

Introduction

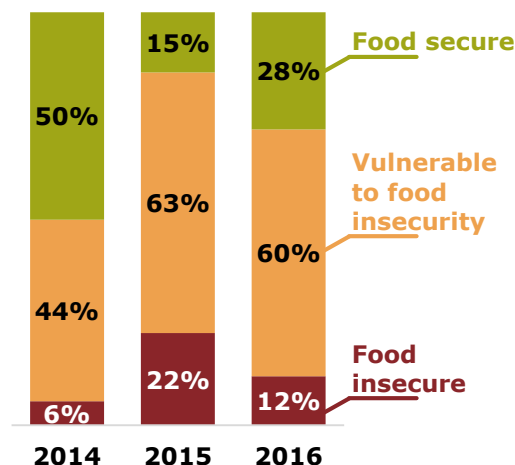
Of the nearly five million Syrians who have fled their homeland in the past five years,¹ more than 655,000 are now registered with UNHCR as refugees in Jordan, the vast majority of whom live outside of refugee camps.² In order to understand the impact of contextual changes on the food security and broader welfare of refugees, the World Food Programme (WFP) has partnered with REACH to conduct a third Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise (CFSME), covering all 12 governorates in Jordan as well as Azraq and Za'atari refugee camps. In total, 3,253 households comprising 20,067 individuals were surveyed between April and May 2016.



Food security

- Food security levels of Syrian refugees living in Jordan have **improved since 2015**.
- This is potentially due to the **increased capacity of WFP to deliver the planned level of assistance**.
- However, the food security of Syrian refugees in host communities remains **well below 2014 levels**.

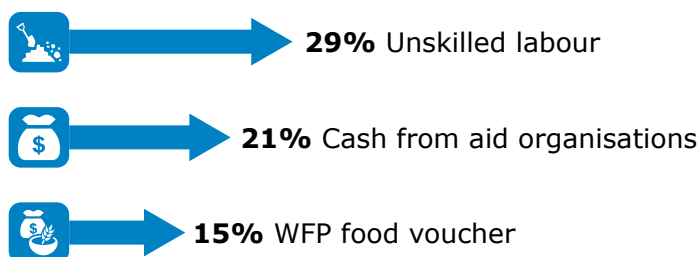
Food security index,³ refugees in host communities



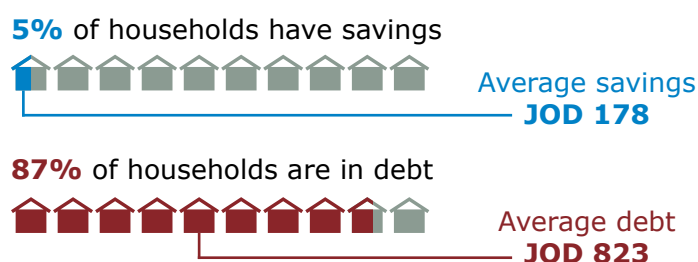
Economic vulnerability

Although refugee households have diversified their income sources, many still need humanitarian assistance. Household debt levels remain high and savings have essentially been exhausted. In order to cope with a lack of resources, the majority of households are using livelihood coping strategies in order to maintain access to food.

Top three sources of income, refugees in host communities



Debt and savings levels,⁴ refugees in host communities



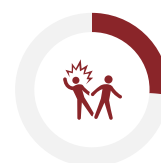
Percentage of households using livelihood coping strategies, refugees in host communities



67% borrowing money to buy food or purchasing food on credit



49% reducing essential non-food expenditure



26% sending household members to work in exploitative or illegal jobs

¹UNHCR, exact figure as of 22 October 2016: 4,798,574.

²UNHCR, exact figure as of 22 October 2016: 655,365 registered Syrian refugees in Jordan, 513,961 living in host communities.

³The food security index is a global measure of food consumption and economic vulnerability, calculated using the following three indicators: the food consumption score, livelihood coping strategies, and food expenditure share.

⁴Average savings figure only includes households with savings, average debt figure only includes households in debt.

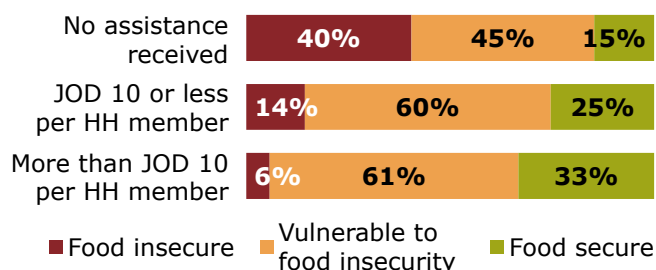


Who are the most vulnerable?

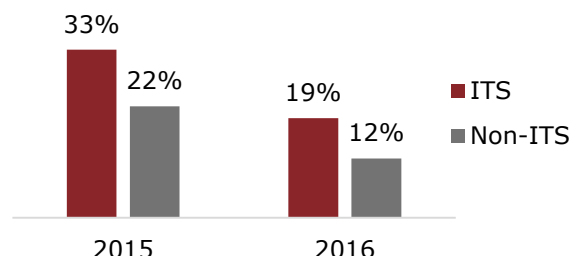
Despite the overall improvement in food security, a high level of food insecurity persists for a number of population groups.



Food security of Syrian refugee households in host communities by WFP assistance received



Syrian refugee households in informal tented settlements (ITS) that are food insecure



Economic pressure faced by Syrian refugee households with members who have serious medical conditions, physical impairments, or are seriously injured



Recommended interventions

In the short term humanitarian assistance remains vital. The CFSME 2015 showed very clearly that reductions in assistance have adverse effects on refugees' food security. In 2017, humanitarian assistance will remain critical in maintaining refugee welfare in partnership with increased provision of healthy and fair income generating opportunities. Based on the findings of CFSME 2016, WFP/REACH make the following recommendations:



Syrian refugees receiving a greater level of food assistance are less likely to be food insecure. Nonetheless, **WFP should continue to systematically review its targeting criteria**, which entails both expanding coverage and increasing assistance to refugee households unable to meet their basic food needs.



Refugees need access to income generating activities in order to enhance their self-reliance. Therefore, **increased support for formal and decent economic opportunities should be prioritised**.



Medical fees place a heavy financial burden on households; **methods should be found to mitigate the negative impacts of health costs for households requiring emergency treatments or with chronically ill members**, such as emergency medical voucher transfers, insurance plans or longer-term payment schemes.



Refugees living in ITS remain extremely vulnerable despite improvements in food security elsewhere. **These households should be monitored more closely in order to better understand their food security dynamics and more effectively deliver assistance**.



The need for humanitarian assistance remains high and in some cases economic vulnerability has increased. **There should be coherency and collaboration between resilience programming and humanitarian interventions** to mitigate economic shocks, particularly for the most vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian households.