



At least USD 26 million was injected into local economies through food voucher or e-card redemption during January

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

The food sector is one of a number of sectors under the Syria refuge response using **vouchers and e-cards**, rather than direct distributions, as a means of providing assistance to beneficiaries. In Lebanon, more than 550,000 refugees received food assistance through the e-card programme, and targeting is being fine-tuned to ensure those most in need are receiving assistance. In Jordan, a full roll-out of the e-voucher programme began in three governorates, assisting more than 8,000 beneficiary households in January. Meanwhile, in Zaatari Camp, two supermarkets opened that will help to provide a greater selection of items and lower prices. 120,000 refugees in 14 camps in Turkey are currently receiving assistance under the e-Food Card programme, with formal permission now granted to expand the programme to all 21 camps. In Iraq's Domiz Camp, the food voucher programme reached more than 70,000 people, while in Egypt the voucher programme reached more than 83,000 people.

Notwithstanding, provision of **direct food assistance** through rations for refugees in camps and meals for new arrivals remained important, as did the provision of nutritious snacks and energy bars to children in schools. In Jordan, the treatment for moderate acute malnutrition programme was launched to target children under the age of five and pregnant and lactating women who will be given SuperCereal Plus.



REFUGEE POPULATION IN THE REGION:

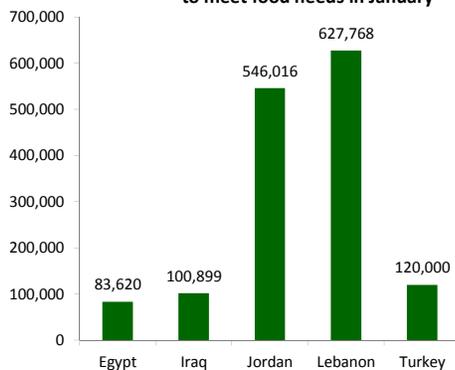
2,441,507

Current Refugee Population

4,100,000

Expected Refugee Population by end-2014

Individuals receiving in-kind, cash or voucher assistance to meet food needs in January



NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The majority of Syrian refugees rely on humanitarian food assistance as their primary source of food. Without external support, the level of vulnerability of Syrian refugees would likely increase, particularly affecting vulnerable groups such as female-headed households, children, the elderly, sick and the disabled.

In Lebanon and Egypt, 70 per cent of refugees are food insecure. The results of the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) in Lebanon show that half of a household's expenditure was spent on food. In Iraq, large numbers of Syrian refugees, in both camp and non-camp settings, cite food as their top priority need. In Jordan, food expenditure by refugee families constitutes more than a third of their budgets. In Turkey, all families living in refugee camps rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their daily food needs.

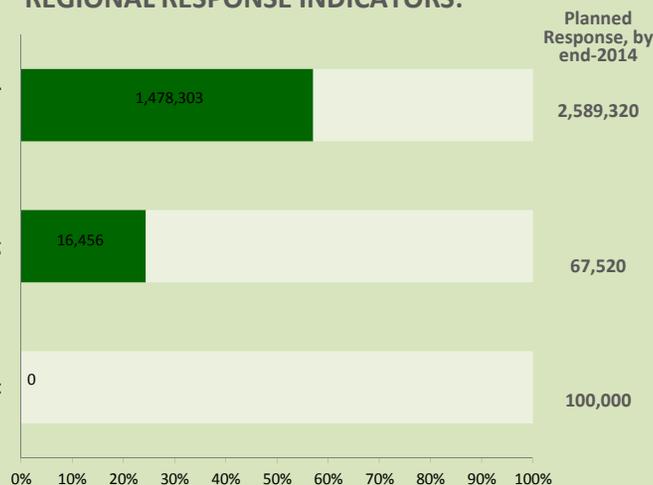
Across the region, refugee households report resorting to spending their savings, taking their children out of school to work, and relying on credit and selling household assets to meet their food needs. Incidents of child malnutrition, though not significantly prevalent, have been identified inside Syria and in nearly every refugee-hosting country in the region. The amount and nutritional value of the food available to refugees is critical to prevent the occurrence of malnutrition.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS:

1,478,303 individuals receiving in-kind, cash or voucher assistance to meet food needs

16,456 children reached with micronutrient supplements/supplementation, including school feeding programmes

0 individuals receiving agricultural livelihoods support



Planned response based on full funding of RRP6 for an expected population of 4.1 million Syrian refugees in the region by end-2014. There are currently 2.4 million refugees in the region and the overall RRP6 appeal is 12% funded.