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April 2019



## Jordan – Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment, 2018





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We particularly wish to thank the affected population who have sought refuge in Jordan and the vulnerable Jordanians for their responsiveness and cooperation during this exercise.

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This CFSVA was prepared by Erin Carey, Oscar Lindow, Mohammad Al Jawamees and Rana Al Refaay from WFP and Francesco Teo Ficarelli from REACH. Helpful comments and contributions were also received from colleagues from the WFP and REACH teams, and we would like to thank UNHCR, UNRWA, the National Aid Fund, Sawiyan and the Jesuit Refugee Service, for supporting us in this research and providing useful insight into the context.

## FOREWORD

As the Syrian crisis completes its eighth year, Syrian refugee families in Jordan continue to face an uncertain future. While some refugees look to return to their country of origin, others are not sure about how, if, and when they would return. The protracted nature of the conflict plays a role in refugees' vulnerability as observed within this study.

The first WFP/REACH CFSME conducted in 2014 served as an initial baseline to assess registered Syrian refugee families' vulnerability. The following year, the 2015 CFSME clearly demonstrated the deterioration in refugees' food security in comparison to the previous year, predominately as a result of reduced assistance. This highlighted the vulnerability of the Syrian refugee population; as they lacked the resilience capacity to cope with even small reductions in humanitarian assistance. The 2016 CFSME findings revealed that while the food security for registered Syrian refugees improved since 2015, largely attributed to the ability of WFP to provide the planned level of assistance to its Syrian refugee beneficiaries for the greater part of 2016, it did not reach 2014 levels. However, it is critical to note that this improvement in food security has come at a cost. Syrian refugee families remain highly reliant on employing coping mechanisms, often irreversible ones, in order to maintain their food security. In 2018 food security rates did not increase, largely due to household economic vulnerability.

The findings contained in this report also shed greater light on the complexities of determining vulnerability to food insecurity; the results may challenge our preconceptions on who is likely to be vulnerable given the diversity of resource levels and inter-dependence within and between families. The report also helps us understand the link between food assistance and labor engagement.

Despite the ongoing generous support from their Jordanian hosts, many refugee families are reaching the end of their ability to continue in exile. That said, the provision of food assistance remains a critical lifeline for vulnerable refugee families and will remain as such until more durable solutions are cultivated for this population.

We would like to thank all our donors for their continued generous support and hope the findings contained in the report confirm the reasons why it is imperative to continue the delivery of food assistance in 2019.

It is important to note that the 2018 CFSVA study also serves as a baseline for other populations of interest, refugees of other nationalities, Palestine refugees from Syria and vulnerable Jordanians. We hope that this research will serve to inform the broader community of humanitarian and development actors in Jordan.

Finally, I would like to thank all the colleagues from REACH and WFP who have been involved in this assessment for their hard work on collecting and analysing the data and writing the report, particularly REACH's Francesco Teo Ficcarelli and WFP's Erin Carey, Oscar Lindow, Rana Al Refaay and Mohammad Al Jawamees who have led the initiative. I am certain that this information laid out in the report will prove extremely useful for our work with vulnerable populations in the near future.



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Country Director and Representative, WFP Jordan

# INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

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