More than 6,000 individuals have received food and agricultural livelihoods support so far this year

HIGHLIGHTS:

In Turkey this month, 278,627 individuals of the targeted population received food assistance, including 128,446 individuals outside camps and 150,181 in camps.

In Lebanon, 720,690 persons were reached with food assistance through various modalities including vouchers, cash, and in-kind assistance. The beneficiaries assisted include 639,598 displaced Syrians reached through e-cards (99 per cent) and vouchers. In addition, thanks to funding contributions received in the last month, it was decided that the number of National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) beneficiaries will be gradually increased. As a result, 32,316 vulnerable Lebanese were supported by the NPTP in August.

In Jordan, 614,304 people received food assistance in August. Two 3RP partners coordinated the distribution of over 2,300 food vouchers to Syrian refugee households. Another 3RP partner distributed rice to over 89,000 beneficiaries.

In Iraq, a total of 58,624 Syrian refugees received assistance in August. In the final month of ad-hoc distributions, 7,825 refugees were supported with in-kind assistance, as well as 50,799 who were assisted through the SCOPE electronic system.

In Egypt, distributions took place from 14 to 22 August reaching 65,987 beneficiaries (63,072 Syrian refugees and 2,915 Palestinian refugees from Syria). Meanwhile, daily distributions of high energy biscuits (HEB) to support children in public primary schools were halted during August due to the summer holidays, but these will resume next month in September when the new semester begins.

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-instating 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.

General views of stores on the Champs Elysees, in Zaatari refugee camp. Zaatari has 3,000 shops throughout the camp. UNHCR/Jordi Matas

Sector Response Summary:

**3,078,500 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end of 2016
1,902,520 assisted in 2016**

62%

Syrian Refugees in the Region:

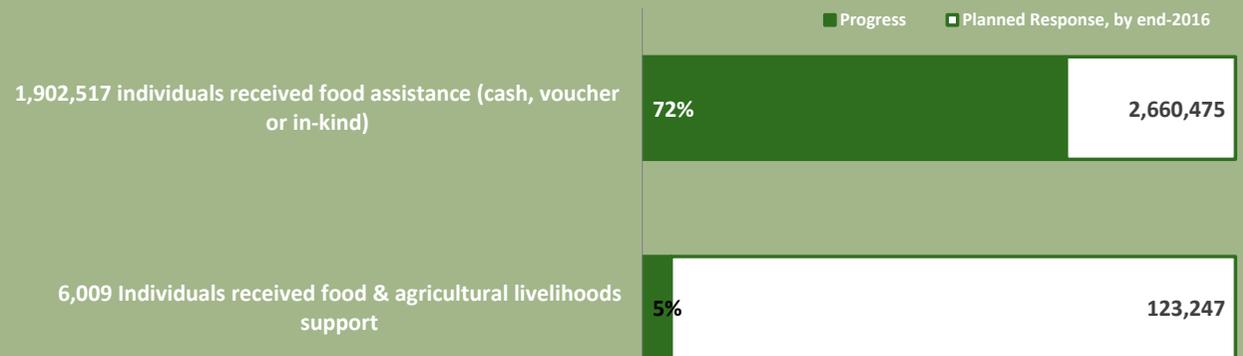**4,687,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2016
4,770,400 currently registered**

102%

3RP Overall Funding Status:

**USD 4.54 billion required in 2016
USD 2.16 billion received in 2016**

48%

"IMPROVING THE NUTRITION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES THROUGH GARDEN WALLS" IN LEBANON

The crisis in Syria has put tremendous pressure on the coping capacity of both refugees and host communities, impacting Lebanon's agricultural economy and food production capacity particularly in the most affected areas of northern and eastern Lebanon. Syrian refugees are not allowed to cultivate land in Lebanon, which has led to increased food insecurity rates and a critical need to assess alternative methods of food production.

The project, "Improving the nutrition of Syrian refugees and host communities through garden walls", was implemented from 15 September 2015 to 15 June 2016, with the overall objective to promote diversified and quality food for vulnerable landless households through the development of micro-gardens.

In the absence of arable land, micro-gardening, using features such as garden walls, tower gardens, table gardens, etc., is a proven and cost-effective technique to grow vegetables and herbs. Micro-gardens use cheap, readily available materials, such as used or discarded plastic boxes, drums or walls made from recycled plastic as receptacles that can be filled with soil and planted with seeds.

A key finding of the recently published project report, is that the simpler the structure, the better the success rate of the micro-garden. The availability of space, pest-resistant seed varieties, reliable water supply and protection from extreme weather were other key factors found to impact success rates.

With rare exceptions, women took the role of managing the micro-garden and the experience was well received by the 170 targeted beneficiaries. While the experience of micro-gardening was considered a fruitful addition to the family sites and improved the quality of life of the targeted beneficiaries in a very short period of time, the micro-garden technique should not be seen as a replacement of normal agriculture practices but only a substitution when the context prohibits the access of cultivable land.

For the full report, click here.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - AUGUST 2016

■ Progress ■ Planned Response, by end-2016

1,902,517 individuals received food assistance (cash, voucher or in-kind)

72%   **2,660,475**

6,009 Individuals received food & agricultural livelihoods support

5%   **123,247**

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 31 August 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.