



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Jordan Country Brief February 2024

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 640,000 Syrian refugees and 74,000 refugees from other countries are registered with UNHCR as of February. This large number of refugees 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- fourth quarter (post assistance reduction) showed that the food insecurity for beneficiary refugees has dramatically increased compared to 2023-second quarter (before reduction). The percentage of severely food insecure families surged from 5 to 22 percent among beneficiaries in the community, and from 1 to 7 percent among those in camps. Refugees extensively resort to harmful coping strategies. Children's withdrawal from school doubled (12 percent), child labour multiplied fourfold (8 percent) and accepting jobs with unfair working conditions doubled (40 percent).

Jordan's Department of Statistics announced the unemployment rate decreased in the fourth quarter of 2023 by 1.5 percentage points compared to 2022, reaching 21.4 percent. However, the youth unemployment rate remained alarmingly high at 46 percent.

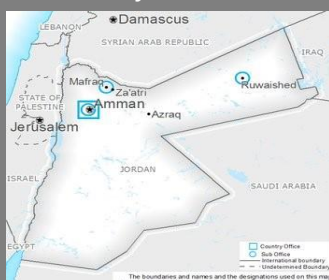
Under WFP's five-year Country Strategic Plan-CSP (2023-2027), WFP continues its provision of unconditional food assistance for vulnerable populations in Jordan, including refugees, as well as providing technical assistance for national social protection programmes and systems. WFP refocuses its education 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**

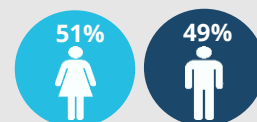
Income Level: **low-middle income**

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



A total of **715,000 people** assisted in February

USD 8.6 m cash-based transfers transferred

USD 99.9 m (March - August 2024) net funding requirements

WFP's Humanitarian Response in Jordan

- In February, WFP continued to provide food assistance to nearly 410,000 vulnerable refugees in camps and host communities. Due to the funding shortfalls, all beneficiaries continue to receive a reduced transfer value: JOD 15 (USD 21) per person per month since July 2023.
- The provision of this reduced assistance is secured until end of April only. If no further funds are received shortly, WFP will be forced to also reduce the number of beneficiaries assisted.
- Under the technical support to the National Aid Fund (NAF), WFP provided training sessions for 250 NAF social workers and field staff on the updated regulations and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Unified Cash Transfer Programme. A data validation exercise for 30,000 NAF beneficiary households is planned to be launched in March through home visits using the updated programme.
- Furthermore, as part of the handover and institutionalization process of the Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) exercise to NAF, WFP has provided support and oversight to NAF social workers and Monitoring and evaluation focal points for the completion of FSOM data collection in February. The final report will be published in April.
- WFP's support of the National School Feeding Programme continued in February in the form of healthy meals to almost 90,000 students and distribution of date bars to over 280,000 students in camps and communities.
- The impact evaluation of the national school feeding programme of the Ministry of Education undertaken by the World Bank and WFP was finalized in February 2023. The [Preliminary results](#) indicate that the healthy meal model enhances children's school attendance, dietary diversity, and energy levels. Among female kitchen workers, the findings reveal increased income, a greater willingness to participate in the labour market, and more acceptance and support from male spouses regarding female earnings.

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Photo Caption: A student in a school in Madaba governorate eats healthy meal provided by WFP to help enhancing dietary diversity and energy levels. @ Mohammad Batah

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
997 m	236 m
2024 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (March – August 2024)
213 m	99.9 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

- As part of WFP’s multi-year refugee transition programme (2023-2027) focused on refugee self-reliance promotion, WFP jointly with UNHCR, completed so far data collection of over 50,000 refugee households in camps and communities.

The collected data informs about working-age refugees’ education, skills, work experience and aspirations and address a critical knowledge gap regarding refugees’ employability. Ultimately, the data will feed into a management information system which will act as a referral system for employers.

- WFP’s natural resources management project with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) started implementation in February.** A total of 264 workers participates in this project whose objective is to rehabilitate rangeland and forest by planting up to 161,510 seedlings in seven locations across five governorates in Jordan.

- As part of WFP’s support for national food security governance, WFP completed the development of the management information system (MIS) for food security within the Department of Statistics. This included installation and configuration of the system, identifying statistical indicators and developing visualization requirements. In February, WFP provided training sessions on the MIS for the Food Security Council members including Government entities representatives.

Support to Gaza response

- As of end of February, in coordination with the Logistics Cluster, 7,162 MT have been transported to Gaza via 580 trucks including food, shelter, wash and other relief supplies on behalf of 11 organizations including WFP.

The convoys use two routes (King Hussein Bridge- Allenby crossing to Karm Abu Salem and Aqaba-Nuweiba towards Rafah). Key challenges hindering the corridor scale-up are need for back-to-back transshipment operations, limited screening capacity and quotas, changing requirements hindering the establishment of a standardized approach and rising security issues.

Donors

Australia, EU/MADAD, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, KSA/KSrelief, Netherlands, Norway, UK/FCDO, USA/BHA, and private sector (Seattle Foundations and Talabat).