



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Jordan Country Brief September 2024

Operational Context

Jordan is a low-middle-income country with a population of 11.6 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 over 2 million Palestinian refugees, 1.3 million Syrian refugees (of whom 625,000 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR as of September), in addition to refugees from other countries. 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 commendable resilience in maintaining its stability due to its strategic geopolitical positioning and relevant recent political reforms that effectively enhanced the resilience of its economy. However, the ongoing conflict in Gaza has significantly impacted the country, particularly in sectors such as tourism, while exacerbating existing economic challenges. Unemployment remained a structural challenge in Jordan as there is still a pressing need to enhance job creation for the young population and to bring more women into the labour market. Jordan's Department of Statistics announced an unemployment rate of 21.4 percent in the second quarter of 2024, with women making up 34.7 percent. Additionally, food prices have been increasing gradually since last year, from 1 percent in August 2023 to 2.8 percent in August 2024, leading to a similar increase in the WFP food basket cost.

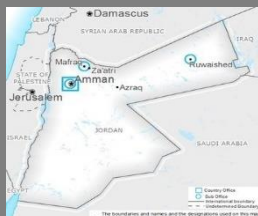
Under its five-year Country Strategic Plan-CSP (2023-2027), WFP continues providing unconditional food assistance for vulnerable populations in Jordan, including refugees, and providing technical assistance for national social protection programmes and systems. WFP focuses on education and nutrition activities and expands its climate action in Jordan. Additionally, WFP and the Government of Jordan have been playing a vital role in coordinating and delivering food aid into Gaza.

Income Level: **low-middle income**

Population: **11.6 million**

2022 Human Development Index: **0.74 (98 out of 204 countries)**

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



In Numbers



310,000 people assisted in September

USD 6.5 m cash-based transfers

USD 100.7 m (October 2024 - March 2025) net funding requirements

WFP's Humanitarian Response in Jordan

- In September, **WFP continued to prioritize food assistance for 310,000 refugees** in camps and communities, yet at reduced levels (USD 21 per person per month).
- As part of its cash assurance framework, in September WFP initiated an annual verification process for refugees in camps receiving assistance through mobile money. The process verifies the physical location and custodianship of the payment instruments.
- As part of WFP's efforts to enhance refugees' self-reliance, and in partnership with the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, WFP referred 17 refugees to participate in a focus group (FGD) discussion hosted by the Ministry's Tech hub. The FGD provided an understanding of refugees' needs and perspectives regarding the Ministry's IT projects, with the aim of supporting their employment and skill development opportunities. In addition, WFP referred more than 260 new graduate refugees to internship opportunities in the private sector.
- By mid-September, WFP resumed school feeding activities, targeting 520,000 vulnerable students in camps and communities.

In collaboration with WFP, the Government of Jordan has officially joined the Global School Meals Coalition, which is committed to ensuring that every child receives a nutritious school meal by 2030. This represents a significant milestone, reinforcing Jordan's commitment to sustaining and expanding its national school feeding programme.

- In September, WFP and the Ministry of Education (MoE) jointly launched a Capacity Needs Mapping exercise. This in-depth collaborative exercise will enrich ongoing joint capacity strengthening collaboration, guide strategic investment needs and enable the MoE to gradually take over the school feeding programme.
- On the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (29 September), WFP, in collaboration with FAO, launched an event to raise awareness of the challenges and solutions around food loss and waste in Jordan. The event was attended by high-level representatives from the government, donors, and other relevant stakeholders. [Links to articles \(in Arabic\): 101 kg of food wasted per person in Jordan annually; Jordan wastes 1.1 million tons of food annually; Ten billion tons of food waste worldwide](#)

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Photo Caption: WFP provides healthy school meals and date bars to 520,000 Jordanian and Syrian refugees in Jordan. @Mohammad Batah

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD) 2024
997 m	348.7 m
2024 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (October 2024 – March 2025)
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

Monitoring

- Data collection of WFP's Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) has been completed for the third quarter. The results will be finalized in October.

Support for Gaza response

- WFP's Executive Director, Cindy McCain, met the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Ayman Safadi, on 8 September, to discuss cooperation between Jordan and WFP in the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip. The meeting also addressed the Syrian refugee crisis, notably the decline in international support for both refugees and the organisations and countries supporting and hosting them ([link](#)).
- In September, the Jordan Supply Corridor faced a major reduction of its capacity. Only 16 percent of planned deliveries crossed due to several factors, including; a new declaration form required for government-to-government convoys, requested by Israeli authorities; the closure of King Hussein Bridge (following the 8 September shooting incident) which put on hold movement of commercial trucks; and new customs requirements for government to government convoys.
- Between November 2023 and September 2024, WFP and the Logistics Cluster delivered 2,179 trucks carrying 30,700 mt of food and other humanitarian supplies from Jordan. With Rafah and West Erez (Zikim) border crossings closed, Erez East and Karem Abu Salem/ Kerem Shalom were the only operational but extremely restricted entry points into Gaza from the Jordan Corridor.
- A technical workshop was held on 26 September in Amman with Palestine and Jordan WFP County Offices, UNOPS, and OCHA to discuss challenges related to the customs process and new declaration form; and seek alignment on the UN 2720 Mechanism Database for Gaza.

Challenges

- WFP still requires USD 3.6 million until the end of 2024 for its school feeding activity. Unless new contributions are timely received, WFP will be forced to suspend the provision of healthy meals to 90,000 students in 476 schools across Jordan in November and to dramatically reduce the production of date bars needed for 430,000 students.
- As part of the collaborative work with the Ministry of Education to mobilize resources for the National School Feeding Programme, WFP launched a fundraising campaign for its school feeding activity to address the shortfall and continue feeding the school children in Jordan. ([Donate here](#)).

Donors

Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, KSA/KSrelief, Norway, UK/FCDO, USA/BHA, and the private sector (Seattle Foundations and Talabat).