



WFP Jordan Country Brief February 2020

Operational Context

Jordan is an upper-middle-income country, with a population of 10.5 million, of which 2.9 million are non-citizens, including refugees. Jordan is also a resource-poor, food-deficit country with limited agricultural land, no energy resources and scarce water supply.

Nationwide, 0.5 percent of Jordanian households are considered food insecure, and an additional 5.7 percent are vulnerable to food insecurity. Over 15.7 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, and a third is considered transient poor. Analysis from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) further shows that poverty over the life cycle is concentrated among children in Jordan, particularly among those between the ages of 5 and 12, the proportion reaching 20 percent for this age group. WFP's 2018 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment shows a worsening food security situation among Syrian refugees in Jordan.

According to the Department of Statistics, unemployment stood at 19.1 percent during the third quarter of 2019 - an increase by 0.5 percent compared to the second quarter of 2018. The unemployment rate among men stood at 17.1 percent compared to 27.5 percent among women.

In addition to that, Jordan burdens the social, economic and environmental impacts of hosting the 650,000 Syrian and 90,000 refugees of other nationalities registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, WFP has been present in Jordan since 1964.



Population: **10.5 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **0.735**

Income Level: **Upper Middle**

2018 Gender Inequality Index: **113**

In Numbers

863,681 Jordanians and refugees assisted in February 2020



473,306 refugees assisted through cash-based transfers

416,000 Jordanian and Syrian school children receiving school snacks

USD 65 million six months net funding requirements (March – August 2020)

Operational Updates

- Under its technical assistance to the Jordanian National Aid Fund (NAF), WFP will extend its support for the roll-out of the bread subsidy in the second and third quarters of 2020. The assistance will include the development of registration and digital payment systems in support of around 4 million Jordanians expected to apply for the bread subsidy, according to the Government. In addition to its support to the three work streams (validation, payment systems and feedback mechanisms), WFP will also expand its technical assistance to include other elements such as geographic information systems, monitoring and evaluation, systems integration as well as the establishment of a payment unit.
- Planning is ongoing for the comprehensive retargeting exercise for Syrian refugees in communities. The exercise will result in assistance being discontinued for the least vulnerable families to enable the most vulnerable families to be included. The exercise will be monitored through the quarterly Food Security Outcome Monitoring exercise to reduce the level of exclusion error. WFP will be coordinating the exercise closely with the Ministry of Interior and UNHCR. Sensitizing materials are nearly finalized, and will be disseminated in March to refugees, partners and other actors.
- The second cycle of beneficiary biometric validation of refugees continued. By the end of February, 91 percent of targeted refugees residing in communities have self-validated their presence in the country through biometrically-enabled cameras installed at post offices. The validation cycle for 87,000 refugee households conclude in March.
- WFP finalized the development of its Social and Behavioural Change Communications strategy, which aims at reducing micronutrient deficiencies and malnutrition rates among school-aged children.

Jordan Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 - December 2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
700 m	103 m
2020 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (March – August 2020)
238 m	65 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis affected populations in Jordan, including refugees, meet their food and nutrition needs throughout the year.

Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Activities:

- Provide nutrition-sensitive food assistance to refugees and other crisis-affected populations.
- Provide tools, systems and training to the Government to enhance its emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food.

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable populations in Jordan, including children, are covered by adequate social protection schemes by 2022.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Support the Government in reforming and expanding national social protection schemes.
- Provide nutrition-sensitive school feeding to targeted children.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food.

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable populations in Jordan, with a focus on women and young people, are more self-reliant and have better livelihood opportunities by 2022.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Provide livelihood support (training, income-generating opportunities, asset creation) to vulnerable people in rural and urban settings, with a focus on women and young people.

Strategic Result 4: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: Partnerships in support of the Sustainable Development Goals in Jordan are strengthened through effective and innovative solutions from WFP and its partners by 2022.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- With other actors, develop a comprehensive food security and nutrition sector plan linked to other sectors and supported by a coordination structure.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange between partners and the Government to promote piloting and scaling of innovative approaches to achieving the SDGs.

- WFP increased its preparedness measures in light of the Coronavirus disease. The Business Continuity Plan for beneficiaries and staff is being developed. WFP continues to coordinate closely with national entities and the UN agencies to ensure information sharing and close collaboration to respond to changing developments.

- Under WFP's support to the National School Feeding Programme, 632 metric tons of date bars were produced and dispatched to the Ministry of Education to be distributed to 330,000 school children across the country. WFP also resumed its feeding activities in support of 85,000 school children in camps and communities. In total, 750 Jordanians and Syrians who work in the kitchen to prepare of school snacks received dedicated trainings on production, food handling, safety and hygiene. In addition, WFP and its partners, World Vision and the Royal Health Awareness Society, conducted information sessions to all workers on the project, the production cycle, rights and responsibilities, gender, protection and available feedback mechanisms in place.
- As part of its longer-term exit strategy and building on its global expertise, WFP and the Ministry of Education will sign an agreement to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry to support the role that the National School Feeding Programme could play as a social safety net in support of vulnerable Jordanians.
- Through the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis – the Madad fund, WFP will be working with the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture as well as supporting evidence-based innovations that facilitate smallholders' access to climate and market information, and low-cost technologies for reducing post-harvest losses.

Monitoring

- WFP and UNHCR will be exploring joint targeting for refugees of other nationalities. A joint proposal to the UNHCR/WFP Excellence Hub for Programme and Targeting is being considered to support the development of the targeting model.

Partnerships

- WFP hosted a mission from Global Affairs Canada and the Embassy of Canada in Jordan who visited Azraq refugee camp. The team briefed the mission on WFP's school feeding activities in the camp. The mission had the chance to meet school children receiving daily school snacks, as well as Syrian women and men who work to prepare the freshly baked snacks.

Donors

Australia, Canada, EU, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Saudi Arabia, UK, USA, Cartier Philanthropy, MAF Carrefour Jordan.