



Photo: WFP/Jumana AL-MARAGHI



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: 306,653**

Including **19,458** children also benefitting from the school feeding programme in camps

**EMOP funding shortfall: USD 38.4 million\* (October–December 2015)**

Since July 2012, the EMOP voucher programme has injected over **USD 408 million** into the Jordanian economy.

**PRRO beneficiaries: 6,100**

**PRRO funding shortfall: USD 2.45 million (October–December 2015)**

\*Includes USD 9.2 million of outstanding advances

### Highlights

- In September, nearly **229,000** refugees categorised as vulnerable in communities did not receive assistance due to a chronic funding shortage.
- WFP monitors and hotline staff reported increasing desperation among refugees in the communities, noting the withdrawal of children from school and child labour is becoming even more common.
- WFP signed an agreement with UNDP for the implementation of a joint employment project for vulnerable Jordanians affected by the economic and Syrian crises, which will provide opportunities for community-based emergency employment and income generation through the food-for-work modality.



Photo: WFP/Haneen ELWAN

While promoting individual savings and engaging emerging entrepreneurs in economic ventures, the project will also promote social cohesion by encouraging members of the community to organize themselves into addressing host community basic needs through the improvement of social and economic infrastructure.

### Context

- Jordan is a resource-poor, food-deficient country with limited agricultural land, no energy resources and scarce water supply.
- By September 2015, nearly 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 different areas of food security and social safety nets.



## Food Security Sector

- The Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) distributed food parcels to 350 Syrian households located in Irbid and Mafraq, and 735 Jordanian households located in Ajloun, Irbid, Karak and Maan. Distributions in Mafraq were coordinated with Aman Volunteer Group and in Irbid with the Arab Centre for Consulting and Training Services (ACCTS).
- JHCO also distributed food coupons to 2,039 households (1,759 Syrian and 280 Jordanian) located in: Ajloun and Irbid (in coordination with Human Appeal), valued at JOD 35; Mafraq (in coordination with the Lutheran World Federation), valued at JOD 29; and Zarqa (in coordination with NICCOD), valued at JOD 60.
- Caritas distributed food vouchers valued at an average of JOD 55 to 4,680 Syrian households located in Amman, Balqa, Irbid, Karak, Madaba, Mafraq and Zarqa.

## WFP Response

### EMOP

- In camps and transit centres, WFP reached 92,969 refugees with vouchers valued at JOD 20 (USD 28) per person; camp residents also received fresh bread every day.
- In communities, 213,666 extremely vulnerable beneficiaries received only JOD 10 (USD 14), instead of the planned JOD 20 (USD 28), due to the ongoing funding crisis.
- The formal school year began on 1 September, and 19,458 students (10,097 girls and 9,361 boys) were reached with daily nutritious snacks in both formal and informal schools. WFP is now supporting an additional three newly opened formal schools in Za'atri camp.
- On the occasion of Eid Al-Adha, WFP facilitated the distribution of 1,900 food parcels in Azraq refugee camp in coordination with UNHCR, NRC and SRAD. In addition, a private distribution of dates was conducted alongside WFP bread distribution in the camp.

### PRRO

- Food assistance for assets/work activities using cash transfers targeting vulnerable Jordanians continued during September, mainly in forestry land preparation in anticipation for the coming plantation season.

## 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	October–December requirements (in USD)	October–December shortfall (in USD)	October–December Shortfall (%)	People Assisted in September
EMOP 200433	Jul 2012 – Dec 2015	45 million	38.4 million*	85%	306,635
PRRO 200357*	Aug 2013 – Dec 2015	4.2 million	2.45 million	58%	6,100

Requirements according to actualized figures

\*Includes USD 9.2 million of outstanding advances



## Resourcing Update

- For October–December, the total EMOP requirement to cover voucher assistance for both camps and communities is **over USD 45 million**, of which **85 percent is currently unfunded**.
- For the same period, the total PRRO requirement to cover food and cash assistance to vulnerable Jordanians in host communities is **over USD 4.2 million**, of which **58 percent is currently unfunded**.

### Meet the Beneficiaries



Photo: WFP/Shaza MOGHRABY

**“Should I spend the little money that I have on feeding my children or keeping a roof over their heads?”** This is one of the many dilemmas 21-year-old Halima has to face now that she stopped receiving WFP food assistance for the first time since she moved to Jordan two years ago.

Halima currently lives in the impoverished Hashemi Janoubi area in Amman with her husband Mustapha and two children: 4-year-old Hala and 2-year-old Ali. After their house in Aleppo was destroyed by a barrel bomb, the family had to risk crossing the war zone to leave Syria, looking for a safer future in Jordan.

Now, like many other Syrian refugees, they are wondering whether that risk was really worth taking in the end, or whether they would be better off in Syria. When Halima’s Jordanian neighbour heard about the WFP cuts in September, she gave her some money and clothes for the children. By that time, the family was three months late in paying the rent and being threatened with eviction.

“We never used to pay any extra money for food last year. Now we have to choose between food or rent. There was a time I had to choose between buying medicine for Hala or for Ali,” she says. When the young mother first saw the heart-breaking image of three-year old Aylan Kurdi’s body washed ashore, she nearly had a nervous breakdown. “I could not help but think that this could have been my son out there, especially with the choices we are being forced to make. What is the world waiting for? More children to drown?”

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