



Photo: WFP/Shaza MOGHRABY



World Food Programme

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Jordan Country Office: PRRO and EMOP*

*PRRO: Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation / EMOP: Emergency Operation



Both the PRRO and the EMOP projects cover all 12 governorates in the country, with a higher concentration of beneficiaries in Amman and the northern governorates

This month in numbers

EMOP beneficiaries: 528,568

Including **19,398** children also benefitting from the school feeding programme in camps

EMOP funding shortfall: USD 19 million* (November–December 2015)

Since July 2012, the EMOP voucher programme has injected over **USD 418 million** into the Jordanian economy.

PRRO beneficiaries: 3,230

PRRO funding shortfall: USD 1.8 million (November–December 2015)

*Includes USD 9.2 million of outstanding advances

Highlights

- Thanks to additional funding from various donors, WFP was able to reinstate assistance in communities to vulnerable refugees at JOD 10 (USD 14) and increase the assistance to the extremely vulnerable to JOD 15 (USD 21). Sufficient pledges have been received to maintain these levels of assistance through January 2016.
- On 12 October, WFP successfully tested its new biometric payment system, which allows beneficiaries to pay for their purchases through an iris scan. When a refugee in King Abdullah Park, Irbid Governorate, bought a can of luncheon meat using the new system, this was the first time ever that a retail transaction was made by someone using only their eyes.



Photo: WFP/Ryan BEECH

- WFP finalized an agreement with local NGO Tkiyet Um Ali, who distributes food baskets to vulnerable Jordanians, to complement their assistance to 100,000 beneficiaries starting in November for two months.

Context

- Jordan is a resource-poor, food-deficient country with limited agricultural land, no energy resources and scarce water supply.
- By October 2015, over 630,000 Syrian refugees were registered with UNHCR, stretching Jordan's resources and exacerbating the protracted economic crisis in the Kingdom. Nearly 83 percent of registered Syrian refugees live in communities, with the rest living in two camps (Azraq and Za'atari) and two transit centres (Cyber City and King Abdullah

Park). While refugees are provided with essential services such as housing and health care in camps, they mostly have to fend for themselves in communities, paying rent, transportation and medical treatment. Refugees are not officially allowed to work and are thus largely dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their needs.

- While Jordan has made progress in socio-economic development and poverty alleviation, inflation remains a fundamental problem, as does unemployment, which stood at 11.9 percent in the second quarter of 2015. The PRRO addresses the needs of vulnerable and food insecure Jordanians living in refugee-hosting communities affected by the economic crises and the Syrian conflict. It includes three major components: Food for Work/ Training for rural vulnerable households, Targeted Food Assistance for urban vulnerable people, and capacity augmentation for the Government in the fields of food security and social safety nets.

WFP Response

EMOP

- In camps and transit centres, WFP reached 90,476 refugees with vouchers valued at JOD 20 (USD 28) per person; camp residents also received a total of 19.7mt of fresh bread every day.
- In communities, 212,014 extremely vulnerable beneficiaries received JOD 15 (USD 21), instead of the planned JOD 20 (USD 28), due to the ongoing funding shortfall. The 226,078 categorised as vulnerable received JOD 10 (USD 14) as planned, following one month of receiving no assistance.
- In camps, 19,398 students (9,811 girls and 9,587 boys) were reached with daily nutritious snacks in both formal and informal schools. WFP supports the two newly opened additional formal schools in Za’atri camp.
- In Za’atri camp, WFP distributed a total of 3.02mt of rice to 151 households chosen in coordination with UNHCR and the Needs Based Working Group.
- WFP conducted a rapid panel assessment with Syrian refugee families in the vulnerable category in communities who did not receive any assistance in September to measure the impact of these cuts. Out of the 128 families interviewed in Q2, 89 were interviewed for this assessment allowing paired analysis comparing information collected pre-cuts and post-cuts. Results were drastic, with the number of households with poor food consumption skyrocketing from 0 percent to 27 percent in a matter of weeks. Over 80 percent of families were borrowing money to buy food, and 13 percent sent a family member to beg, compared with only 4 percent before. Nearly one quarter of families removed children from school in one month; 29 percent were sending children to work, more than five times as many as before. Such rapid deterioration in a short period of time shows how little resilience the families have left and how vital WFP food assistance is to Syrian refugees. When asked about their probable plans if they did not receive WFP food assistance in the future, almost half would consider leaving Jordan, either for Europe (20 percent) or back to Syria (26 percent).

- With the reinstatement/increase of assistance, families were able to increase the number of meals they have a day, with many purchasing chicken again, which they were unable to do before.

“My two children had to stop going to school, and were working 10 hours a day to make JOD 3 so we could survive. Now that the WFP assistance is back, they can stop working and start studying again.”

Um Abdo, Syrian refugee in Mafraq

PRRO

- Food assistance for assets/work activities using cash transfers targeting vulnerable Jordanians continued, mainly in forestry maintenance and harvesting.
- Vocational training graduates under Food for Training continued their on-the-job training where they were deployed to relevant businesses such as pottery, sewing workshops, turnery, beauty shops and other areas.

Food Security Sector

- The Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) distributed food parcels to 1,300 Syrian households: 350 in Amman and 450 Jerash, in coordination with Near East Council of Churches Committee for Refugee Work and Helping Hand for Relief and Development; 300 in Irbid, in coordination with Arab Center for Consulting and Training Services; and 200 in Salt, in coordination with Helping Hand for Relief and Development. Food parcels were also distributed to 100 Jordanian households (50 in Amman and 50 in Jerash), in coordination with Near East Council of Churches Committee for Refugee Work.
- JHCO also distributed food coupons valued at JOD 60 (USD 85) to 1,234 Syrian households located in Amman, Irbid and Madaba, in coordination with Caritas.
- In Azraq camp, through the Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH)—WVI Jordan project, 37,198 boxes of juice were distributed to students in the formal school.

Partnerships

- Under the Jordan Response Plan, WFP acts as secretariat for the Livelihoods and Food Security Task Force, chaired by the Ministry of Labour.
- WFP has partnerships and agreements with:



WFP Operation					
	Project Duration	November–December requirements (in USD)	November–December shortfall (in USD)	November–December Shortfall (%)	People Assisted in October
EMOP 200433	Jul 2012 — Dec 2015	30 million	19 million*	63%*	528,568
PRRO 200357	Aug 2013 — Dec 2015	2.8 million	1.8 million	64%	3,230

Requirements according to actualized figures

*Includes USD 9.2 million of outstanding advances

Meet the Beneficiaries



Photo:WFP/Faten AL-HINDI

Meet 22-year-old Shaimaa, from Jordan Valley, who lives with five siblings and a retired father. She suffers from a congenital deformity with only two fingers on each hand. Shaimaa's family depends on her for financial support, and she had been struggling to find a job due to the Kingdom's difficult economic situation.

Shaimaa pursued WFP's vocational training project to become a data entry clerk, and picked up the skills of the trade quickly. A fast learner, she displayed such a good work ethic during her on-the-job training at the Military Retiree Club that they asked her to officially join their staff. Her strong

performance made her an asset to her colleagues, and she is now able to provide financial support to her family, including her young siblings. "I received valuable training on data entry during the WFP-NAJMAH vocational training project. My improved skills made me more confident in myself leading me to find a job at a governmental entity, which was my goal."

WFP's cash-for-training initiative provides technical skills training for participants in their respective professional fields and secures job placements for them in various areas. Cash is distributed to participants for each day they attend the training, and later, while they receive on-the-job training indifferent companies and organizations before becoming full-time employees.

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