



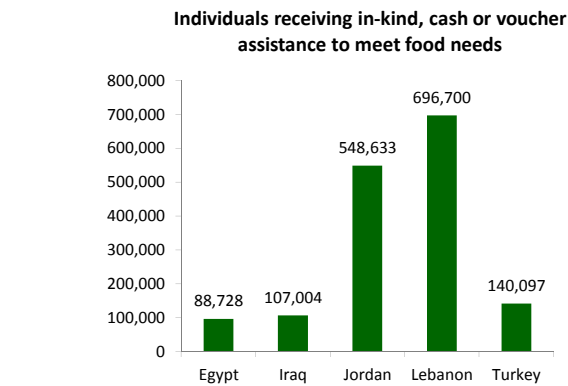
Over 1.5 million people have now been reached with in-kind, cash or voucher assistance to meet food needs in 2014

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS:

**Food assistance programmes** were expanded in Turkey to include Midyat camp, bringing the number of camps in the programme to 16 and the number of beneficiaries receiving food assistance to over 140,000 across the country. In Egypt, a fifth distribution site has been opened in Tanta city and, as a result, an extra 1,200 people will be included in the distribution from next month. A new distribution site was also opened in Damietta to resolve security issues and overcrowding at the old location. In Lebanon, the number of shops contracted under the food assistance programme has now reached over 300. With the opening of Azraq camp in Jordan, newly arrived refugees are receiving an in-kind food pack as well as arrival vouchers which can be spent at the Sameh Market supermarket in the camp.

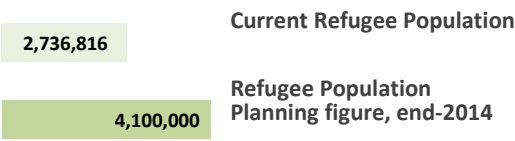
Modalities such as **food vouchers and e-vouchers** are increasingly replacing the in-kind food distributions across the region. In Egypt, the majority of beneficiaries in Greater Cairo are now assisted through e-vouchers, while Alexandria and Damietta still use paper vouchers. Proposals for retailers in three camps in Iraq are currently being evaluated in steps toward establishing voucher programmes across the refugee camps (which, aside from Domiz camp, currently all use in-kind distributions). In Turkey, e-Food Cards are used as the distribution methodology, while in Lebanon sector partners use a variety of e-cards, vouchers and cash transfers (along with traditional food parcels).

In Iraq, a **Joint Assessment Mission (JAM)** has commenced to determine the food security and nutrition needs of both camp and non-camp refugees, while a multi-sector vulnerability assessment is in planning for Egypt.



E-card distribution at Nabatiyeh, Lebanon. WFP/Dalia Khamissy.

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:



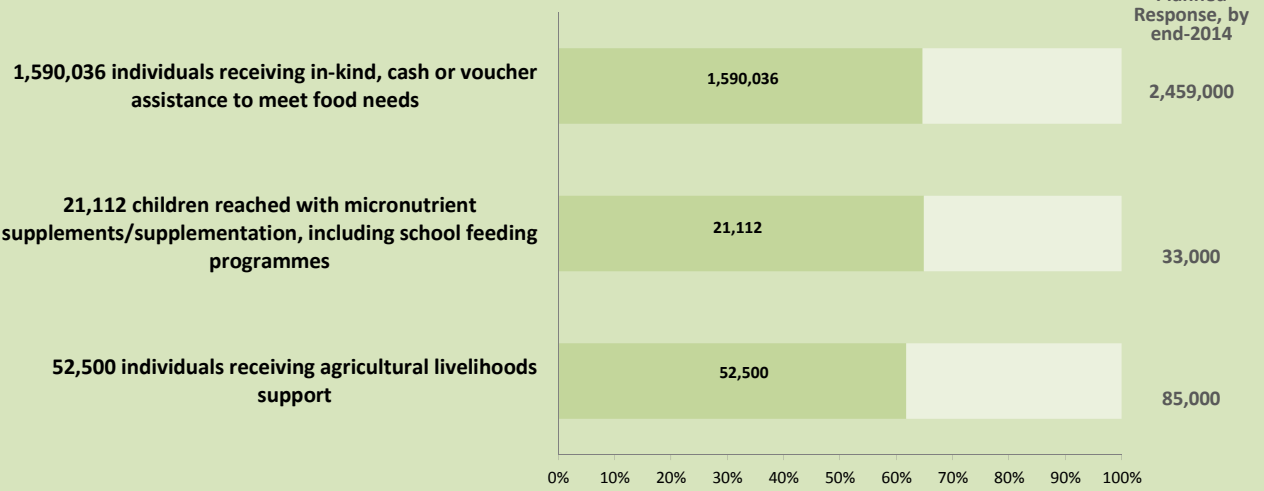
NEEDS ANALYSIS:

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 Egypt, sector partners are currently preparing joint multi-sector household-level vulnerability assessments to ensure the most vulnerable and food-insecure refugees are targeted and sustainably supported. In Iraq, large numbers of Syrian refugees, in both camp and non-camp settings, have cited food as their top priority need - and a major new assessment of food security (the JAM) is currently underway. 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, many 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:



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 2.7 million refugees in the region and the overall RRP6 appeal is 27% funded.