



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



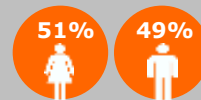
WFP Jordan Country Brief March 2021

In Numbers

513,000 refugees assisted through cash-based transfers in March 2021

7,500 Jordanians and refugees benefited from livelihood activities

USD 108.9 million six months net funding requirements (May – October 2021)



Operational Context

Jordan is an upper-middle-income country, with a population of 10.8 million, of which 2.9 million are non-citizens, including refugees. Jordan is also a resource-poor, food-deficit country with limited agricultural land, dwindling energy and water resources.

The results of the mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping approach (mVAM) implemented in February 2021 showed that 5 percent of Jordanian households and 23.3 percent of refugees are considered food insecure, while an additional 63.7 percent are vulnerable to food insecurity. Female-headed households, small households, and households with disabilities have disproportionately poor food consumption. According to the Department of Statistics, the unemployment rate reached 25 percent during the fourth quarter of 2020, an increase of 5.7 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2019, again attributed to the COVID pandemic. The unemployment rate among men reached 22.6 percent compared to 32.8 percent among women. In addition, Jordan carries the social, economic, and environmental burden of hosting over 664,400 Syrian and 88,900 refugees of other nationalities registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Through the Country Strategic Plan (2020-2022), WFP Jordan rebalances its portfolio towards Jordan itself, in line with the country's priorities linked to the 2030 Agenda. Strengthening the capacities of national institutions, strategies, and programmes, in addition to providing support for livelihoods, will increasingly be prioritized to deliver transformative and equitable results for Jordanians bypassed by socio-economic opportunities. WFP has been present in Jordan since 1964.



Population: **10.8 million**
Source: Jordan Department of Statistics

Human Development Index (2019): **0.729**
Source: UNDP Human Development Reports

Income Level: **Upper Middle**
Source: World Bank Data

Gender Inequality Index (2019): **0.450**
Source: UNDP Human Development Reports

Operational Updates

- In March, WFP had almost completed the expansion of its assistance in response to the covid-19 pandemic, adding a total of about 40,000 refugees residing in host communities who have lost their household income. This expansion uses dedicated funds from the United States of America. Overall, 513,000 refugees residing in camps and host communities are currently eligible to receive monthly food assistance in the form of cash-based transfers. Most refugees come from Syria, with a minority from Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, and Somalia.
- In Za'atari and Azraq camps, WFP has continued providing in-kind food assistance (a mix of welcome meals and food parcels) to beneficiaries quarantined in the isolation compounds. Development of an alternative approach using camp shops and biometrics is ongoing. The total number of COVID-19 cases in both camps has reached over 2,400 cases since August 2020.
- WFP has finalized the re-targeting model for Syrian refugees including the vulnerability criteria. The model has been tested, beneficiary lists created and reconciled, communication packages prepared, and WFP and partner staff trained. To raise awareness on funding shortfalls, WFP presented the necessary prioritization plan to the Government and multiple donors.
- In line with WFP's approach to develop more sustainable approaches to refugee assistance, WFP is in the process of developing a graduation model to allow other agencies to enrol productive refugee households in their projects, thereby meaning they no longer depend on WFP unconditional assistance. WFP has started by mapping and matching refugees' locations with the sectors that are open to employing refugees. WFP then held a meeting with ILO to explore common interests and areas of sharing expertise and also met with UNHCR for future coordination through the Resilient Youth, Socially and Economically Empowered (RYSE) model.
- The action plan for women's digital financial inclusion and economic empowerment was finalized after several consultations with HQ and key CO stakeholders. The plan – which includes 22 activities related to digital payments, women economic empowerment and financial inclusion – will define the main priorities for two years under the USD 500,000 grant received from the Gates Foundation.
- WFP has agreed to share the distribution of 50 MT and 127 MT of Saudi dates to vulnerable communities during Ramadan, with the Royal Court and Tkiyet Um Ali respectively. All the necessary agreements are currently under preparation.
- To improve the National Aid Fund's (NAF) social targeting, WFP continued working on the validation process of Takaful 1 and Takaful 3 programme households in March and was able to complete over 54,000 virtual household visits for both programmes. Part of the Takaful 3 validation process was implemented virtually using a tool developed with a cooperating partner to document the living conditions of NAF beneficiaries.

Photo Caption: For too many Syrian refugees in Jordan, the monthly food assistance provided by WFP is the only source of food they receive each month.

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WFP Country Strategy

Jordan Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 - December 2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
700 m	299 m
2021 Requirements	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (May - October 2021)
235 m	108.9 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:

- **Act 1:** Provide nutrition-sensitive food assistance to refugees and other crisis-affected populations.
- **Act 2:** 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:

- **Act 3:** Support the Government in reforming and expanding national social protection schemes.
- **Act 4:** 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:

- **Act 5:** 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:

- **Act 6:** With other actors, develop a comprehensive food security and nutrition sector plan linked to other sectors and supported by a coordination structure.
- **Act 7:** Facilitate knowledge exchange between partners and the Government to promote piloting and scaling of innovative approaches to achieving the SDGs.

- WFP started providing virtual info-sessions to over 2,700 families under the Takaful 3 programme in March to support them on opening e-wallets and building their financial literacy.
- WFP is now preparing for additional home visits under the Takaful 3 programme with the Government's decision to add a further 60,000 households to the scheme, bringing the total number of families to 160,000.
- Following several months of design, development, and testing, WFP and its contracted service provider concluded the payments systems

integration between NAF's Management Information Systems (MIS) and the three Payment Service Providers (PSPs): Zain, UWallet, and Dinarak. The system is now fully operational and, as a result, the entire process for NAF's payments through e-wallet accounts is fully automated. WFP is still working with the Central Bank of Jordan on the integration for payments to bank accounts which is currently only partially automated.

- Under its collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), WFP finalized the Capacity Needs Mapping (CNM) exercise to assess the capacity of the Ministry and identify areas for WFP's support. Based on this participatory exercise, it was agreed that the Ministry's M&E and Common Feedback Mechanism (CFM) systems require institutional capacity support. To develop these two streams, WFP is now working to draw the roadmap for these interventions in coordination with other agencies.
- WFP's support to the Ministry of Education (MoE) in developing the National School Feeding Strategy is ongoing. The Strategy has been revised and finalised by the Legal Department of MoE. The final version will be signed by the Minister in April.
- On the first week of March, date bars were distributed to around 10,700 students attending 30 schools in Za'atari and Azraq camps (only grades KG2 to the sixth). However, the schools closed once again with the consequent suspension of school feeding activities.
- WFP is now working with World Vision to distribute date bars every two weeks to the students' caregivers from WFP's distribution sites in both camps. The distribution of 58 MT targets around 13,000 students until the end of June 2021. In communities, WFP is working with local NGO Tikiyet Um Ali (TUA) to distribute date bars to students who benefit from TUA's national in-kind food assistance once per month. The distribution targets 69,000 students until July and will consume 196 Mt.
- Data collection for the "Impact of school feeding suspension during online education" assessment is complete, and the report is under preparation.
- Following the February workshop on farmer registration organized by WFP, preparations for the Rome-based agencies (WFP, FAO, and IFAD) agricultural activities funded by EU-MADAD are ongoing. The preparation included agreements and coordination with FAO and IFAD as activities will be implemented jointly. It also included coordination with Lebanon CO to harmonize activities. The project is planned to start in April 2021.
- WFP's partnerships with the local NGO, Dar Abu Abdallah (DAA), National Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition (NAJMAH) and Ministry of Agriculture continued in March, targeting over 2,500 participants in different livelihoods activities.
- The work on the National food security strategy is progressing. The final draft was completed and is currently under the CO revision. Once completed, it will be sent to the higher national committee for food security for their review.
- The Decapolis pilot program is running smoothly with 100 smallholder farmers on boarded. Results show the smallholder farmers' revenues have increased 25 to 30 percent. WFP is preparing a proposal for potential expansion to 500 smallholders.

Funding

WFP received a contribution enabling assistance to continue for all vulnerable refugees during Ramadan. While this timely and flexible contribution will avert the pipeline break during May, WFP Jordan needs to raise another USD 81 million to cover the needs of 500,000 refugees until the end of the year. This considers both confirmed funds and forecasted contributions. If funds are not secured, WFP will be forced to cut around 194,000 refugees from assistance after May. Furthermore, WFP currently does not have visibility over funds to continue assistance to any refugee household in camps or communities after July. To maintain assistance only to the extremely vulnerable till the end of 2021, WFP Jordan needs to raise an additional USD 58 million.

Donors

Australia, Canada, EU MADAD, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Norway, ROK, Russia, KSA, UNWOMEN, UK, USA, and private sector (Cartier, Choithrams and Seven Circles).