



World Food Programme

REGIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATION 200433 Food assistance to Syrian populations in Jordan

Requirement: US\$15,467,197 Resourced: US\$8,103,411 Shortfall: US\$7,363,787

Background

The ongoing political and security crisis in Syria has led to a deterioration of socio-economic conditions in the country, particularly food security. Since March 2011, thousands of Syrians have crossed into Jordan to seek a safe haven. Many of these refugees are in need of humanitarian assistance, including food and shelter. Prices of commodities are higher in Jordan compared to Syria and the purchasing power of the refugees is minimal.

The Government of Jordan reports that over 142,000 Syrians have entered the country. As of 16 August, UNHCR has registered about 42,934 Syrians while an additional 3,964 persons are awaiting registration and approximately 50,000 have been identified by local organizations as being in need of assistance. During July, there has been a sharp increase in the number of Syrians arriving.

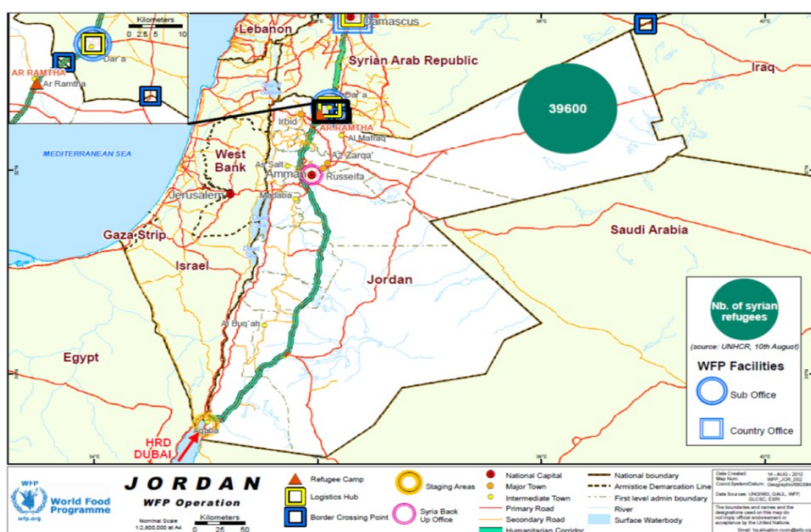
The majority of the Syrian refugees in Jordan are currently

hosted by local communities in urban areas. In April, the Government of Jordan and UNHCR set up three transit facilities in Ramtha, near the border with Syria, for Syrians who crossed the border into Jordan. The transit centres provide temporary shelter and protection upon arrival. A refugee camp in the Za'atari area has been opened to respond to the latest influx, .

WFP in Jordan

WFP established an office in Jordan in 1964 and has since implemented a large number of food assistance programmes. By the end of 2007, WFP phased out from direct food assistance in Jordan and replaced it with a development-focused programme offering technical support to government institutions.

Thanks to contributions from the governments of USA and the UK, the UN CERF, and ECHO, US\$8.1M has been resourced to date towards the emergency operation in Jordan leaving a budget shortfall of US\$7.4M.



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Achievements

At the onset of the Syrian crisis, WFP operated under an Immediate Response EMOP, funded by Japan, which allowed WFP to deliver food assistance to the transit centres starting in April. From May, WFP provided family food packages to refugees living in local communities while in parallel setting up a voucher scheme to provide longer-term assistance.

Hot Meals: After starting with an average of 750 hot meals per day in April, WFP is now providing some 18,800 meals per day in the transit centers in Ramtha and the Al Za'atari camp, reaching about 9,700 beneficiaries with two meals a day. In addition, WFP is distributing welcome packages to the new arrivals at Al Za'atari camp.

WFP will phase out the hot meals distribution in Al Za'atari camp, and start distribution of dry rations as soon as kitchen facilities are in place. WFP is currently prepositioning dry food commodities for the camp at the main warehouse in Amman.

Voucher programme: WFP is targeting 22,888 beneficiaries in the communities and in Cyber City transit center with vouchers. This month's distribution started on 5 August, through the implementing partners, Save the Children for Amman and Zarqa governorates (3,172 families), Islamic Relief Worldwide for the northern governorates (3,802 families) and the Human Relief

Foundation for the south and Cyber City transit centre (900 families). Beneficiaries have been redeeming their vouchers in retail stores since the beginning of August.

Challenges

High cost of hot meals: Hot meals are very costly, around US\$13,000-14,000 per week. WFP in coordination with UNHCR is working on the provision of cooking facilities at transit centres and the new camp which, once installed, should minimize costs.

Dissatisfaction of the refugee population in Al Zaatari Camp: A number of security incidents have taken place at the beginning of August in Al Zaatari camp that have hampered WFP's ability to provide assistance normally. A new Food Distribution Facility is under construction in the Za'atari camp for regular bi-weekly (dry) food distributions with improved security and crowd control measures.

Way Forward

- Budget revision to accommodate increased refugee caseload
- Roll out of WFP/ UNICEF nutrition survey of the Syrian refugees in the country.
- Continued resourcing to ensure healthy pipeline
- Maintain preparedness for further arrivals.

