

WFP's Response Inside Syria and in Neighbouring Countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt

Reporting Period:
18 May – 5 June 2013



Syria

Heavy fighting in the city of Al-Qusayr has led to the displacement of over 7,500 people. Thousands of other civilians remain trapped as fighting intensifies. Hence, with every lull in hostilities, new waves of IDPs are expected to arrive in Hesieh, a nearby safe haven 25 km from Homs city. To assist the fleeing population of mainly women, children and the elderly, WFP dispatched to Hesieh enough food to attend to any surges in humanitarian needs, adding to its regular food allocation to the area. WFP was able to respond promptly due to the increase in needs due to the pre-positioning of rations at the SARC Homs warehouse. In addition, ready-to-eat rations, consisting of canned food, were dispatched and will be used as an immediate emergency intervention for IDPs who are lacking cooking facilities.

On 23 May, WFP's sub-office in Homs was able to assess the situation of those displaced from Al-Quasyr and seeking refuge in Hesieh. WFP was able to observe that most of the newly arrived were living in extremely precarious conditions either in open shelters, big tents or in housing with host families. SARC has been able to distribute humanitarian assistance to the affected population, including food rations provided by WFP, ICRC and UNICEF. Hostilities in Al-Wa'er (outside of Homs city) have also severely impacted the wellbeing of civilians. Prior to the current fighting, Al-Wa'er was considered a relatively safe area, concentrating a high number of IDPs who had fled from violence in other areas. At the time of reporting, these IDPs, as well as other vulnerable civilians, were restricted from leaving the city as it has been declared a military zone. To assist these families, WFP dispatched trucks loaded with enough food for 66,000 people to its cooperating partners in Homs. This was in addition to food for 20,000 people which was already in stock for distribution when fighting intensified. To date, enough WFP food for 82,000 people are pre-positioned in the event of any surge in needs.

Packaging Facilities A unique feature of WFP's assistance inside Syria is how food rations are



packed prior to distribution. All bulk commodities must pass through WFP's four packaging facilities located in Damascus, Tartous and Lattakia. In each facility, 33kg packages of up to ten items are created for Syrian families. Commodities appear in one box with items that would regularly be purchased from a supermarket, helping to provide a sense of normalcy, and dignity, for conflict-affected families. Out of the approximately 3,000 Syrians employed as a result of WFP's operations inside Syria, over 800 work to package WFP's food rations. Many of these Syrians are themselves internally displaced.

Access

Access to the governorates of Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zorr, Idleb, Al-Hassakeh, Homs, Al-Raqqa and some locations in Rural Damascus continue to be limited due to security challenges. The customs clearance of commodities arriving at the ports of Tartous and Beirut were subject to some delays during the past month.

Monitoring

During the reporting period, WFP field monitors were able to visit the district of Mobadaret, Damascus where they visited distribution sites for displaced families registered with the Ahl Al-Sham Initiative charity. Most of the 17,500 people registered by the organization are from Daria, Douma, Akraba, Eien Tarma and other areas of Rural Damascus.

WFP field monitors also visited Adraa Umailieh in Rural Damascus, where more than 80,000 people are registered with the local SARC branch. As part of the monitoring visit, WFP was able to see first-hand the door-to-door distribution of 8,000 rations. Most IDPs to whom food was distributed live in unfinished buildings. Field monitors noted that food assistance provided by WFP covers only a small part of the food needs of IDPs. While WFP was able to observe functioning markets, their access by vulnerable families is highly limited due to their deteriorated purchasing power.

Partnerships

WFP is targeting 2.5 million beneficiaries monthly with general food distribution, through the dispatch of family food rations to cooperating partners for their distribution to beneficiaries. During June, WFP plans to dispatch food for 1.5 million beneficiaries through SARC, while a million is to be covered by local NGO/ charity partners. WFP will continue to work in June with the same 19 NGO/ charity partners, as during its April and May cycles. Moreover, an additional two NGO/ charity partners- bringing the total to 21- will also be included to the total of cooperating partners for June. These new partners are in Lattakia and Aleppo.

Logistics

In response to growing needs in Syria, and the consequent rise in demand from the humanitarian community, the Logistics Cluster has begun expanding its storage area in Safita (Tartous). Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) for an initial storage capacity of approximately 1,500 m² will be established. This space will be available for all humanitarian partners who require storage for their relief items.

In 2013, the Cluster has stored over 17,000 m³ of relief items on behalf of ACF, DRC, IOM, Premiere Urgence, Secours Islamique France, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNDP, UNRWA, and WHO. The items stored include essential items such as hygiene kits, first aid kits, blankets, mattresses, quilts, cooking stoves, jerry cans, seeds, supplementary food, sugar, and rice. The quantities of items are set to rise in line with the increasing service requests being received from Logistics Cluster partners

The Safita storage facility will serve as a major staging area for Cluster operations. The site is strategically situated close to Tartous Port, enabling the temporary storage of large amounts of life-saving commodities on behalf of partners, ready to be dispatched swiftly to locations all over the country.



Jordan

The rate of arrival of Syrian refugees entering Jordan has significantly dropped from nearly 2,000 people per day in mid-May to almost zero in the last week. It is unclear as to why the flow of refugees suddenly ceased, although reports of heavy fighting in the border areas may be preventing many displaced Syrians from crossing the border. WFP has been preparing for an influx and has sufficient stocks in place to meet immediate food needs of these arrivals.

Syrians in Jordan
UNHCR Registered: 389,459
Awaiting Registration: 83,172
Total: 472,631

On 20 May the distribution for school feeding was postponed due to demonstrations outside the school. These demonstrations were due to refugees requesting caravan accommodation. In Al Za'atri camp, multiple demonstrations took place most often due to water access issues and the need for additional caravans.

Mild disorders have also been observed during the bread distribution, though these were adequately controlled by Save the Children International staff and refugee volunteers.

Food assistance May

In Jordanian communities, WFP reached over 185,000 Syrian refugees with food vouchers, equal to 97 percent of the UNHCR manifest in May. The three percent not reached did not come to distribution sites either because they are not in need of assistance, could not be located by cell phone, or have returned back to Syria.

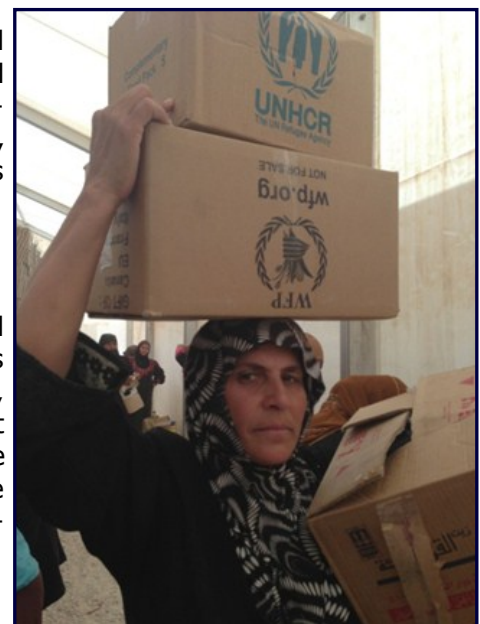
WFP reached 133,941 beneficiaries with dry rations in Al Za'atri camp during the month of May. WFP distributed around half a million pita bread (~28mt) every day to the entire population in Al Za'atri camp and school feeding is on-going, currently reaching over 4,000 students with fortified date bars on a daily basis.

Regional Response Plan (RRP5)

Despite the recent decrease of the refugee flow, the Regional Response Plan (RRP5) assumes that the number of refugees seeking safety in Jordan will increase again. In line with RRP5, WFP will be increasing its response capacity in Jordan to assist over 890,000 Syrian refugees with food assistance—a figure almost triple the current reach. The majority of this assistance will be delivered in the form of food vouchers. WFP has provided 71 million meals since January 2013.

Monitoring

WFP field monitors conducted distribution (DM) and post-distribution monitoring (PDM) in Jordanian communities and Al Za'atri camp. Recent post-distribution monitoring within Jordanian communities confirms that the voucher programme is functioning well and people are generally satisfied with this assistance. However, it was noted that respondents lack the purchasing power to access their most desired types of food. It also showed that the voucher assistance is the only assistance received by some 57 percent of refugee households. In addition, nearly half of the people who were surveyed reported their main food source came from WFP food vouchers.



Lebanon

The deteriorating security situation and rise in sectarian tension remains a major cause of concern for WFP operations inside Lebanon. As a result, the May distribution has been disrupted and delayed. On 21 and 22 May, WFP operations in Wadi Khalid were suspended for two days due to incidents of shelling. In northern Lebanon, UN operations in Aarsal, Hermel (Bekaa), Tripoli and Wadi Khalid were suspended for much of the reporting period due to attacks, street fighting and shelling. The northern highway to Tripoli, leading to the Lebanon/Syria border crossing of Al Arida has been sporadically opening and closing during the last week due to security issues.

Syrians in Lebanon
UNHCR Registered: 430,326
Awaiting Registration: 76,615
Total: 506,941

Tripoli hosts two thirds of the population WFP is trying to assist in north Lebanon. If distributions are suspended for June, approximately 100,000 Syrian refugees will go without assistance. An alternative distribution site is being sought to allow access to Syrian refugees if fighting continues. The demand for food parcels for new arrivals has reached their highest levels. Due to above security reasons, WFP has thus far reached approximately 321,000 Syrian refugees with WFP food assistance in May.

Regional Response Plan (RRP5) To date, Lebanon has kept its borders open for persons fleeing Syria, and those who have entered through official borders (85 percent) have been able to move freely within the country. Currently, one in every 9 people in Lebanon is a Syrian refugee. With 4,200 hundred refugees approaching UNHCR for registration each day, the capacity to absorb newcomers is increasingly stretched. At end December 2012, there were some 175,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Just four months later that number has almost tripled and the planning figure set by humanitarian partners for June 2013 of 300,000 refugees has long been surpassed. The estimated number of refugees by December 2013 is more than 1 million people--almost 25 percent of the total population of Lebanon. The number of people WFP plans to assist by the end of December 2013 is over 1.2 million, a 400 percent increase. Thusfar, WFP has given USD\$30 million in vouchers, and will continue to assist most of its beneficiaries in Lebanon through food vouchers (1 million). A minor portion is reserved for targeted food distribution (approximately



Turkey

WFP's assistance in Turkey, through the e-food card, has grown rapidly over the past three months. In March, over 34,500 Syrians were assisted by the programme, in April this figure more than doubled to reach over 74,000 people and in May the total estimated number of Syrians assisted was 99,000, achieving 99 percent of the planned figure. The total amount of funds transferred to beneficiaries since the start of the programme in October 2012 is US\$11.9 million.

Syrians in Turkey
UNHCR Registered: 349,195
Awaiting Registration: 27,385
Total: 376,580

Regional Response Plan (RRP5)

The number of camps planned by the government continues to increase due to the escalating conflict and increased number of Syrians seeking protection in Turkey. Following the successful implementation of the WFP and Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRC) e-food voucher programme, WFP



has been requested by the Government to scale up its assistance to reach the entire Syrian population in all camps. WFP will reach 110,000 beneficiaries by June 201, and 300,000 by the end of the year. Currently over USD\$11 million have been disbursed in food vouchers.

Monitoring Ongoing monitoring visits by WFP and TRC staff to the markets are helping to ensure that the necessary quality and quantity of food is available to all Syrians in camps. Furthermore, WFP is ensuring that market prices are fair so that the allocated US \$45 per person per month is sufficient.

The security situation in Hatay remains tense after the bombing last month in Reyhanli. WFP field monitors are conducting interviews with beneficiaries outside of camps due to access restrictions to the camps in this area; shopping activities outside of the camps have also been somewhat restricted.

WFP and TRC are preparing a workshop towards the end of the month that will bring together the Disaster Preparedness and Response Presidency (AFAD), local governors and other authorities to share lessons and experiences from the different camps where the e-voucher has been implemented. It will be the first type of workshop of this nature for the programme and will provide a valuable opportunity for camp managers to learn from each other about how to improve the programme and resolve any issues. As this is the first time that an Electronic Card has been used by WFP since the onset of a crisis, both WFP and TRC are keen to capture and share experiences and lessons learned.



Iraq

In the month of May, WFP reached approximately 46,000 Syrian refugees through food vouchers valued at US\$1.4 million. In the Al-Qaim camps, approximately 3,200 food parcels were distributed as well as 3.6 mt of fortified biscuits under the school feeding programme. In the two schools in Domiz camp a total of 4.3 mt of fortified biscuits were distributed to 2,150 students. Distributions to schools in the camps will continue throughout the summer as part of summer school activities, since the current school year in Iraq ended on 25 May. Afkar Organization will be responsible for implementation of the school summer activities in Al Qa'im.

Syrians in Iraq

UNHCR Registered: 155,139



(WFP/Dina El-Kassaby)

WFP has instituted several new processes to expedite the waiting time at the distribution point for the food vouchers—including a numbering system that has increased the number of Syrian refugees targeted from 400 to 1,000 per day. The number of UNHCR registered refugees from the host communities in need of food assistance is increasing, and WFP plans to scale-up its operations in Iraq to better meet the needs in the coming months.



A Syrian refugee in Domiz said: "We chose to leave when the situation became unbearable. My husband couldn't work anymore, the kids couldn't go to school, and we had no money to buy food. The kids would ask me for breakfast and I had to tell them, "no dear, we don't have anything to eat."

Regional Response Plan (RRP5) In line with the Regional Response Plan (RRP5) the number of Syrian refugees WFP plans to assist by December 2013, is 186,000 people. WFP plans to reach 156,000 people through the distribution of food vouchers, food parcels for 30,000 refugees and fortified biscuits for 6,000 students as part of the school feeding programme in the refugee camps. WFP has provided over 10.6 million meals since January 2013.

Security Ongoing sectarian violence in Iraq remains a huge concern for WFP. Over 500 security incidents were recorded in different parts of the country involving the use of various types of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and small arms fire (SAF). Areas affected include Al Qaim, Baghdad, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salahuddin.

Egypt

Food voucher distributions for May have been successfully completed reaching over 27,000 Syrian people in 6th of October and Obour (greater Cairo), Damietta and Alexandria. Voucher distributions have been consistently achieving 94-97 percent of the target since the second month of operation.

Syrians Egypt
UNHCR Registered: 57,467
Under Registration: 19,382
Total: 76,849

WFP is exploring the possibility of replacing the paper voucher for greater Cairo with magnetic cards, similar to Alexandria and Damietta, in order to reduce administration. The magnetic voucher requires less paper work, does not need to be activated every month by the supermarket and is easier to manage if not returned by the people before the next distribution.



(WFP/Egypt)

Regional Response Plan (RRP5)

For June, WFP plans to reach over 28,000 Syrian refugees, while in the upcoming Regional Response Plan (RRP5) seeks to target 40,000 Syrian refugees by August and 60,000 by the December 2013, doubling the current caseload. WFP has delivered over USD\$2 million in vouchers since January 2013.

Monitoring

During recent monitoring visits, WFP has reported complaints from refugees and supermarket staff from one particular supermarket in 6th of October (greater Cairo). People complained about high prices and poor-quality products compared to other supermarkets. In addition, complaints were heard about poor treatment from supermarket staff.



On the other hand the supermarket complained about theft, damages, and disruption to the store.

As a result, price comparison was conducted between WFP and non-WFP supermarkets, where similar prices were found. It was also revealed that there were long waiting times (in some cases of several hours) to purchase food. In some cases, damaged goods were due to overcrowding.



(WFP/Egypt)

WFP is exploring ways to reduce the crowding at the supermarket by limiting the vouchers validity on specific days. Furthermore, WFP is improving the messaging at voucher distribution sites. WFP continues to work with the refugee committee and supermarket management to improve the issues in the supermarkets.

Innovative Solutions for Regional Challenges

- Through monitoring activities and a voucher hotline, WFP has received feedback that some shops in Jordan lack a diverse array of fruits and vegetables. In some areas of Jordan, separate shops are designated for produce only. WFP is therefore contracting additional large supermarkets to ensure that a full range of products are available. Through the e-voucher programme, WFP will be able to split the vouchers between shops to better accommodate the needs of the people and provide a more diverse array of commodities to choose from.
- WFP Egypt introduced an SMS service to inform refugees of voucher distribution schedules. Given the fact that refugees reside in a vast geographic area, delivering information to refugees proves difficult. Since the inception of the SMS method, the number of refugees coming to the distribution has increased significantly. In addition, WFP Egypt has displayed WFP's Code of Conduct at voucher distribution sites. The code includes priority for voucher distribution to vulnerable groups - including pregnant women, elderly and disabled - and discourages unruly behaviour previously experienced. The list of Syrian refugees by UNHCR number and corresponding distribution times are also being displayed at distribution sites to prevent overcrowding and reduce waiting times.

- WFP Iraq has constructed shade spots at the voucher distribution centre in Domiz camp, including benches for both men and women. This has eased the overcrowding in the centre and beneficiaries are now organized through a numbering system, improving waiting times for refugees in Domiz camp. As a result the number of Syrian refugees served has risen from 400 vouchers to nearly 1000 vouchers per day, improving the voucher delivery rate.
- In October 2012, over one and half years ago, WFP started the first Electronic Food Card Programme in partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS). This is the first, and so far only, debit card type which is used in a WFP voucher programme. Through the programme, refugees are provided with one card per household that is uploaded with US\$45 per person monthly that can be redeemed in selected shops to procure food commodities barring sweets, junk food, soft drinks and alcohol.
- WFP Lebanon is the only country which provides support to the local community. As the number of Syrian refugees seeking safety in Lebanon constantly keeps increasing, the pressure on host communities and local resources also keeps increasing. Though support to Lebanese host communities, WFP is decreasing tensions between the refugees and the host communities.

Funding & Shortfalls

With the heightened conflict, an increasing number of Syrians are in need of humanitarian assistance. WFP plans to increase its reach inside Syria to 3 million people from July through to September, and 4 million people from October until the end of the year. In the neighbouring countries WFP will gradually scale up and more than double its anticipated target to 2.8 million people by the end of the year. Overall WFP plans to reach 6.8 million vulnerable Syrians both inside and outside Syria by year end.

WFP operations in Syria and the region, overall, **cost \$26 million per week**. WFP anticipates that these costs will remain the same **through September**. Of this total, \$11 million is required for our Syria response and \$15 million for the neighbouring countries through September. With the planned scale up, **WFP Operations will cost in total \$36 million per week from October through December**. Of this \$14 million is required for our Syria response and \$22 million for the neighbouring countries. WFP requires additional contributions of **\$723 million** to cover unmet needs from now until the end of the year.

WFP is grateful for the critical support provided by multilaterals donors in response to the Syria crisis, as well as of Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Turkey, Russia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, the United States and private donors. This week, WFP welcomed the generous donations of **New Zealand and Hungary**.





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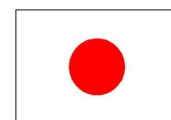
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