

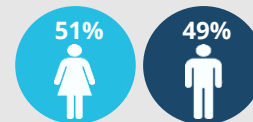


SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Jordan Country Brief May 2023

In Numbers



975,000 people assisted in May 2023

US\$ 13.9 cash-based transfers transferred

US\$ 122.4 m six months (June-November 2023) net funding requirements

Operational Context

Jordan is an upper-middle-income country, with a population of 11.4 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. Some 660,000 Syrian refugees and 80,000 refugees from other countries are registered with UNHCR as of May 2023. This massive presence of refugees has put 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.

The results of WFP's Food Security Outcome Monitoring for the first quarter of 2023 showed that the overall food security of refugees has improved in the past year and returned to pre-COVID level. Certain household groups (women-headed, unemployed, with members with a disability, etc.) remain more vulnerable and more likely to resort to coping strategies that negatively impact their capacity to meet essential needs. The average amount of debt has increased by 25 percent among refugees in host communities and camps. Alarming, the dominant usage of debts is not for livelihood or business investment. Instead, food purchases, rent, and health expenses consume most of it.

According to the Department of Statistics, Jordan's unemployment rate was 22 percent during the first quarter of 2023; marking a decrease of 0.9 per cent compared to the first quarter of 2022. The youth unemployment rate remained high at 46 percent.

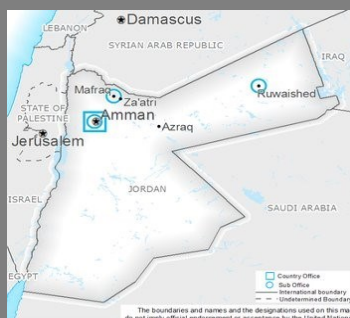
WFP has been present in Jordan since 1964. Under the new five-year CSP (2023-2027), WFP continues its large-scale provision of unconditional food assistance for vulnerable populations in Jordan, including refugees, as well as its technical assistance for national social protection programmes and systems. It refocuses its education and nutrition activities and expands its climate action to strengthen adaptive livelihoods and sustainable management of natural resources and food systems.

Population: **11.4 million**

Income Level: **middle income**

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

2021-2022 Human Development Index: **0.72 (102 out of 191 countries)**



Operational Updates

- In May, WFP provided monthly food assistance to around 456,000 vulnerable refugees in camps and host communities through cash-based transfers. Most refugees assisted come from Syria (96 percent), with a minority from Iraq (3 percent), and the remaining from Yemen, Sudan, Somalia and other countries.
- To support the National Financial Inclusion Strategy, WFP is gradually transitioning its cash-based transfers from the use of WFP-owned accounts (e-cards) to mobile money, which is the only refugee-owned account model presently authorized by the Central Bank of Jordan. In May, 30 percent of Syrian refugees in communities and camps (around 135,000 WFP beneficiaries) received assistance through this modality.
- To ensure continuous support to refugees across Jordan, WFP worked together with UNHCR through mutual cooperating partner, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), to maintain the helpdesks in the camps. Furthermore, upon the successful pilot of mobile helpdesks in the urban areas of the northern governorates in April, WFP and UNHCR continued their deployment to rural areas of the same region. WFP is also considering expanding to additional governorates in the south.
- WFP continued the distribution of 500 metric tons of dates donated by Saudi Arabia. Overall, 117,000 Syrian refugees in camps and 130,000 vulnerable Jordanians and Palestinians in communities will receive dates until June.
- WFP is dedicating efforts to improve nutrition, habits and health for women with anaemia and high-risk pregnancies. In cooperation with Caritas and the International Medical Corps (IMC), WFP launched the second phase of the nutrition awareness campaign for pregnant and breastfeeding refugee women in host communities, through Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC), using visual tools and interactive activities. In May, WFP identified and screened women to be enrolled in the programme starting in June. In addition to the counselling, WFP will distribute a cookbook with nutritious recipes using locally available and affordable ingredients, promoting good nutrition habits with simple advice on adopting healthier diets.

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Photo Caption: The UN Resident Coordinator visiting a school in Madaba governorate to witness WFP's school feeding activities.
@Mohammad Battah

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
997 m	109 m
2023 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June - November 2023)
230 m	122.4 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 partnership

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

- As part of WFP's support to the National School Feeding Programme administered by the Ministry of Education, WFP school feeding activity resumed in May, after Ramadan holy month, with more than 483,000 students assisted. Approximately 400,000 students received date bars in camps and communities, and more than 83,000 students received healthy meals in communities.
- WFP has been partnering with the Ministry of Education by providing essential technical assistance for the Ministry's National School Feeding Programme. WFP is currently working on an assessment of school feeding funding options to bring more sustainability to the programme.
- Furthermore, the Ministry, with the support of WFP, organized a prize ceremony in May to conclude a drawing competition organised in primary public schools. The competition encouraged students to create artwork depicting their understanding of the National School Feeding Programme and promoting healthy eating habits.
- To support the National Aid Fund's (NAF) graduation vision and plans, WFP revised the questionnaire used for the home visits. Through the new questionnaire, the collected data is more focused on NAF beneficiaries' work experience, skills and aspirations. In May, WFP completed the validation of around 7,000 NAF households to check and confirm their eligibility.
- Moreover, in cooperation with the World Bank and UNICEF, WFP co-facilitated a knowledge exchange mission between Jordan and Lebanon. As Lebanon takes steps towards developing a National Social Protection Strategy and implementing an integrated social registry, the mission was organized to draw insights from Jordan's successful experience in designing, implementing, and digitizing the cash assistance programme. It also sought to learn from the NAF and Jordan's expertise on the National Social Protection Strategy (2019-2025).
- As part of its technical support to the Ministry of Social Development, WFP supported a scoping and mapping mission with the UNICEF and Social Policy Research Institute (SPRI) to assist the Ministry in developing the shock responsiveness chapter for the existing National Social Protection Strategy (2019 - 2025).

Challenges

Between June and November 2023, WFP requires USD 115.8 million to cover the food requirement of 465,000 refugees in camps and communities with unconditional resource transfers, maintaining the current transfer values. Accordingly, As of July, WFP is reducing the value of its monthly assistance by one-third for 75 percent out of the 465,000 refugees supported.

Donors

Canada, EU/MADAD, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) through the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSA/KSrelief), Norway, Switzerland, UK/FCDO, USA/BHA, and private sector (BMGF, Choithrams, Mastercard, and Talabat).