

Number of individuals receiving food assistance passes 2 million

HIGHLIGHTS:

In Turkey, the Food Security Sector reached a total of approximately 353,730 beneficiaries both in-camp and off-camp in June 2016, thereby meeting 94% of its planned target.

In Lebanon, 827,729 vulnerable people were reached with food assistance through various modalities. 27,208 vulnerable Lebanese were also supported by the National Poverty Targeting Programme. In-kind food parcels and hot meals were provided to complement the food assistance to more than 77,682 refugees and host communities. Among those assisted, 690 households were served through community kitchens.

In Jordan, more than 550,000 vulnerable people were reached with food assistance, and also several Ramadan specific food distributions were conducted by 3RP partners.

In Iraq, a total of 55,058 Syrian refugees received food assistance, 86 per cent of which was through e-vouchers. Ad hoc in-kind distributions continued during the month of June, reaching 7,773 individuals. This was a response to new arrivals in the camps, the ad hoc in-kind distributions are a temporary mitigation measure to cover gaps in voucher assistance and will last for up to three months.

In Egypt, food distributions reached 64,052 beneficiaries including 7,688 Palestinian refugees from Syria.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Despite the gains made through robust verification and targeting mechanisms, assessments show worsening food security statuses for refugees across the region. In Lebanon, the 2015 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VaSYR) has shown a significant worsening in overall food security since 2014. The sector has responded through the ramping up of assistance and re-instituting assistance for all members of households.

In Turkey, findings from a Pre-Assistance Baseline (PAB) Assessment show high levels of food insecurity and economic vulnerability in urban areas. The PAB found 11 percent of these interviewed refugee households had children involved in income generation to complement food needs. While the most commonly reported livelihood coping strategy was buying food on credit (49%), other strategies included spending savings (44%) and reducing non-essential non-food expenditures such as health and education (30%).

Beginning this year, Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) was implemented in Jordan, Iraq and Egypt, is currently ongoing in Lebanon, with expansion planned for Turkey. Findings from the first FSOM round that in Jordan, 30% of households surveyed have poor or borderline food consumption scores (FCS); in Iraq, 31% of households had poor or borderline FCS, whereas in Egypt, 26% of households had poor or borderline FCS.

Assessments by sector actors in Lebanon will also allow for better understanding of the impact of the crisis on the agricultural labour market.



Syrian refugees attend Iftar celebrations, Jordan.

UNHCR/Christopher Herwig

Sector Response Summary:



3,078,500 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end of 2016
2,057,970 assisted in 2016



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,687,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2016
4,790,600 currently registered



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.54 billion required in 2016
USD 1.41 billion received in 2016



RAMADAN PUTS DESPAIR OF MILLIONS OF SYRIANS INTO SHARP FOCUS

Abu Ahmad describes Ramadan as a special time back in Syria, when his extended family would come together to perform evening prayers and, after breaking their fast, spend long nights in the parks that dotted their neighbourhood of Homs, buying sweets and other treats for their children.

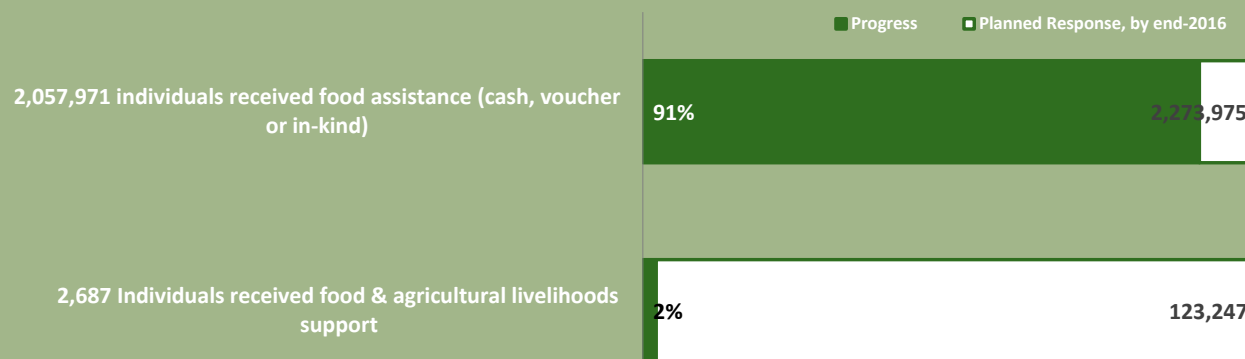
This year marks the family's third Ramadan in exile in Jordan, and the contrast with their happy memories back home is stark. "Here we never have enough money for food, even on a normal day, but especially during Ramadan. My children crave things that I know I can't afford, like apples and juice. That's why Ramadan here is basically spent indoors, as we can't afford the expense."

With the crisis now in its sixth year, Abu Ahmad's experience is a familiar one for millions inside Syria and in exile in neighbouring countries. The latest UNHCR data from two major refugee-hosting countries – Jordan and Lebanon – reveals an alarming rise in personal debt and impoverishment, ensuring that this Ramadan it will be harder than ever for Syrians to put food on the table at the end of the day.

Caught in a spiral of poverty and debt, refugees in Jordan are taking ever-more extreme measures to make ends meet. Only 20 per cent of households reported eating fruit at least once per week, while 40 per cent of families have members who have taken high-risk, illegal, degrading or exploitative temporary jobs to help pay for food and rent.

The number of cooked meals eaten daily by refugees in Lebanon is steadily declining. In 2015 – the most recent year for which data are available – one in three family members reported eating one or no cooked meals a day, up from one in four the previous year. Increasing poverty is also resulting in less nutritious eating habits, with 60 per cent of households saying they were unable to consume fruit or vegetables on a daily basis last year.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - JUNE 2016



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 2016. The first indicator progress refers to the highest number of monthly beneficiaries reached this year, while the second indicator is cumulative since the beginning of the year.