

Jordan: RRP6 MONTHLY UPDATE - MARCH

FOOD SECURITY



REFUGEE POPULATION IN JORDAN

590,226

800,000

Registered Refugees as of 1 April 2014

RRP6 Refugee Planning Figure

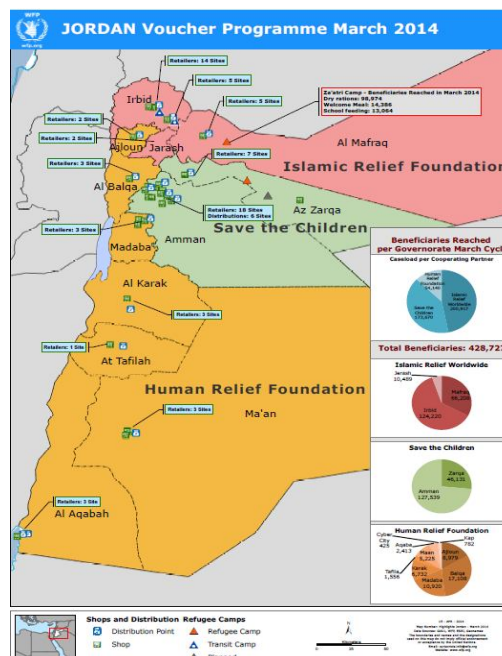
MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Complementary assistance: In March, the Lutheran World Federation distributed complementary food vouchers to 2,875 Syrian refugees in Mafraq, and 2,460 Syrian refugees in Irbid. The group targeted by this distribution includes unregistered refugees, as well as vulnerable households.

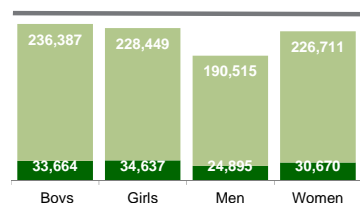
E-vouchers: WFP completed the second tranche of e-voucher distributions including the following governorates: Ma'an, Tafila, Karak and Balqa as well as Ramtha district in Irbid. Distributions for the third tranche are ongoing in the Tabrbour district of Amman and should conclude mid-April. Alongside e-card distributions WFP is distributing a wallet to each household for storing their e-card.

Azraq: WFP is in the process of creating a shop in Azraq camp which is planned to be completed prior to the opening of the camp. This will be the first time WFP starts assistance in camp setting with vouchers and a dedicated supermarket.

Nutrition: WFP cooperating partners Medair and Save the Children Jordan continue to implement the targeted nutrition programme for the treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition in the host community and Zaatar camp. Save the Children Jordan started the age appropriate blanket distributions of SuperCereal Plus for all children between 6-23 months of age in Zaatar camp on 30 March with plans to reach 6,000 children on a distribution cycle of three days.



POPULATION ASSISTED* BY FOOD SECURITY SECTOR IN MARCH



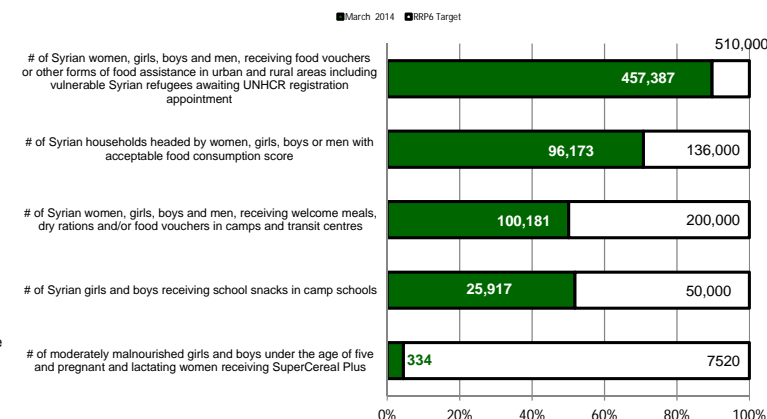
NEEDS ANALYSIS

Food expenditure constitutes more than one-third of all expenditure for both Syrian refugees and Jordanians. The income versus expenditure gap, caused by limited livelihood opportunities, rising rent, food and service prices, induces increased use of negative coping strategies as the Syrian crisis becomes more protracted, increasing the financial pressure on vulnerable refugees and Jordanians alike.

Syrian refugees are highly reliant on food assistance as their main food source, and thus food assistance remains a high priority to prevent the deterioration of refugees' food security status, particularly in camp settings where there are very few income opportunities. Increased food, rent and service prices, combined with the refugee competition for informal unskilled labour has aggravated the food security and livelihood conditions of poor Jordanians living in host communities.

Recent assessments and monitoring have shown that beneficiaries prefer to go to shops on a regular basis (multiple times per week), given that many households have limited food storage capacity. In addition, beneficiaries have expressed dissatisfaction in having to attend monthly distributions due to expensive transportation costs, compounded by difficult weather conditions in the winter months. E-cards bring several important benefits to the beneficiaries, including the possibility of spending their monthly entitlements in multiple visits to the shops. This offers beneficiaries much more flexibility in their food purchases, as well as a greater sense of normalcy. As they resemble debit cards, e-cards also provide a more discrete assistance modality.

PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS*



*The first three indicators are measured against monthly targets while the last two are measured against the annual targets



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Agencies who reported in this update:

