



Highlights

- In May, WFP resumed life-saving assistance to over 60,000 Syrians stranded at the north-eastern border with Syria, the Berm, for the second time this year. The distribution was carried out through a third party contractor. The distribution is complemented with registration through iris scanning being conducted by third party monitors and through UNHCR.
- On 21 May, WFP Executive Director, David Beasley, visited Jordan. As part of his mission, Mr. Beasley attended the World Economic Forum, visited the Country Office and made field visits to Za'atri camp and Marka airport, the site of the airdrops operations into Syria.

WFP Jordan Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees and host communities in Jordan	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200987 (Jan. 2017-Dec. 2018)	549 m	157 m	144.2 m

* June – November 2017, includes solid pledges and forecasts

GENDER MARKER **2A** PRRO 200987

The Regional PRRO 200987 focuses on providing sustainable solutions through human capital and self-reliance support to refugees and host communities in Jordan, while providing life-saving food assistance when needed. The PRRO responds to the needs of refugees and members of host communities through different programmes.

WFP provides General Food Assistance (GFA) through e-vouchers to more than 500,000 Syrian refugees vulnerable to food insecurity in both the camps and in host communities. In-kind GFA is the most effective modality of assistance in the context of the Berm operation at the Jordanian-Syrian border.

Under the regional PRRO 200987, WFP complements the National School Feeding Programme, which supports over 350,000 schoolchildren aged between 5 to 12 years attending government schools in Jordanian communities. WFP and the Government jointly provide school meals on an alternate basis with the Government providing 50 g of high energy biscuit and a piece of fruit to each child two days per week and WFP providing 80 g of fortified date bar per child for the remaining three days. Both the high energy biscuits and the date bars are locally produced.

In refugee camps, WFP is supporting around 25,000 Syrian children attending formal schools throughout the provisioning of fortified date bars.

During 2017, WFP will expand its home-grown school meals model, the Healthy Kitchen, in poverty pockets across the Kingdom and in refugee camps. This initiative provides Jordanian and Syrian women with income generating activities, preparing fresh healthy meals for school children attending public schools both in camps and communities.

In response to the protracted nature of the Syrian conflict, WFP aims at transitioning from humanitarian assistance

towards interventions to enhance resilience to shocks with scalable and sustainable solutions.

WFP provides assistance to food insecure Jordanians and Syrian refugees affected by the economic crisis and the ongoing Syrian conflict through the food assistance for assets (FFA), providing cash assistance focusing on rangeland rehabilitation while creating economic opportunities; and food assistance for training (FFT), offering vocational training opportunities and on-the-job training to develop human capital and improve employability for targeted Jordanians and Syrians.

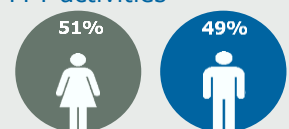
According to WFP assessment data, households led by women, children, the elderly or people living with disabilities lacking regular income are among the most vulnerable to food insecurity. Across Jordan, some of the most vulnerable groups are widows and households headed by women with 89 percent of widow households classified as food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity.

The PRRO is fully aligned with national and regional response plans and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and 17. Activities are aligned with WFP's Strategic Plan (2017–2021) through the provision of conditional, restricted food assistance to end hunger (Strategic Objective 1) and improve nutrition (Strategic Objective 2). Resilience-based approaches will enhance self-reliance, human capital and livelihoods. Broader actions for food security will include national social safety nets (Strategic Objective 3) and support to SDG results (Strategic Objectives 4 and 5).

In Numbers

- 660,315** Registered refugees from Syria (UNHCR)
- 534,192** Syrian refugees assisted with E-Cards and Paper Vouchers
- 387,874** Jordanian and Syrian schoolchildren assisted through the School Meals Programme
- 10,965** Vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees assisted through FFA and FFT activities

Syrian refugees assisted with E-Cards



May 2017

Main Photo Credit: WFP/ Abeer Etefa
Caption: WFP Executive Director, David Beasley, visiting one of the schools benefiting from the Healthy Kitchen at Za'atri camp.



May 2017

Operational Updates

WFP Cash Comparative Study

Recently, WFP commissioned a study to explore the effectiveness of its food assistance programmes in Jordan and Lebanon. The study which was conducted from March through May and again in October 2016, tracked the impact of different assistance modalities across multiple dimensions including changes in food security, basic needs and coping strategies; household dynamics and gender roles; and household bank withdrawals, and retail transactions.

About 3,100 Syrian households benefiting from WFP's e-voucher programme were randomly selected to participate in the study. Households were assigned to three different groups differentiated by how they can access WFP assistance uploaded on their e-cards: the first group used the card as an e-voucher which can be redeemed at WFP contracted shops; the second group received unrestricted cash which can be withdrawn from ATMs and the third group had the choice of using the card as an e-voucher, unrestricted cash, or a combination of the two.

Over all, compared with vouchers, cash assistance delivered better or equivalent food security. This can be attributed to the fact that people who received cash assistance were able to exercise greater purchasing power, in several ways. Unrestricted cash raised purchasing power by 15 to 20 percent over that of vouchers restricted to WFP shops.

The modality did not affect refugee's expenditure on food. On average, both the cash and voucher groups spent approximately twice the WFP assistance value on food. It is important to note that both groups spent the total value of the WFP assistance on food meaning that the cash group did not reduce its spending on food despite having the flexibility to spend on other needs.

The use of cash did not show any drawback compared with vouchers. Refugees benefiting from cash did not face greater debt levels, repayment demands or acceleration, or greater incidence of theft or mistreatment. The modality switch from cash to vouchers did not precipitate household disagreements or harmful dynamics over time in either Jordan or Lebanon. Women continued to hold considerable decision-making power in the household.

In both Jordan and Lebanon, more than 75 percent of households favored cash assistance, citing three key reasons: higher purchasing power; flexibility and the capacity to manage cash flow; and dignity and empowerment.

Stemming from the [cash comparative study](#) undertaken by Boston Consultancy Group (BCG), WFP Jordan is planning a partial cash roll-out for refugees in host communities upon donor confirmation this year. The roll-out of partial cash will be by choice meaning that refugees will get to choose whether to use the assistance as unrestricted cash or as restricted vouchers.

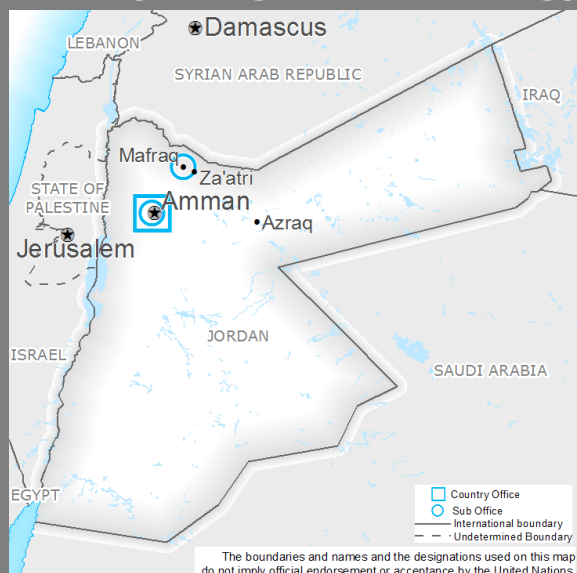
Challenges

Funding remains one of the main challenges facing WFP. Flexible, un-earmarked, multiyear funding will allow WFP Jordan to address the life-saving needs as well as providing livelihood opportunities for refugees and host communities. WFP requires USD 144.2 million for the next six months.

Partnerships

WFP partners with UNHCR, UNDP, UNRWA, NRC, ACTED, Save the Children, World Vision International, NCARE, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, the Royal Health Awareness Society and UN Women. Jordan Ahli Bank is the implementing partner for the OneCard system.

Country Background & Strategy



Jordan is an upper middle income country, with a population of 9.5 million, out of which 2.9 million are considered guests. Despite this classification, it is a resource-poor, food-deficit country with limited agricultural land, no energy resources and scarce water supply. According to the 2016 third quarter report released by the Department of Statistics, the unemployment rate reached 15.8 percent, an increase from 13 percent during the same period in 2015. The unemployment rate for men was 13.8 percent compared to 25.2 percent for women.

Nationwide, 0.5 percent of all Jordanian households suffer from food insecurity, while 5.7 percent are vulnerable to food insecurity. The 2016 WFP Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise revealed that a majority of Syrian refugee households living in host communities continue to be either food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity, at 72 percent, while showing an improvement over 2015 levels which peaked at 85 percent.

In line with the Jordan Poverty Reduction Strategy, which put in place a series of social programmes aimed at increasing employment opportunities, curbing unemployment, combating poverty and offering in-kind and cash assistance for the poor and marginalized groups within Jordanian society, WFP introduced innovative and sustainable solutions by developing resilience-based approaches.

WFP's programmes are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17 and the Government strategies and policies such as Jordan 2025, the National Food Security Strategy (2014–2019), Jordan Response Plan for the Syria Crisis (2016–2018), and the United Nations Assistance Framework (2015–2017).

WFP has been present in Jordan since 1964.

Syrians refugees registered by UNHCR: **660,315** (01 June)

Jordanians living in food insecurity: **5.7%**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

GNI per capita: **USD 5,160 (2014)**

Top 10 Donors (in alphabetical order)

Canada, European Economic Community/European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), Germany, Japan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, UK/Department for International Development, and USAID/Food For Peace (FFP)