



Over 1.8 million refugees and vulnerable members of impacted communities are now receiving food assistance

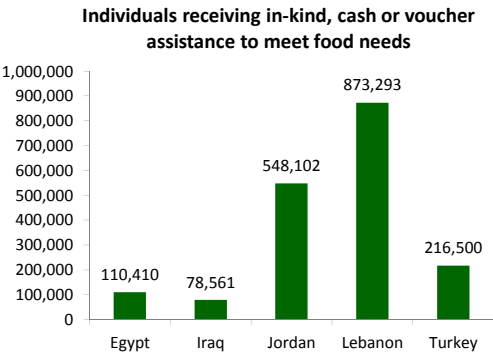
JULY HIGHLIGHTS:

The continued implementation of enhanced beneficiary verification in Iraq's Domiz Camp has led to a substantial decrease in the number of beneficiaries, from more than 72,000 to just under 67,000. Including the more than 11,500 refugees in Akre, Arbat, Gewilan and Qushtapa Camps, some 78,500 refugees are now being reached each month in Iraq with **food assistance**. In Egypt, the number of beneficiaries reached with food assistance is now 110,000, in Turkey it is some 216,500, in Jordan almost 550,000, and in Lebanon some 873,000.

Post-distribution monitoring continues to show that food assistance is having a positive **socio-economic impact**. In Egypt, negative coping strategies such as buying food on credit or borrowing money decreased from an average of 16.1 per cent in the first quarter of the year to 12.5 per cent during the second quarter. USD 3.2 million was injected into the Egyptian economy through food vouchers in July, while \$5.8 million was injected in Turkey, around \$2 million in Iraq, and almost \$24 million in Lebanon.

In Turkey, the e-food card programme continued to expand with six new shops contracted, enhancing healthy **market competition** and providing shops with incentives to stabilize prices, provide better services and follow programme regulations. In Egypt, Carrefour, the largest supermarket partner, is providing a 3 per cent discount on all purchases made with e-cards, amounting to an estimated contribution of \$52,000 in July.

In Jordan, a special **Ramadan distribution** of 1,000 mt of dates took place in July, reaching almost 75,000 Syrian refugees and local Jordanians, while a Ramadan food parcel was also distributed to all refugees in Azraq Camp.



JHCO staff distributing dates in Jordan on behalf of WFP.

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

2,920,207	Refugee Population, end-July 2014
3,590,000	Refugee Population Planning figure, end-2014

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The supply of agriculture and food products and production capacity is increasingly under strain due to the Syria crisis. Up to 25 per cent of domestic food supply in the region is sourced from rural, mostly poor populations, often in areas hosting large numbers of refugees. There are increased reports of trans-boundary animal and plant diseases and pests in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. RRP partners across the region are concerned about early indications of water shortages which may impact domestic food production, livestock availability and, consequently, livelihoods. Water shortages could further increase retail prices for food products and reduce informal labour opportunities. The gap between wages earned and household expenditure is forcing families to take out loans and engage in other negative coping strategies.

The estimated number of people who will be in need of food assistance by the end of 2014 is some 2.6 million. Pre-assistance baseline monitoring reports indicate that Syrian refugees arrive in neighbouring countries with very low levels of food consumption. In Lebanon, 27 per cent of newly-arriving Syrian refugees were categorized as having poor to borderline food consumption scores. Refugees who had access to food assistance were likely to significantly improve, by more than 100 per cent within one month of receiving food assistance. In Jordan, the WFP/REACH Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise (CFSME), released in July, found that while only 6 per cent of Syrian refugees are food insecure, 42 per cent remain vulnerable to food insecurity, with the vulnerability increasing with the length of time spent in Jordan. This evidence supports the necessity of not only maintaining food assistance in the region but also for food assistance to continue to be a strategic priority and for an examination into alternative, more sustainable, means for meeting basic food needs.

