

THE SYRIAN CRISIS: WFP's Response in: Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq Situation Report #2 Reporting Period: 14- 20 May 2012



- ## HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES
- The Regional EMOP to respond to refugees fleeing to **Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon**, was discussed and endorsed during WFP's internal project review committee on 17 May 2012. The targeted beneficiaries will increase over time, following UNHCR estimates, starting with 67,000 in July and rising to 140,000 in December.
 - In **Jordan**, WFP continued its distribution of food rations (rice, pulses, vegetable oil and sugar) via its partners the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) and the Jordanian Red Crescent to 25,000 Syrians who are living in host communities. Over 38 mt of food have been distributed so far (6 to 20 of May 2012) reaching 4,235 beneficiaries. WFP has also distributed more than 19,000 hotmeals in the transit centres since the start of this programme on 19 April, 2012.
 - In **Lebanon**, WFP will distribute food parcels for 7,000 beneficiaries for the month of June in the North through the implementing partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC). During that period WFP jointly with UNHCR will negotiate with the HRC to ensure a smooth transition to voucher modality for July cycle.
 - In **Iraq**, UN agencies and partners have set up working groups to assist the Syrian refugees; the Food and Nutrition group is led by WFP and UNICEF.
 - In parallel to the finalization of the Regional EMOP, WFP is working on contingency planning to ensure its ability to respond to any further deterioration of the situation in Syria and consequent increase in the refugee movement

Jordan

BENEFICIARIES

- The Government of Jordan has reported that over 110,000 Syrians have crossed the border so far. According to UNHCR, they have now registered 17,556 Syrian individuals and an additional 2,500 are awaiting registration, bringing the total to 20,056 (UNHCR WebSite, 19 May, 2012). Local organizations have already identified 35,000 individuals in need of assistance.

ACTIVITIES

- WFP continued its distribution of food rations (rice, pulses, vegetable oil and sugar) via its partners the JHCO and the JRC to 25,000 Syrians who are living in host communities. Over 38 mt of food have been distributed so far (6 to 20 of May 2012) reaching 4,235 beneficiaries.

- WFP has increased its target for in-kind distribution to 25,000 beneficiaries and aims to reach the target by the end of the May distribution cycle, covering Irbid, Zarqa, Mafraq, Karak and Amman.
- WFP has distributed more than 19,000 hotmeals in transit centres since the start of the program on 19 April, 2012 with an average of 750 meals per day, reaching a maximum of 900 beneficiaries per day.
- WFP and UNHCR have agreed that WFP will take over all food operations in the transit centers. Under this agreement WFP started delivering two meals/day in Al-Bashabsha and Stadium transit centres on 17 May.
- Also on 17 May, WFP began the distribution of dry rations in Cyber City facility, which UNHCR equipped with kitchens, and will phase out of delivery of hot meals to this facility.
- WFP is discussing with NGOs to identify an alternative and more cost efficient provider of hot meals. WFP is requesting proposals to start with a new provider by the beginning of the EMOPs distribution on 1 July.
- The assessment of retailer and supply chain capacity in areas with Syrian refugees is on-going.
- Two additional field monitors have been recruited for Ramtha and Amman to monitor, follow up and assist in the distribution of food commodities and hot meals in different areas.

Lebanon

In Lebanon, armed clashes erupted on 12 May between two rival communities in the northern city of Tripoli. Relative stability returned to the city, however violence broke out again on the night of 20 May in Tripoli and elsewhere in the country following the shooting death of a prominent cleric. While the situation has now stabilized, the recent conflict underlines how sensitive the security situation is in Lebanon related to events within Syria.

BENEFICIARIES

- UNHCR reports that there is no significant increase in numbers of displaced Syrians during the reporting period. The number of Syrians being assisted throughout the country remains at 26,000; 16,000 in the northern part of the country, 9,000 in Bekaa Valley and other smaller groups in Beirut and surroundings.
- 15,466 Syrians have been registered by UNHCR so far with an additional 3,000 in Tripoli and 7,500 in Bekaa Valley awaiting registration (UNHCR Website 19 May, 2012)
- Registration in the North was disrupted by the violent events in Tripoli but continued in Akkar where 590 persons were registered; 13,203 people have been registered in the North.
- Registration in the Bekaa Valley started last week and is completed in Aarsal (around 1,415 persons). Registration will continue with Saadnayel on 22 May. The rest of the registration process is expected to be completed in the Bekaa by the end of June (total expected caseload 7,500), UNHCR will then setup a continuous registration mechanism for new arrivals.

ACTIVITIES

- Following the request of UNHCR to take over half of the caseload in the North as a consequence of HRC's lack of funds to cover food needs, WFP will use part of the budget initially planned for vouchers to purchase food parcels for 7,000 beneficiaries for the month of June, procuring from the same supplier used by UNHCR to ensure continuity in the assistance. The food parcels will still be distributed by DRC. WFP and UNHCR will negotiate with the HRC to ensure a smooth transition to voucher modality in the North for the July cycle.
- WFP is planning to move into the ESCWA premises on 21st May. A similar arrangement is ready to be formalized between WFP and UNDP for the office in Chtaura – Bekaa Valley – on Monday 21st as well.
- FLAs with partners (WVI and DRC) will be signed before the end of May to enable WFP partners to start the distribution of the vouchers to registered beneficiaries.

- The RB voucher expert is on a two week mission to Beirut and the Bekaa Valley to provide technical support to the WFP's office for implementation of the voucher assistance, putting in place the operational plan, supporting WFP partners in starting the implementation and the analysis of the Shop Assessment findings, as well as design a Monitoring and Evaluation system.
- Voucher distribution will start during the UNHCR registration in Saadnayel. WVI and WFP will be present at the end of the registration chain to hand over the June voucher to the newly registered beneficiaries. In Arsal, vouchers will be distributed by DRC together with the hygiene kits on 29th May. The vouchers will be redeemable in selected shops starting 1st June. The rest of the Bekaa caseload will continue to receive in-kind assistance from UNHCR partners pending completion of the registration. All refugees in the Bekaa Valley should be covered by WFP's voucher programme by the beginning of July.
- UNHCR intends to adopt the voucher modality for NFI for their entire Lebanon caseload by July 2012.
- For the North, WFP is exploring a possible partnership with ACF (Action Contre la Faim) as they have solid experience with vouchers and are establishing a presence in Qobayat. Discussions are as well ongoing with DRC who is already present in the area.
- UN in Lebanon has finalized the CERF application which should provide US\$ 900,000 to WFP.

Turkey

- Official reports state that the total camp population in Turkey as of 17 May is of 22,551 Syrian refugees (UNCT-Turkey SitRep 18.05.2012). 260 individuals arrived and 329 returned during May 16 and 17; the population trend in Turkish refugee camps to date is lower in the month of May (22,551) than it was in June (24,780). The Government of Turkey continues to provide assistance to those Syrians registered in their camps.

Iraq

BENEFICIARIES

- As of May 19, 2012 (UNHCR WebSite), UNHCR has registered 3,673 Syrian nationals in the Kurdistan Region, including 2,896 in Duhok, 118 in Suleimaniyah and 659 in Erbil governorates. An additional 270 are waiting for registration, bringing the total number to 3,943. The total registered population includes 2,110 single males. An estimated 10 families and 40 singles continue to enter Duhok Governorate daily (UNHCR SitRep-Iraq 13.5.2012).

COORDINATION

- Following the official request for food assistance to Syrian refugees submitted by the Bureau of Displacement and Migration (BDM), Iraq has been included in the Regional EMOP to ensure the ability to respond when the threshold of 5,000 is crossed.
- The Department of Displacement & Migration (DDM) Duhok continues provision of three hot meals to Syrian singles in Domiz camp; however DDM reported that by end of May, they will stop provision of hot meals due to budget constraints. There may be a gap in provision of food to this group of refugees until UNHCR installs community cooking areas.
- Current food sector assistance includes: DDM's distribution of meals to singles and dry rations to families, provision of dry rations to families by other local charities and host communities' contribution of food items.
- The identified nutrition gaps in the camps are wheat flour, breakfast meals, weaning cereals and a plan for regular food distribution.
- UN agencies and partners have set up working groups to assist the Syrian refugees, the Food and Nutrition group is led by WFP and UNICEF.

- The UNHCR Head of Office in Iraq will visit Kurdistan on 21.05.2012. WFP will meet with her to discuss the way forward.

Activities and coordination at Sub-Regional level

COORDINATION

- As a result of ongoing violence in Syria, refugees continue to leave the country, although not in overwhelming numbers so far. UNHCR plus Turkish government registrations stand at 59,706 persons registered (UNHCR website /20.5.2012) across all host countries. This figure is likely to increase quickly as UNHCR is ramping up its registration capacity.
- The UNHCR and OCHA Regional Humanitarian Coordinator will meet in Beirut; WFP's Regional Refugee Emergency Coordinator will be there to brief and discuss WFP's work and to strengthen coordination.
- WFP is working closely with UNHCR and the Working group on Child Protection and Gender-Based violence against men, women and children in Amman to include gender and protection considerations in WFP's response, including specific nutrition considerations to meet the needs of pregnant and lactating women and for children under 5. Gender and age disaggregated data is a requirement for all reports. As the emergency develops, WFP continues to explore how to integrate gender concerns more into the response.
- In parallel to the finalization of the EMOP, WFP is working on contingency planning to ensure its ability to respond to any further deterioration of the situation in Syria and consequent increase in the refugee movement. This plan will take into account additional risks such as the potential increase in diversity in the refugee profiles and a severe spillover of the violence to any neighbouring countries.
- The RB is looking at the feasibility of adapting the regional C&V information management system developed for Libya to the new C&V activities in Lebanon and Jordan. The current database offers features such as beneficiary registration, importing beneficiary lists, voucher management and printing and it has an English and Arabic interface. A training on the data based is planned in June.
- An IT assessment mission will go to Jordan and Lebanon.

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