



WFP Jordan Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees and host communities in Jordan PRRO 200987 (Jan. 2017- Dec. 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	549 m	48 m

* August–December 2017, including 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 about 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 through the provision 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.

Main Credit: WFP/ Mohammad Batah

Photo Caption: Alia is one of many Jordanian women who benefit from the economic opportunities created through the healthy kitchen initiative in Madaba where women run the kitchens.

Highlights

- WFP completed the physical validation exercise for all Syrian refugees entitled to WFP assistance residing in communities.
- In July, WFP submitted the transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (t-ICSP) to headquarters for review. The t-ICSP is expected to start in January 2018.
- WFP requires an additional USD 48 million until the end of the year to continue providing food assistance to around 500,000 Syrian refugees benefiting from the general food distribution.

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.

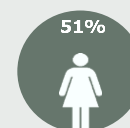
The PRRO is fully aligned with national and regional response plans and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and 17. Activities are aligned with WFP's Strategic Plan (2017–2021) through the provision of conditional, restricted food assistance to end hunger (Strategic Objective 1) and improve nutrition (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

660,582 Registered refugees from Syria (UNHCR)

490,702 Syrian refugees assisted with E-Cards and Paper Vouchers

Syrian refugees assisted with E-Cards
July 2017



Operational Updates

- In 2016, WFP commissioned a study undertaken by Boston Consultancy Group (BCG) to explore which modality is most effective in delivering food security for refugees: electronic food vouchers or unrestricted cash. The cash comparative study 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. Overall, the study showed that cash assistance delivered better or equivalent food security outcomes than food vouchers owing to improved purchasing power of Syrian refugees. Based on the study, WFP is planning a choice roll-out for refugees living in Madaba. This means that refugees will get to choose whether to use food assistance as unrestricted cash by withdrawing their assistance in cash from Jordan Ahli Bank ATMs, as a restricted food vouchers redeemable at WFP contracted shops or both. Upon review of the pilot, WFP may decide to expand to additional governorates.
- In July, another high level consultation session was held with the Ministry of Education with representation from relevant ministries and sectors. Based on the request from the Ministry of Education to explore other sustainable school feeding models, two additional models, relying on the private sector were presented. These models will be tested in 2018. A review for the piloted models will inform the way forward for the expansion plan of the National School Meals Programme. The Ministry of Education requested technical support from WFP and other stakeholders to prepare an action plan to test the new models.
- In July, WFP completed a review of its current targeting model implemented in 2015 for the general food assistance programme to Syrian refugees. A desk review, which entailed examining the changes in refugee vulnerability overtime (2014 to present) was conducted. As an outcome, three potential targeting models were developed which will inform future targeting decisions.

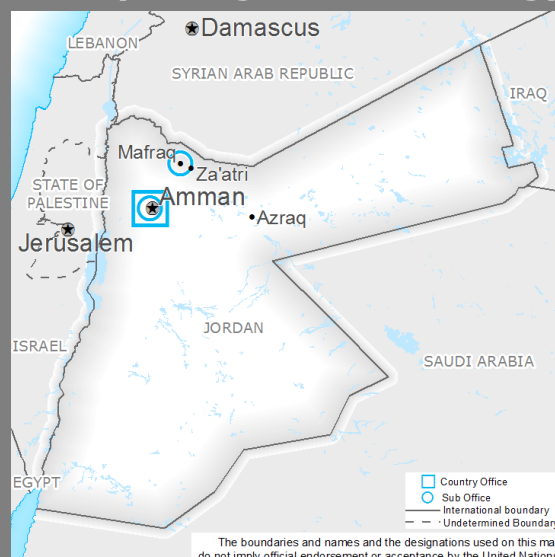
Challenges

- Access remain a challenge facing WFP and the humanitarian community at the Berm. Since mid-June, WFP was not able to reach 60,000 Syrians stranded at the Berm who were living in difficult conditions and relying mostly on humanitarian agencies for life-saving assistance. WFP and all relevant agencies are working with the Jordanian Government to resume the provision of life-saving assistance.

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: **660,582** (01 August)

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

Top 10 Donors (in alphabetical order)

Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Norway and USAID/Food For Peace (FFP)