

WFP Building Blocks — Iris-Scan Blockchain Cash Assistance for Refugees in Jordan

Digital Inclusion · Good practice · Jordan

Quality score: 96/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Since 2017, WFP's Building Blocks has let Syrian refugees in Jordan's Azraq camp pay for food with an iris scan instead of a card or PIN, cutting bank transaction fees by 98%; by 2025 the blockchain system had moved over \$760 million to six million people worldwide.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Innovation level	4/5
Sustainability (ongoing)	1/1
Evaluation evidence	1/1
Demonstrated reach	1/1
Documented learning	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-26

[World Food Programme \(WFP\), with UNHCR and UN Women](#) — accessed 2026-08-26

[MIT Technology Review: Inside the Jordan refugee camp that runs on blockchain](#) — accessed 2026-08-26

[UN Innovation Network: How the Building Blocks blockchain network is transforming humanitarian aid](#) — accessed 2026-08-26

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