



World Food
Programme

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WFP Jordan Country Brief February 2026

Operational Context

Jordan is a low-middle-income country with a population of 11.9 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 around 413,000 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR as of January), in addition to refugees from other countries. Since December 2024, around 182,000 Syrian refugees returned to Syria from Jordan, representing 30 percent of those registered with UNHCR.

Jordan's recent political reforms have contributed to strengthening the resilience of its economy. Nevertheless, ongoing regional conflicts have had a considerable impact on the country and have intensified pre-existing economic challenges. Unemployment remains a structural issue in Jordan, particularly among youth and women. In the third quarter of 2025, the Department of Statistics reported an unemployment rate of 21.4 percent among Jordanians (16.2 percent among population), with women accounting for 34 percent of those unemployed.

As WFP Jordan enters 2026, the Country Office builds on achievements under its Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027), providing unconditional food assistance to vulnerable populations in Jordan, mainly refugees, alongside technical assistance to strengthen national social protection programmes and systems. WFP continues to prioritize education and nutrition activities while advancing resilience interventions. In parallel, WFP Jordan, together with the Government of Jordan, continues to play a pivotal role in coordinating and facilitating the delivery of food assistance into Gaza.

Income Level: **low-middle income**

Population: **11.9 million**

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

2025 Human Development Index: **0.74 (99 out of 193 countries)**



In Numbers



220,000 people assisted in January (estimate)

USD 5 m cash-based transfers

USD 53 m (February-July 2026) net funding requirements

WFP Operations

- In January 2026, severe funding constraints continued to limit the scale of assistance, with WFP providing reduced monthly food assistance of JOD 15 (USD 21) per person to 220,000 refugees in camps and communities. This only allowed refugees to meet the bare minimum of their essential food needs.
- As part of strengthened inter-agency coordination, WFP Jordan participated in a joint Regional Directors' mission with UNICEF and UNHCR to Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. The mission aimed at engaging donors and the Government to assess refugee needs, identify gaps, and reinforce coordinated responses. In Jordan, the mission included a visit to WFP's supermarket in Zaatari camp and concluded with a joint commitment to enhance collaboration in support of Syrians wishing to return and those continuing to be hosted across the region.
- To enhance farmers' climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods, WFP, together with its partner the Inter-Islamic Network on Water, Environment and Health for Development in the Middle East and North Africa (INWRDM), conducted two community workshops engaging over 60 representatives from Jordanian and refugee community-based organizations in Mafraq and Irbid governorates. Participants included persons with disabilities, women-led and youth organizations, and relevant government institutions. The workshops aimed to strengthen understanding of nature-based solutions, with experts highlighting practical applications in rangeland and forest ecosystem services linked to sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- Furthermore, WFP and its cooperating partner Centre for Water and Sanitation (Cewas) convened a webinar bringing together innovation ecosystem stakeholders, public and private agri-food actors, and youth representatives. Experts presented barriers and opportunities facing Jordanian and refugee youth in agri-business sector across northern governorates, informing future programming and private sector engagement.

Support for Gaza Response

- In January, the Jordan Corridor facilitated the delivery of 238 trucks carrying 4,418 mt of food commodities into Gaza through the commercial B2B modality via the King Hussein Bridge (KHB) - Allenby crossing. The Corridor also supported the mobilization of 408 trucks of inter-agency cargo under the Logistics Cluster mechanism.

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Photo Caption: Under its climate portfolio, WFP supports Jordan Valley farmers to build climate resilience using innovative private sector technologies. @Mohammad Batah

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
997 m	442 m
2026 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (February-July 2026)
170 m	53 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

- Approximately 2,000 mt of food commodities are currently in storage and ready to support the Gaza response, with an additional 2,700 mt under production.
- The Government-to-Government (G2G) modality, representing the primary channel for assistance from Jordan, remains suspended following the September 2025 incident at KHB-Allenby crossing. Jordanian authorities, and the international community, continue to advocate for the immediate resumption of G2G convoys.

Challenges

- WFP's priority is to secure adequate funds to address the immediate food needs of refugees in Jordan. However, current resources can sustain monthly cash-based assistance for all refugees in camps and communities only until April 2026. WFP Jordan requires USD 46 million to address the critical needs of refugees through the end of 2026.
- Furthermore, WFP Jordan requires USD 9.3 million to ensure uninterrupted school feeding support across Jordan until the end of the year, safeguarding 90,000 vulnerable children's access to nutritious meals and supporting their attendance and learning outcomes.

Finding Work Through School Feeding in Refugee Camp



Nadia working in the community-based kitchen at Zaatari Camp

Nadia arrived at Jordan's Zaatari Camp in 2012 as a 13-year-old fleeing conflict in Syria. Life in the camp was challenging, with limited services and uncertainty about the future. Over the years, she completed her education, started a family, and navigated the pressures of daily life in displacement, including limited work opportunities and reduced humanitarian assistance, which left her household struggling financially and emotionally.

In September 2025, Nadia joined a WFP community kitchen in Zaatari, receiving training in food handling, hygiene, and safety. Her work provides nutritious meals for schoolchildren across the camp, while also offering her a sense of purpose, skills development, and social connection. Through this role, Nadia gained confidence, practical skills in inventory management, and a supportive network of colleagues, transforming her daily routine and her emotional well-being.

Nadia's contribution extends beyond her family, helping thousands of children access healthy meals and supporting local food producers. Her story highlights the broader impact of the National School Feeding Programme, which has expanded in refugee camps to provide consistent nutrition for students, paid work for refugee women, and economic opportunities for local communities. For Nadia, the kitchen is a source of empowerment, stability, and hope for the future.

Donors

China, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy (AICS), Japan, Ministry of Education/GoJ, Switzerland, Sweden, UK/FCDO, USA, WorldBank and the private sector Astra, Choithrams, Japanese private sector, US private sector and Talabat.