



### 46,608 Syrian refugees received food assistance

#### Modalities of food distribution:

- **Food vouchers** : in 8 camps (Domiz 1&2, Arbat, Basirma, Darashakran, Gawilan, Kawergosk and Qushtapa).
- **Unrestricted cash**: pilot distribution at Akre Castle camp.

### FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

46,608 Syrian refugees received much-needed assistance throughout February 2016. In the 9 refugee camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), most eligible refugees received food vouchers.

Pilot distributions of unrestricted cash through the use of electronic SCOPE cards started in February. The pilot distributions began on 8 February in Akre, Dohuk governorate, and reached approximately 811 Syrian refugees.

Extremely food insecure Syrian refugees in the Akre castle refugee camp received USD 19 per person in the February distribution cycle, while moderately food insecure families received USD 10 per person. This is in line with the targeting principles used to distribute e-vouchers to refugees in other camps in the KR-I, and was managed using the SCOPE system.

Under the pilot, which is being implemented by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), refugees are receiving cash assistance through money transfer agents. This modality will be scaled up in the coming months.

The SCOPE system was rolled out in two additional refugee camps, Gawilan and Arbat, during the February distribution cycle. SCOPE e-voucher cards were topped-up for entitlements in the Kawergosk and Darashakran refugee camps, following the launch of SCOPE in those camps last month.



WFP/Mohammed al-Bahbahani

### Food Voucher Value



- \* Tiered approach continued in Feb 2016:
- 1,288 individuals received US \$19 paid in IQD
  - 45,320 individuals received US\$10 paid in IQD
  - 811 individuals received unrestricted cash

### NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Funding shortfalls have already led to the implementation of targeting in order to provide adequate assistance to the Syrian refugees currently staying in camps in Iraq.

However, targeting comes with many difficulties as individual situations can change rapidly. For example, those previously noted as working and therefore ineligible to receive assistance may now be unable to do so. This means that assessments are continually ongoing in order to ascertain levels of food security.

The introduction of unrestricted cash distributions is likely to bring new challenges. While refugees are afforded more freedom and greater dignity by being given cash, security will have to remain vigilant during such distributions. Monitoring and evaluation of the cash will also need to be carefully scrutinised.

The Syrian refugee operation in Iraq has a six-month net funding requirement of USD 7.4 million from February until July 2016. This is the amount WFP needs to continue assisting Syrian refugees in Iraq for the next six months.

Lead Agencies: WFP, nelly.opiyo@wfp.org, FAO, Fadel El-Zubi, fadel .elzubi@fao.org



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### IRAQ RESPONSE INDICATORS: FEBRUARY 2016

