



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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WFP Jordan Country Brief March 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 with 3.5 million refugees residing in the country. This includes 640,000 Syrian refugees and 74,000 refugees from other countries as registered by UNHCR in March. 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.

Jordan has shown great resilience in maintaining its stability in the face of regional and global crises. Despite the direct impact of the global and regional shocks on vital economic sectors in Jordan, the country has been able to sustain a steady average growth rate of 2.5 percent over the past decade. This is mainly attributed to its strategic geopolitical positioning and relevant recent political reforms that effectively enhanced the resilience of its economy. However, there is still a pressing need to enhance job creation for Jordan's young population and to bring more women into the labour market. Jordan's Department of Statistics announced the unemployment rate was 21.4 percent in the fourth quarter of 2023, which is still way beyond pre-COVID rates (15 percent), of whom 32 percent are women. The youth unemployment rate remains 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

51%



49%



720,600 people assisted in March

USD 8.6 m cash-based transfers transferred

USD 100 m (April - September 2024) net funding requirements

WFP's Humanitarian Response in Jordan

- In March, funding shortfalls continued to impede WFP's ability to provide the regular level of assistance to refugees in Jordan. Consequently, WFP provided food assistance to nearly 410,000 vulnerable refugees in camps and host communities with a reduced transfer value of JOD 15 (USD 21) per person per month.
- WFP complements its General Food Assistance with nutrition awareness sessions conducted through social and behavioural change communication (SBCC) for refugees in camps and communities. In March, SBCC activities were conducted with the International Medical Corps (IMC) and Caritas, targeting 1,500 children under two years old and their caregivers. The sessions encouraged early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, and provided infants of six months and older with appropriate complementary foods.
- In collaboration with the National Aid Fund (NAF), Jordan's primary social assistance provider, WFP conducted NAF's annual beneficiary data validation exercise through home visits to determine their eligibility for assistance. By the end of 2024, WFP and NAF aim to validate 30,000 households.
- As part of the process to gradually handover and institutionalize Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) to the National Aid Fund, WFP supported NAF in conducting the first round of monitoring. Data collection was entirely carried out by NAF social workers for the first time in March.
- WFP's support to the National School Feeding Programme continued partially during Ramadan. This involved providing healthy meals to almost 90,000 students in communities in addition to the distribution of date bars to over 280,000 students in camps and communities.
- As part of WFP's support to national food security governance, WFP launched its first national study on Food Consumption Behaviour Analysis in Jordan. The study focuses on understanding food consumption patterns, food choices, food environment and food waste. The recommendations from this study, Government will be able to design and implement policies that support better health outcomes and more sustainable food systems. The study will be concluded in May 2025.

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Photo Caption: With the advent of Ramadan, refugees in Jordan continue to receive reduced transfer value that barely meets their basic food needs. @ Mohammad Batah

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
997 m	248 m
2024 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (April – September 2024)
213 m	100.7 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

- **WFP's natural resources management project with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) continued in March.** A total of 267 workers participated in this project aimed at rehabilitating rangeland and forests by planting up to 161,510 seedlings and maintaining irrigation systems in seven locations across five governorates in Jordan.
- By the end of March, 82 percent of the targeted land had been planted with 37,000 seedlings. The activity is scheduled to continue until April.

Support to the Gaza response

- Between November 2023 and March 2024, in coordination with the Logistics Cluster, 9,969 mt of food, shelter, wash and other relief supplies have been transported to Gaza by 692 trucks on behalf of 12 organizations including WFP.
- In March, WFP in collaboration with the Royal Jordanian Airforce and the German Airforce, airdropped a total of 19.5 mt of date bars and ready-to-eat meals into Gaza.

Monitoring

- WFP has finalized its Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) for the first quarter (Q1) of 2024. Compared to Q2/2023, before the reduction of assistance, the results showed that beneficiaries' food consumption, economic capacity and livelihood resilience have deteriorated following the WFP transfer value reduction. The percentage of camp beneficiaries who were severely food insecure has surged from 0 percent pre-reduction to 21 percent in Q1/2024; affecting about 24,000 beneficiaries- or one in five beneficiaries in camps. In communities, the percentage increased drastically shortly after the reduction (in Q3/2023) and subsequently stabilized with around a quarter of beneficiaries (72,000 beneficiaries) being severely food insecure.

WFP Jordan 2023 Annual Country Report

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