

REGIONAL: RRP6 MONTHLY UPDATE - OCTOBER

FOOD SECURITY



Reductions in food assistance were avoided this month thanks to extra funding provided by donors

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS:

Distribution of food assistance across the region was carried out as planned, without the reductions in voucher values or beneficiaries expected as a result of funding shortages.

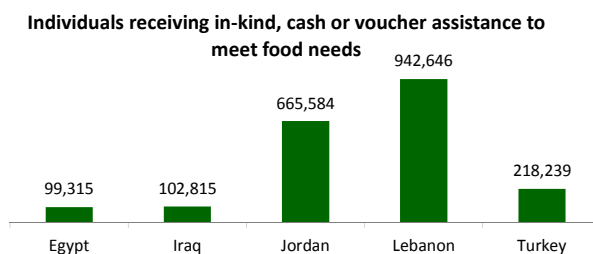
In Egypt, over 99,000 beneficiaries were reached during October. Analysis of September redemption figures of Carrefour e-vouchers was finalized, showing 97 per cent of the planned figures were reached - significant improvement compared to previous cycles. This is mainly due to the previous verification exercises in which around 10,000 beneficiaries were removed from the Greater Cairo distribution list as they are no longer physically present.

In Lebanon, the reduction of e-card voucher value, and thus reduced kilo calorie intake by refugees, was avoided thanks to extensive donor engagement and subsequent support. The sector reached some 922,419 Syrian refugees with the USD30 per individual food voucher. Some 39,569 newly arrived refugees were also assisted with food parcels. Other food security sector partners reached some 20,230 vulnerable individuals among the four different caseloads.

In Turkey the number reached through the e-card programme was more than 218,000 people in camps, while a further 14,750 were assisted by RRP partners in Suruc and Gazientep through other modalities. Monitoring shows that contracting shops outside the camps helped increase competition among the camp shops and improved services, while post distribution monitoring shows that beneficiaries used up their entire voucher value prior to the end of the month.

In Iraq, more than 100,000 people were assisted with in-kind, cash, or vouchers to help meet their food needs during the month. With the influx of refugees fleeing the fighting in Kobane, Syria, partners provided hot meals and immediate response rations to new arrivals, as well as adding them to the regular distributions.

In Jordan, more than 665,000 people have now been reached this year with food vouchers or other forms of food assistance in camps and communities.



Jordan, WFP

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

3,181,848

Refugee Population, end-October 2014

3,590,000

Refugee Population Planning figure, end-2014

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The supply of agriculture and food products and production capacity is under strain due to the Syria crisis. Up to 25% 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 the second quarter of 2014, 20 per cent of newly arriving Syrian refugees in Lebanon had poor food consumption scores, and 31 per cent had borderline food consumption scores. In Jordan, the WFP/REACH Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise (CFSME), released in July, found that 74% of Syrian refugees relied on WFP food vouchers as their primary source of income, while an estimated 85 percent of refugees in Jordan would not have economic access to sufficient food without WFP vouchers, 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.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY TO OCTOBER 2014

