



Funding constraints remain amidst a deterioration in food security for Syrian refugees

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

WFP's ongoing efforts to continuously assess the vulnerability of the refugee population remains the basis against which assistance is channelled to those most in need. However, limited resources continued to result in reduced levels of support even to the most vulnerable Syrian families in June.

In Jordan, support provided to 240,000 vulnerable and 190,000 extremely vulnerable refugees was reduced by 50 and 25 per cent respectively of what it was in April. Further cuts have, however, been announced for refugees living in urban areas. Several discussions have been held with donors, partners and the Government of Jordan, including on alternative mechanisms to provide refugees access to resources. Contingency plans on how best to support refugees in such a situation are being discussed.

In Lebanon, levels of assistance to approximately 877,000 Syrian refugees remained at USD 19, below the USD 27 planned value for 2015. Further cuts are foreseen in July when the e-card value is expected to further decrease by 30 per cent (USD 13.5), 50 per cent of the original plan. The food sector is engaged in contingency planning efforts to work to fill gaps where possible.

In Egypt, the reduced voucher remained at USD 17 per person per month instead of the USD 24 foreseen for 2015. The food sector continues to shift from geographical to vulnerability targeting by using a targeting methodology based on a combination of food consumption score, an assessment of refugees' coping strategies and food Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB).

In Iraq, refugees received vouchers valued at USD 19 per person. The voucher value was originally reduced in February from USD 28.20 and will remain at US\$19 per person in July due to continued funding constraints.

In Turkey, food assistance has until now only been provided to camp-based Syrian refugees. Considering that the majority of the camp-based beneficiaries rely on e-cards as their primary source of food, further cuts in assistance may jeopardize much of the progress made to address the growing food requirements. At the same time, a pre-assistance and targeting exercise for the off-camp population programme started in early June.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The majority of refugees from Syria rely on humanitarian food assistance as their primary source of food. Without such support, refugee vulnerabilities would increase, particularly affecting groups such as female-headed households, children, the elderly, those with chronic illness, and persons with disabilities.

The threats to agriculture could also have long-term repercussions if unaddressed. The crisis is putting increasing pressure on scarce natural resources and the uncontrolled entry of diseased plants and animals from Syria could devastate the region's food chain. As conflict and displacements continue, the lack of funding for agriculture interventions would seriously undermine efforts to protect and restore food security, employment, economic growth, the natural resource base and social cohesion throughout the region.



Shopping through vouchers in Jordan. WFP

Sector Response Summary:



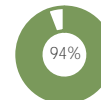
2,358,096 Refugees & Local
Community Members targeted for
assistance by end-2015
1,856,412 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



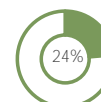
4,270,000 Syrian Refugees
expected by end-2015
4,020,094 currently registered or
awaiting registration



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.5 billion
required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 1.072 billion received in 2015



FOOD INSECURITY ON THE RISE:

In Jordan, initial findings from the Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise (CFSME) for 2015 carried out by WFP and REACH show a deterioration in food security for the Syrian refugee population compared to 2014. Fifteen per cent of households have been assessed as food secure, down from 52 per cent last year. The CFSME also found that approximately 80 per cent of Syrian refugees are currently living below the national absolute poverty line of USD 40-96 per month. There has been a drastic increase in the number of households adopting negative coping strategies in order to buy food, with 12 per cent more households sending a male child to work as opposed to school, since 2014.

In Lebanon, preliminary findings of the 2015 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) indicate both a decrease in the proportion of food secure families as well as those living above the national poverty level of USD 3.84 per person per day. To cope with less access to food, the proportion of families adopting harmful coping strategies, such as buying food on credit, selling household goods, withdrawing children from school and begging, increased by almost 30 per cent since last year.

In Iraq, preliminary findings of the 2015 Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment that was carried out in June indicate that most Syrian refugees in Iraqi camps are moderately food secure. This will see WFP implementing its targeting exercise in August, whereby food secure individuals will be cut from assistance which will enable the agency to focus its resources on the food insecure individuals

In Egypt, phone interviews with Syrian refugees and rapid field surveys highlighted that 10 per cent of households had reduced both the number and the portion size of meals consumed per day in the last year. According to WFP monitoring, this is more hard felt amongst female-headed households, with almost half reducing the number of meals consumed per day compared to 35 per cent of male-headed households.

As refugees struggle to meet their food needs, their reliance on negative and sometimes irreversible coping strategies has increased. A sustained reduction in the transfer value will reverse the gains that have been made in the region.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - JUNE 2015

■ Progress ■ Planned Response, by end-2015

1,856,412 individuals receiving food assistance (cash, voucher or in-kind)

79%

2,358,096

56,682 individuals received food & agricultural livelihoods support

38%

92,094

These dashboards reflect the achievements of the more than 200 partners, including governments, UN Agencies, and NGOs, involved in the 3RP response in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Progress and targets may change in line with data revisions. All data on this Dashboard is current as at 30 June 2015.