

Introduction

WFP Jordan responds to the food needs of 495,194 refugees, including 107,772 refugees in camps and 387,422 refugees in communities, through the provision of monthly food assistance in the form of cash-based transfers¹. This factsheet provides a summary of the main findings of a Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) exercise conducted from August 2020 to September 2020 and covering households in Azraq and Zaatari Camps. The findings in this document provide the evidence base for effective data-driven decision-making by WFP and partners with the goal of improving program quality and accountability.

Programme Overview (Camps Only)

Programme Coverage



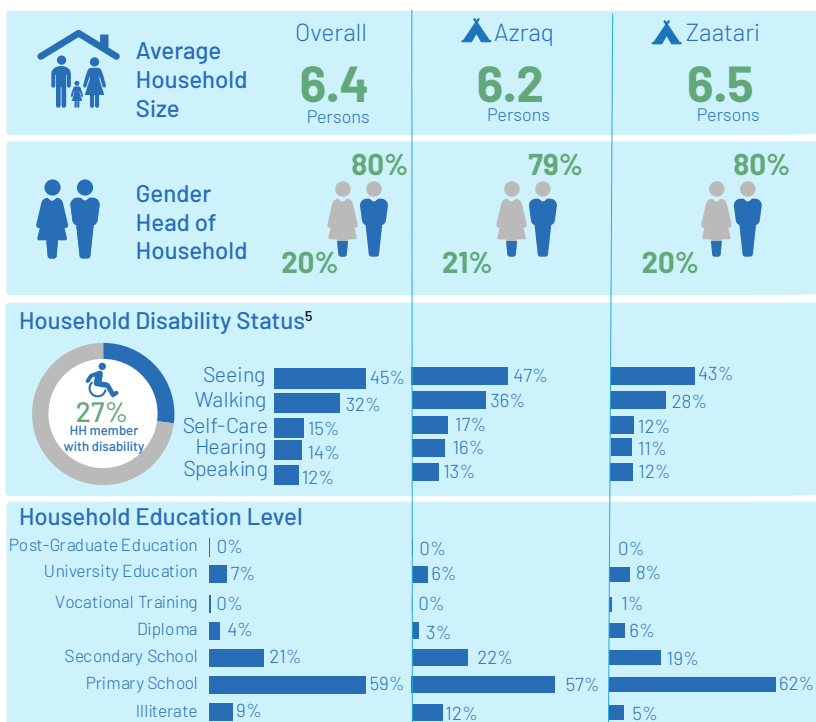
Programme Targeting

Blanket coverage covering all households in Azraq and Zaatar Camps

Programme Assistance

Unconditional e-vouchers redeemable at WFP-contracted shops for food and hygiene items only **23 JOD⁴**

Demographics



¹ Beneficiary numbers as of September 30th, 2020
² 8,080 women; 7,787 men; 10,091 girls; 10,603 boys
³ 15,738 women; 15,168 men; 19,654 girls; 20,651 boys

⁴ 23 JOD (32 USD) per person per month
⁵ Disability classification based on Washington Group Short Set on Functioning <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com>

Study Overview

Study Design

Mixed-methods sequential explanatory design

Quantitative

Representative longitudinal sample with sample size based on marginal error of 5% and confidence interval of 95%.

Qualitative

Purposeful sampling for households adopting "emergency" coping strategies as defined by the LCS1 classification and having insufficient food consumption (as defined by FCS)

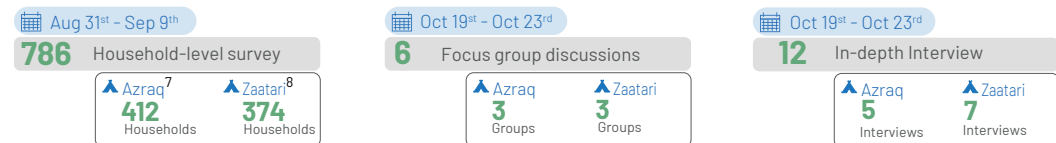
Study Coverage



Study Limitations

- Data collection undertaken using phone-based methods which limits representative findings of households not owning a phone or with unregistered numbers. To address this limitation, phone ownership among refugees in camps was reviewed, with (96%) of households found to own a phone.⁶ Additionally, phone numbers were drawn from the UNHCR registration database which offers the most complete and up-to-date phone number data for refugees in camps.
- Length of survey, which averaged 45 minutes, may have influenced accuracy of responses. To address this limitation, a review of descriptive statistics against Sep 2019 data was undertaken to verify distributions across time in addition to a thorough call-back process for households with illogical or unexpected responses.

Data Collection



Data Analysis

Quantitative

- Disaggregated descriptive statistics and hypothesis testing based on of household-level survey data, gender, disability, and size disaggregates

Qualitative

- Thematic coding of focus group discussion and in-depth interview data following study objectives including
 - Validate the amount of the assistance transfer value and assess the food expenditure gap (i.e. the difference between the minimum household expenditure on food and the assistance received by WFP)
 - Validate quantitative finding indicating an increase in household debt and explore mechanisms of debt (sources, interest, collateral, repayment period, default)
 - Explore how households meet the food expenditure gap (informal income, debt, coping strategies, etc.)
 - Understand changes in household expenditure patterns since the onset of COVID-19
 - Understand if and how WFP assistance is used to cover essential needs other than food
 - Gain a deeper understanding on the nature of emergency livelihood coping strategies

⁶ Source: <https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/wp-content/uploads/201907/The-Digital-Lives-of-Refugees.pdf>
⁷ Includes 59% households interviewed as part of FSOM Q3 2019 and 41% newly interviewed households
⁸ Includes 56% households interviewed as part of FSOM Q3 2019 and 44% newly interviewed households



Food Security

Food Consumption Score

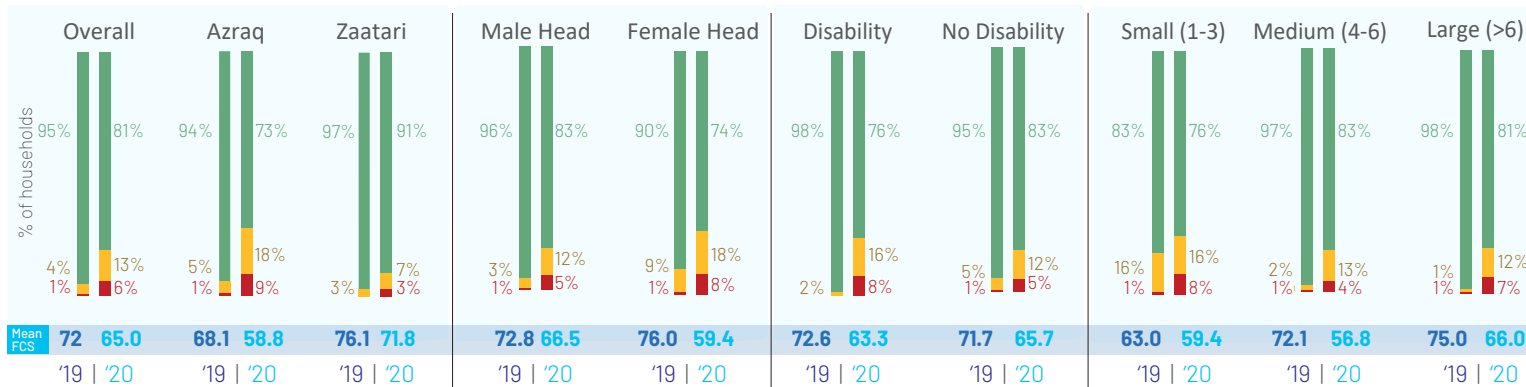
Definition :

Measures the quantity and quality of a household's diet

- Between Sep 2019 and Sep 2020 there has been a 280% increase in the incidence of "poor" and "borderline" food consumption among refugee households in camps, increasing from 5% to 19% of households.
- In Sep 2020, a significant disparity in the incidence of "poor" and "borderline" food consumption was identified between Azraq Camp (27%) and Zaatari Camp (10%); female-headed households (26%) and male-headed households (17%); and between small households (24%) and medium household (17%) and large households (19%).
- In sum, households residing in Azraq Camp, female-headed households, households with disability, and small households were more likely to show an insufficient food consumption

Food Consumption Score (FCS)

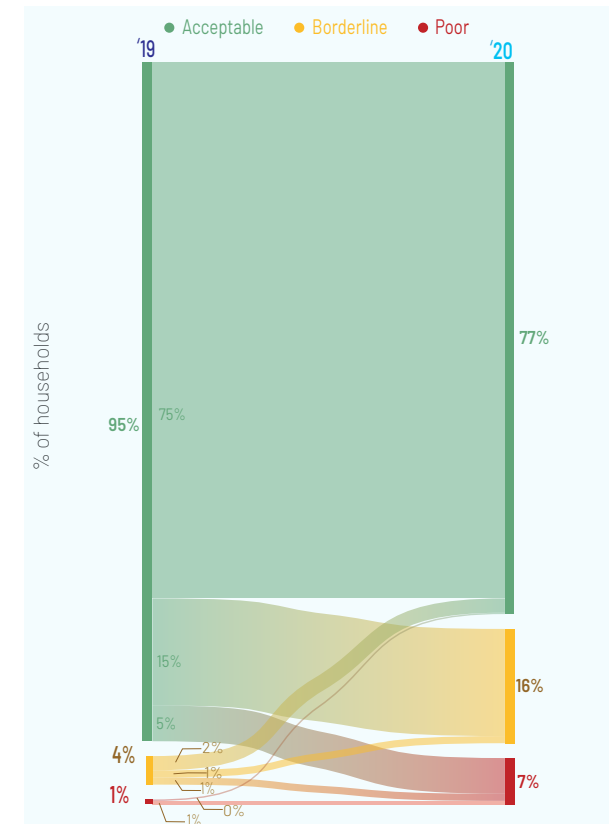
● Poor ● Borderline ● Acceptable



* '19 = Sept. 2019 and '20 = Sept. 2020

Longitudinal FCS Categories Changes

The chart below illustrates the magnitude of household-level change in food consumption between Sep 2019 and Sep 2020. For example, of the 95% of households that had "acceptable" food consumption in Sep 2019, 75% remained with "acceptable" food consumption, 15% transitioned to "borderline" food consumption, and 5% transitioned to "poor" food consumption in Sep 2020.⁹



⁹ Longitudinal comparison based on 59% of sampled households in Azraq Camp and 56% of sampled households in Zaatar Camp interviewed as part of both FSOM 03 2019 and FSOM 02 (Camps) 2020.

Food Consumption Score Nutrition (FCS-N)

Definition: Measures a household's adequacy of key macro and micronutrients-rich food groups including the consumption of protein, hem iron, and vitamin A rich foods¹⁰

- Between Sep 2019 and Sep 2020, household consumption of milk and dairy products, protein, and oils/fats decreased
- In Sep 2020, a significant disparity in the incidence of households consuming adequate amounts of protein, vitamin A, and hem iron rich foods was found between households in Azraq Camp and Zaatari Camp and between male-headed and female-headed households. Among households in Azraq Camp, 33% consumed inadequate amounts of protein rich foods, 37% of vitamin A rich foods, and 99% of hem iron rich foods as compared to 15%, 17%, and 98% among households in Zaatari Camp. Among male-headed households 21% consumed inadequate amounts of protein rich foods, 25% of vitamin A rich foods, and 98% of hem iron rich foods as compared to 40%, 37%, and 99% among female-headed households
- In sum, households residing in Azraq Camp and female-headed households were more likely to show an insufficient intake of key micro and macro nutrients

Qualitative Findings

- FGD participants confirmed that nutrition diversity had deteriorated during 2020
- FGD participants cited an ever growing need to reduce food consumption among adults and children

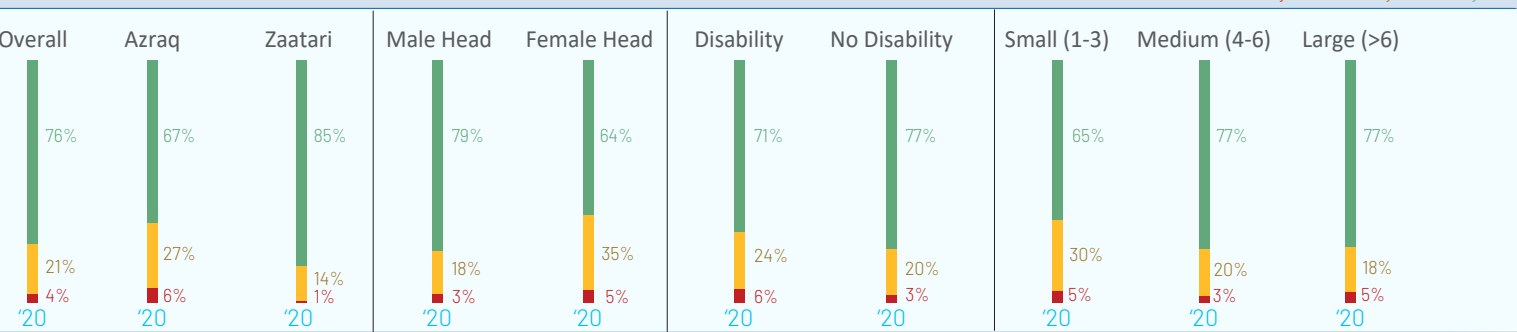
"I had to mix milk formula with extra water to fill my infant's hunger"

Household Consumption of FCS-N Food Groups*

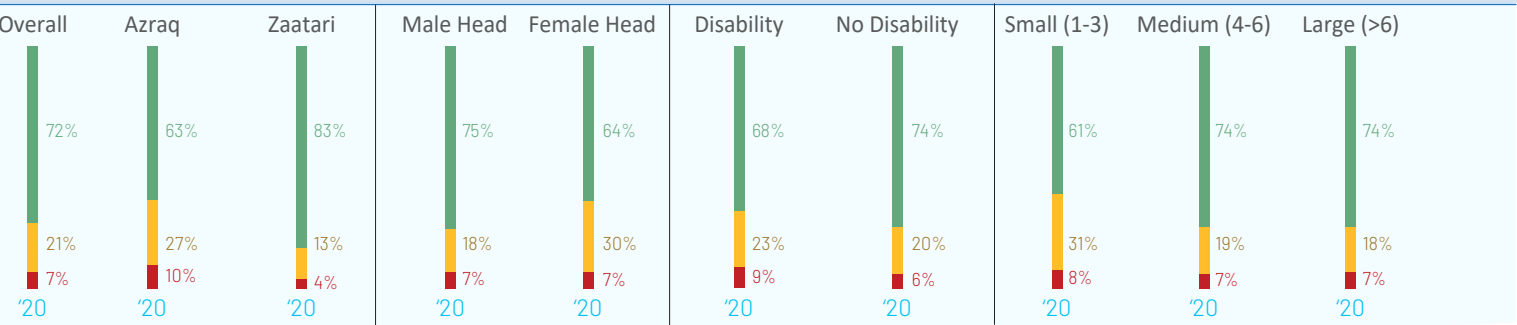
	Overall		Azraq		Zaatari	
	'19	'20	'19	'20	'19	'20
Cereals, Grains, Roots & Tubers	7	7	7	7	7	7
Pulses & Nuts	2	2	2	1	2	2
Milk and Dairy Products	5	4	5	4	5	5
Protein	5	3	4	3	5	4
Organ Meat	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0
Flesh and Poultry Meat	N/A	1	N/A	1	N/A	1
Fish	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0
Eggs	N/A	3	N/A	3	N/A	4
Vegetables	5	5	5	5	5	6
Orange Veg	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	1
Darl Leaf Veg	N/A	1	N/A	1	N/A	1
Fruits	1	1	1	1	1	1
Orange Fruits	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0
Sugar	7	7	7	7	7	7
Oil/Fat	7	6	7	6	7	7

Average number of days food group consumed per week

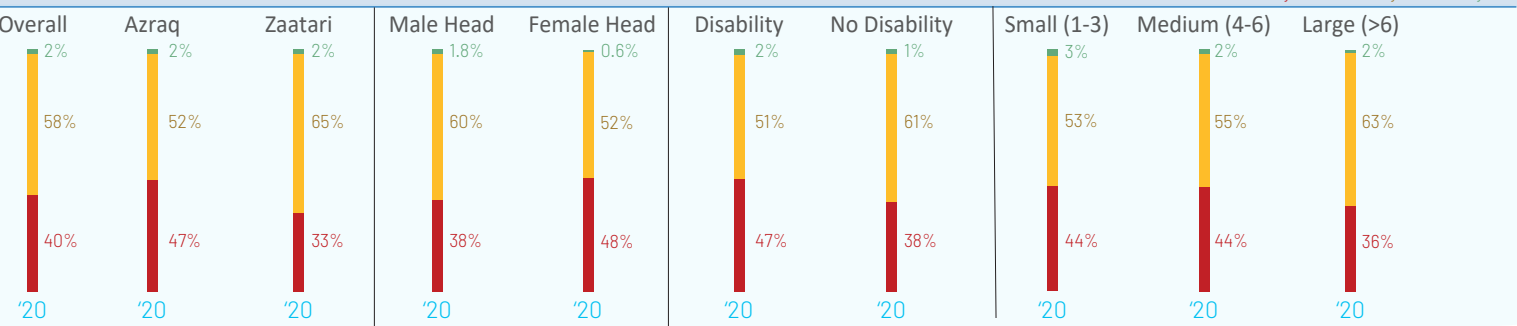
Protein-Rich Foods (Foods include: pulses, dairy, flesh meat, organ meat, fish and eggs)



Vitamin A-Rich Foods (Foods include: dairy, organ meat, eggs, orange vegetables, green vegetables, and orange fruits)



Hem Iron-Rich Foods (Foods include: flesh meat, organ meat, and fish)



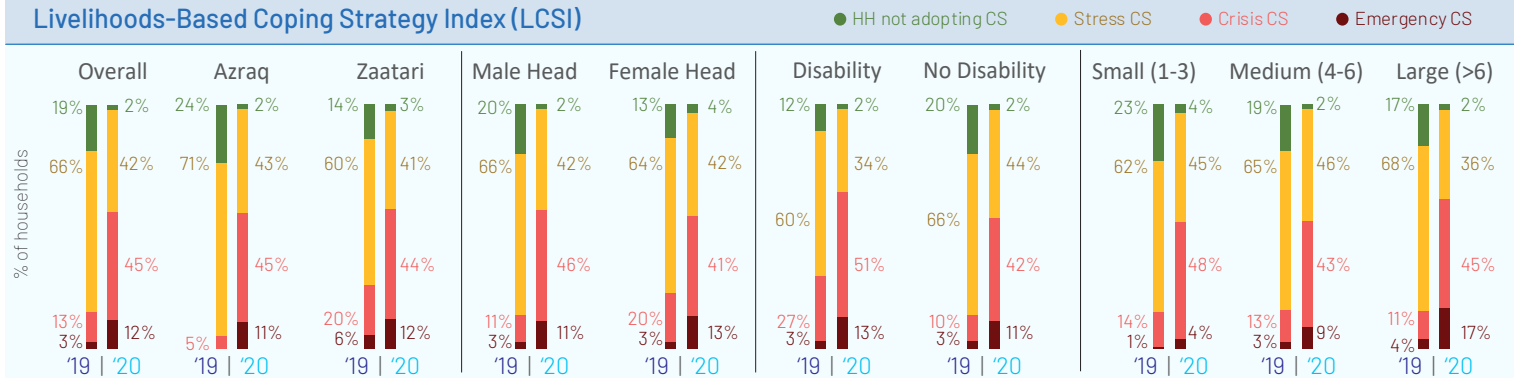
¹⁰ FCS-N Technical Guidance (<https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000007074/download/>)

Livelihoods-Based Coping Strategy Index (LCSI)

Definition : Measures adoption of livelihoods-based coping strategies frequently employed by households exposed to food shortage.
Good indicator of future food security with FCS and rCSI

- Between Sep 2019 and Sep 2020, there has been an increase of approximately 260% in the incidence of “emergency” and “crisis” adoption of livelihoods-based coping strategies, increasing from 16% to 57% of households
- In Sep 2020, a concerning 12% of households employed emergency coping strategies, including 8% of households who sent children, mostly boys, to work and 2% of households who married off children, mostly girls, to cope with insufficient financial resources.
- In Sep 2020, a significant disparity in the adoption of “emergency” and “crisis” livelihoods-based coping strategies was found between households with disability (64%) and households with no disability (53%) and between large households (62%) and small households (52%) and medium households (52%)
- In sum, households with disability and large households were more likely to adopt negative livelihoods-based coping strategies

Livelihoods-Based Coping Strategy Index (LCSI)

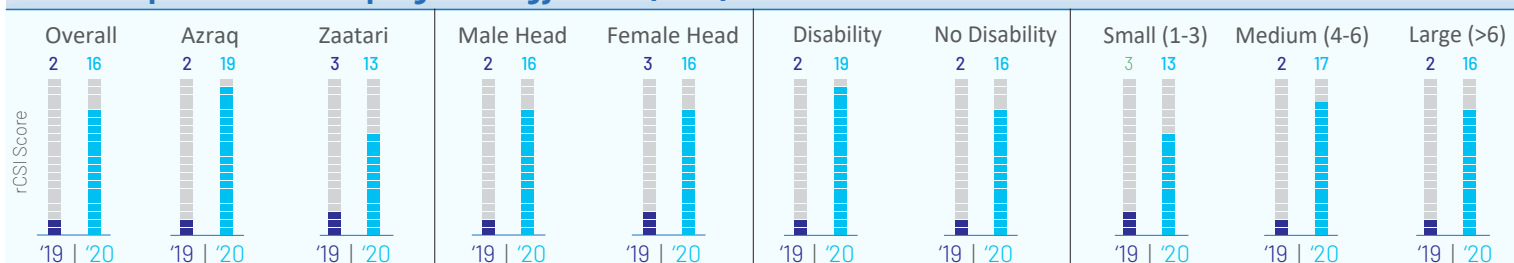


Consumption-Based Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

Definition : Measures adoption of consumption-based coping strategies frequently employed by households exposed to food shortage.
Good indicator of current food security when combined with FCS

- Between Sep 2019 and Sep 2020 there has been an increase of 700% in the adoption of consumption-based coping strategies, increasing from an average score of 2 to 16.
- Similarly, between Sep 2019 and Sep 2020, the percentage of households that limited adult intake of food to support needs of children rose increased approximately 1600%, from 3% to 52%, and the percentage of the households that reduced number of meals eaten per day increased 650%, from 6% to 45%.
- In Sep 2020, a significant disparity in the adoption of consumption-based coping strategies was found between households in Azraq Camp (19) and Zaatar Camp (13); households with disability (19) and no disability (16); and small households (13) and medium households (17) and large households (16)
- In sum, households in Azraq Camp, households with disability, and medium and large households were more likely to adopt negative consumption-based coping strategies

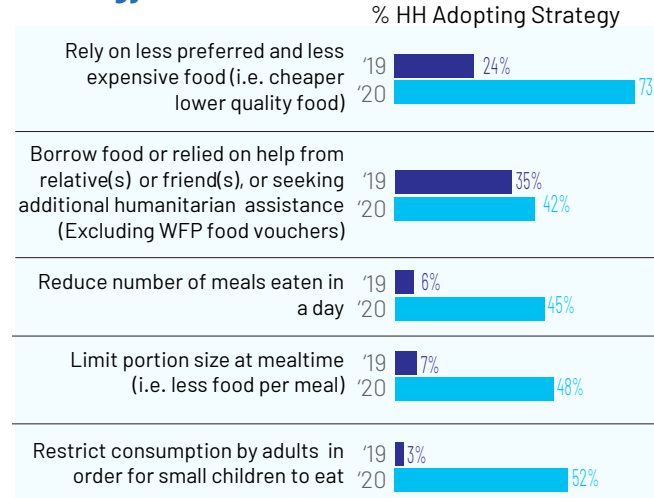
Consumption-Based Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)



Adoption of Livelihoods-Based Coping Strategy



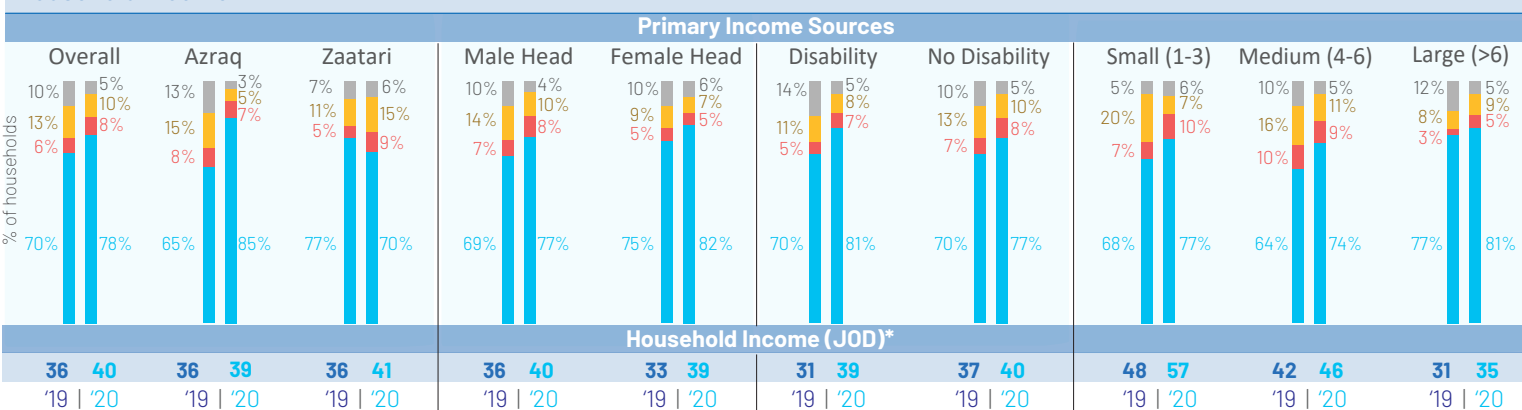
Adoption of Consumption-Based Coping Strategy



Household Income

- Average per capita household income increased by 11% from 36 JOD in 2019 to 40 JOD in 2020
- In Sep 2020, a significant disparity in the value of household income was found between small, medium, and large households. Small households were found to have an average monthly per capita income of 57 JOD compared to 46 JOD for medium households and 35 JOD for large households.
- In Sep 2020, 38% of households in camps had received assistance from other NGOs, humanitarian organizations, or government institutions other than WFP assistance in the last 30 days. A significant disparity in the incidence of households receiving additional assistance was found between Azraq and Zaatari Camp, with 27% of households in Azraq Camp receiving additional assistance compared to 51% of households in Zaatari Camp.
- In sum, large households had lower average household income per capita than small and medium households.

Household Income



* Monthly income/Per Capita.

Household Expenditure

- Average per capita household expenditure increased by 4% from 47 JOD in 2019 to 49 JOD in 2020
- In Sep 2020, a significant disparity in the value of household expenditure was found between small, medium, and large households. Small households were found to have an average monthly per capita expenditure of 74 JOD compared to 53 JOD for medium households and 44 JOD for large households.
- In sum, small households had higher average household expenditure per capita than medium and large households.

Household Expenditure

	Household Expenditure (JOD)*																			
	Overall		Azraq		Zaatari		Male Head		Female Head		Disability		No Disability		Small (1-3)		Medium (4-6)		Large (>6)	
NonFood	17	18	14	18	19	19	16	19	17	18	20	19	16	18	31	35	17	21	15	16
Food	31	30	31	29	31	31	31	31	30	29	29	30	31	30	42	39	32	32	29	29
Total	47	49	45	48	50	50	47	49	47	47	49	49	47	49	73	74	49	53	43	44
	'19	'20	'19	'20	'19	'20	'19	'20	'19	'20	'19	'20	'19	'20	'19	'20	'19	'20	'19	'20

* Monthly expenditure/Per Capita.

Qualitative Findings

- FGD participants confirmed that WFP food assistance is their main source of income
- FGD participants noted that COVID19 had led to lost employment and reductions in casual labor opportunities, both inside and outside the camp
- FGD participants additionally noted the psychological impact of reductions in job opportunities, noting lost optimism and hope, and increased reliance on insecure, exploitative, and illegal opportunities.

"My son works with people we don't know, I feel that it is risky to let him work with people we don't know, but we need the money. Every day I pray for my son to be safe, and I always communicate with him to make sure he is safe"

Qualitative Findings

- FGD participants noted the connection between assistance and needs, citing the need to use food assistance for non-food expenses and non-food assistance for food expenses.
- FGD participants noted that COVID has increased both food and non-food expenditures including increased expenditure on hygiene, sanitation, medicine, childcare, and internet expenses.

"I already have wood secured, as I am certain I will run out of winterization support since I have to spend it on food and other pressing expenses"

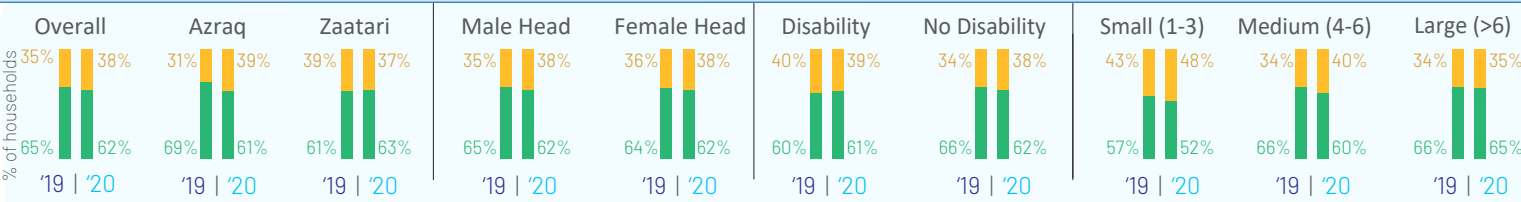
Food Expenditure Share (FES)

Definition: measures the proportion of each household's available budget spent on food as a proxy indicator for the economic vulnerability of the household.

- In Sep 2020, most households (58%) had a food expenditure share of 65% or more
- In Sep 2020, a significant disparity in the incidence of households with a food expenditure share of 65% or more was identified for small households (53%), medium households (56%), and large households (61%).
- In sum, large households spent a larger proportion of their expenditure on food on average than small and medium households.

Food/Non-Food Expenditure

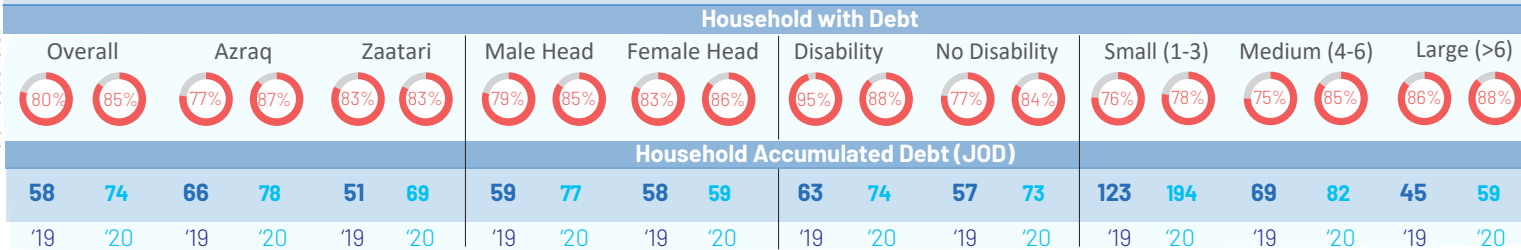
● Non-Food Expenditure ● Food Expenditure



Household Debt

- Average per capita household debt increased by 28% from 58 JOD in 2019 to 74 JOD in 2020
- In Sep 2020, a significant disparity in the value of household debt was found between small, medium, and large households, with small households having an average of 194 JOD in accumulated household debt per capita, medium households having 82 JOD in accumulated debt per capita, and large households having 59 JOD in accumulated household debt per capita.
- In Sep 2020, a significant disparity in the value of household debt was found between male-headed and female-headed households, with male-headed households having an average of 77 JOD in accumulated household debt per capita and female-headed households having an average of 59 JOD in accumulated household debt per capita.
- In sum, male-headed households had higher average accumulated debt per capita than female-headed households and small households had higher average accumulated debt per capita than medium and large households.

Household Debt



* Monthly debt /Per Capita.



WFP/Mohammad Batah

Qualitative Findings

- FGD participants reported that they depend highly on debt, and cited concerns about increasing debt as the pandemic continues and winter approaches
- FGD participants cited that generally debt is provided with no specific due date for repayment, however they noted suffering associated psychological pressure of being indebted and not knowing when they will be able to repay their debts

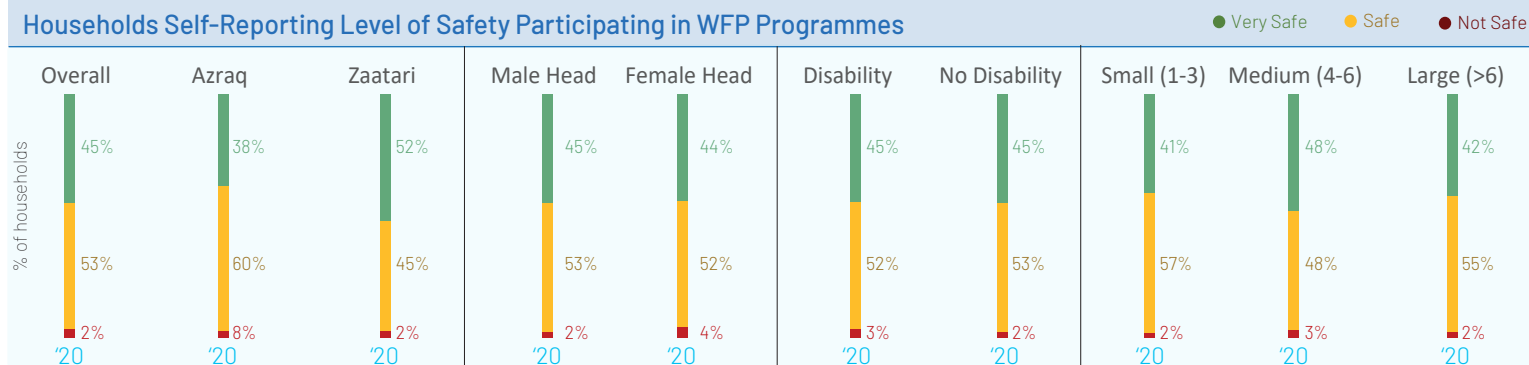
"We feel humiliated when asked to repay our debt; debts that have accumulated given our need for vegetables for our children"

Cross-Cutting

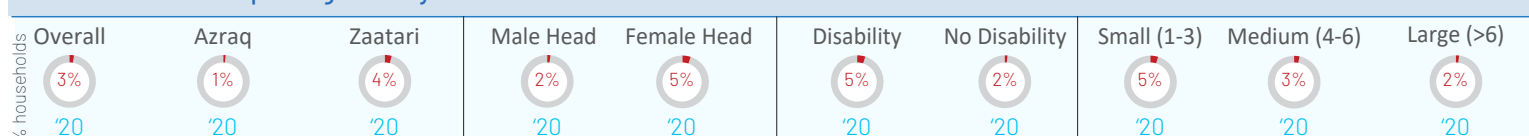
Protection

- Most households (98%) reported feeling very safe (45%) or safe (53%) when participating in WFP programmes. The remaining 2% of households reporting not feeling safe when participating in WFP programmes were disproportionately female-headed households and households in Azraq Camp.
- Most households (97%) were able to access their WFP assistance in the past two months and 98% of households reported respectful treatment by WFP and partners.
- Most households (84%) reported that WFP programmes sites were dignified. The remaining 16% of households that reported undignified WFP programme sites were disproportionately households in Azraq Camp.
- In sum, female-headed households and households in Azraq Camp were more likely to have safety concerns and households in Azraq Camp were more likely to have dignity concerns.

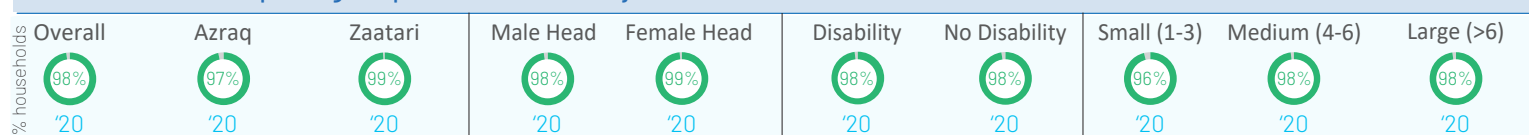
Households Self-Reporting Level of Safety Participating in WFP Programmes



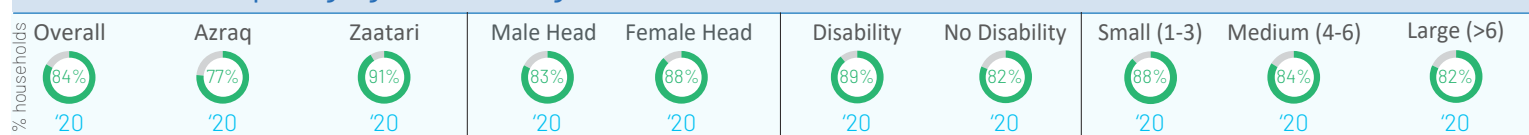
Households Self-Reporting Inability to Access WFP Assistance in Past Two Months



Households Self-Reporting Respectful Treatment by WFP and Partners



Households Self-Reporting Dignified WFP Programme Sites



WFP/Mohammad Batah

Conclusions

Cross-Sectional Analysis As of Sep 2020 ...

Aggregated Analysis

- A concerning rate of households with “poor” or “borderline” food consumption across all comparison groups requires close monitoring and follow-up
- Consumption of hem-iron rich foods is severely inadequate across all comparison groups, with little to no meat consumed by households
- An alarming rate of households adopting emergency livelihoods-based coping strategies, including early marriage, primarily among girls, and child labor, primarily among boys, across all comparison groups
- An alarming rate of households adopting emergency consumption-based strategies, including the restriction of adult intake to support the needs of children, across all comparison groups
- Nearly all households hold significant amounts of debt across comparison groups, with average accumulated debt roughly equivalent to two months household income
- Households generally feel that WFP programmes are safe and dignified across comparison groups however follow-up is required for some households in Azraq Camp who have noted safety and dignity concerns

Disaggregated Analysis

- Female-headed households intake and more likely to have inadequate food consumption and nutrient intake, more likely to adopt negative livelihood coping strategies than male-headed households. They are also more likely show a lower average household expenditure and debt
- Households in Azraq Camp are more likely to have inadequate food consumption and nutrient intake and more likely to adopt negative consumption-based coping strategies than households in Zaatari Camp, have a lower expenditure and income than households in Zaatari camp. They are also most reliant on WFP assistance as a primary source of income
- Households with members with disability are more likely to have inadequate food consumption and nutrient intake and more likely to adopt negative coping strategies (consumption and livelihood-based) than households without members with disability
- Small households (13- members) are more likely to have inadequate food consumption and nutrient intake, less likely to adopt negative coping strategies but show a lower average household expenditure and debt than medium (46- members) and large (<6 members) households.

Time Series Analysis Between Sep 2019 and Sep 2020 ...

Aggregated Analysis

- Percentage of households with “poor” or “borderline” food consumption increased by 280%
- Percentage of households with “high” and “medium” adoption of consumption-based coping strategies increased by 220%
- Percentage of households with “emergency” and “crisis” adoption of livelihoods-based coping strategies increased by 260%
- Household micro and macro nutrient intake deteriorated substantially with a significant reduction in the consumption of meat and dairy products
- Average household non-food expenditure increased by 16%
- Average household food expenditure increased by 2%
- Average household total expenditure increased by 7%
- Average household total debt increased by 30%

Disaggregated Analysis

- Households in Azraq Camp had a more severe and acute deterioration in food consumption and increase in adoption of coping strategies than households in Zaatari Camp
- Households with members with disability had a more severe and acute deterioration in food consumption and increase in adoption of coping strategies than households without members with a disability
- Female-headed households had a more severe and acute deterioration in food consumption and increase in adoption of coping strategies than male-headed households
- Large households (>6 members) had a more severe and acute deterioration in food consumption than small households (13- members), although this is largely a result of poor food security standing among small households maintained from 2019 and small households are still worse off in terms of food consumption

Concluding Remarks

The COVID19 pandemic has led to an alarming increase in the incidence of food insecurity among households in camps driven primarily by lost employment opportunities and increased expenditure on food and non-food items including hygiene, sanitation, debt repayment, medicine, childcare, and telecommunications expenses.

To meet food needs, households have adopted increasing severe coping strategies, including reductions in the quality and quantity of food consumption, early marriage of children, and employment of children.

Additionally, households have taken on an increasingly insurmountable volume of debt, however debt markets appear to be tightening. Female-headed households, small households (1-3 members), large households (>6 members), households with disability, and households in Azraq Camp appear to be especially impacted by the pandemic.



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