordan's budgetary and natural resources, infrastructure, and labour market. Nevertheless, 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 compared to the previous quarter. The percentage of moderately and severely food insecure families surged from 65 to 91 percent among beneficiaries in the community, and from 55 to 86 percent among those in camps. Refugees extensively resort to very harmful coping strategies. Children's withdrawal from school doubled (12 percent), child labor multiplied five folds (10 percent) and accepting jobs with unfair working conditions doubled (31 percent).

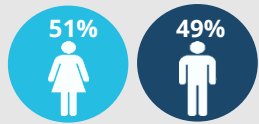
Jordan's Department of Statistics announced the unemployment rate remained stable in the third quarter of 2023 standing at 22 percent compared to the second quarter. However, the youth unemployment rate remained alarmingly high at 46 percent.

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



410,000 refugees assisted in December

USD **7.5 million** cash-based transfers transferred

USD 86.7 million are needed for the next six months (January - June 2024) as net funding requirements

WFP's Humanitarian Response

- **WFP's funding shortfall for refugee assistance persisted in December.** Therefore, WFP continued providing monthly food assistance to around 410,000 vulnerable refugees in camps and host communities with cash transfer values reduced by one-third. Total cash-based transfers to refugees in December were around USD 7.5 million
- With the level of contributions received, WFP will be able to provide food assistance to refugees in camps and communities until March 2024 at reduced levels.
- To ensure that WFP assistance reaches targeted beneficiaries, WFP extended the annual beneficiary verification until January 2024. At the end of December, 97 percent of targeted beneficiaries verified their eligibility for assistance. The verification is facilitated through biometrically enabled cameras installed at 80 post offices across the Kingdom.
- WFP is undertaking dedicated efforts to improve nutrition, dietary habits, and health for women with anaemia and high-risk pregnancies in addition to children. To this end, WFP launched the third phase of its nutrition campaign in December, targeting 1,500 children under the age of two and their caregivers. This comprehensive endeavour utilizes Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC), incorporating visual aids and interactive activities to effectively communicate key messages and encourage positive behavioural shifts.

WFP Jordan Support to Gaza

- WFP is building a complementary corridor from Jordan to deliver essential aid to Gaza in close collaboration with the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO). In December, WFP and JHCO organized a 46-truck convoy carrying more than 750 metric tons of food into Gaza, marking the first time a direct aid convoy from Jordan reached the Strip through the Karm Abu Salem crossing.

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Photo Caption: For the first time, WFP Jordan sent food support to Gaza through Kerem Shalom crossing. ©Mohammad Battah

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
997 m	228 m
2024 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (January – June 2024)
213 m	86.7 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

Supporting the Government of Jordan

- As part of WFP's support to the National School Feeding Programme, WFP has continued its school feeding activities in December. This involved the distribution of date bars to around 30,000 students in Za'atari and Azraq camps.
- Additionally, 8,000 students who benefit from WFP's healthy meal programme received complementary nutrition awareness as part of the Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC). The SBCC was delivered using interactive and positive material to inspire children to explore various food groups. This approach also equips children with the knowledge and tools necessary to adopt healthy dietary habits, maintain a healthy weight, and reduce sugar consumption.
- Under WFP's technical support provided to the National Aid Fund (NAF), WFP has contributed to the improvement of data collection and validation processes. In this endeavour, WFP donated 100 tablets to the NAF in December, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of social workers and enumerators involved in field operations.
- WFP is working to build the resilience of smallholder farmers and pastoralists to address the adverse impact of climate change in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). In December, the WFP successfully concluded consultations to examine potential strategies that will bolster climate resilience. Feedback from consultations helped WFP to specify areas of the intervention. This intervention, which will start in 2026 for 4 years, will target more than 8,800 agricultural producers in Northern Jordan and indirectly reach 44,000 individuals.
- As part of its focus on enhancing Jordan's food security governance, WFP launched the Food Waste Hackathon in December. The Hackathon will build the capacity of entrepreneurs on food waste innovation. It includes 30 participants who will participate in extensive training provided by various partners including the Centre for Water, Sanitation and Environmental Technologies in the Middle East (cewas), the Department of Statistics, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the University of Jordan. After presenting their project to the panel, three participants will be selected to deploy their projects on a national level to help mitigating food waste.

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).