

WFP's Response in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq



World Food Programme

Fighting Hunger Worldwide

Situation Report # 11

Reporting Period: 15-21 July 2012

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- **JORDAN** – WFP hot meal distributions for almost 3,000 people in the Ramtha transit centres have been adjusted for the month of Ramadan and meals are being distributed at sunset and before dawn. WFP is also providing daytime meals for non-fasting individuals including breastfeeding mothers and children. WFP is assisting 35,000 Syrian refugees with its voucher programme starting in the first week of August.
- **LEBANON** - WFP is targeting about 24,000 Syrian refugees in the North and in Bekaa Valley during the month of July with direct food assistance, while about 6,000 refugees registered with UNHCR in the Bekaa Valley are receiving value-based food vouchers.
- **IRAQ** - WFP is targeting about 6,500 Syrian refugees starting late-July with the provision of direct food assistance; priority will be given to refugees in the camps in Domiz, Dohuk Governorate. After two months, WFP is planning to phase into voucher-based assistance.
- **TURKEY** - WFP Head Quarters and Regional Bureau mission is ongoing in Turkey and has visited the camps in Kilis, Islahiye, and Akçakale. WFP is liaising with government officials and UN agencies in Istanbul to prepare for the upcoming voucher-based assistance in the camps, initially for 30,000 refugees.



Syrian boy in Cyber City transit camp in Ramtha, near the border with Syria.
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SITUATION UPDATE

As of 22 July, UNHCR has registered 34,736 Syrian refugees and an additional 2,644 are awaiting registration. The Government of Jordan reports that over 140,000 Syrians have entered the country so far.

The four Ramtha transit centres are operating at full capacity and plans are underway for the Government

of Jordan to open new camps in Za'atri at Mafraq and possibly in Rabah Sarhan.

Water scarcity is posing a major challenge in the Ramtha transit centres and local communities.

US\$10.7 million is urgently needed.

WFP RESPONSE

WFP is targeting 35,000 Syrian refugees living in local communities in Irbid, Zarqa, Marfaq, Karak and Amman with value-based food vouchers starting early August. Three implementing partners for the voucher programme have been selected: Save the Children for Amman and Zarqa governorates, Islamic Relief Worldwide for the northern governorates and the Human Relief Foundation for the south and Cybercity transit centre.

In addition, WFP is providing food assistance for more than 3,300 people per day in four transit centres in Ramtha, near the border with Syria: in Al-Bashabsha, King Abdullah Park and Prince Hashem Stadium, WFP is providing almost 3,000 daily hot meals; in Cybercity, WFP is assisting 400-500 people with weekly family food packages as the building has been equipped with cooking facilities by UNHCR. Since 20 July, the first day of Ramadan, WFP has adjusted hot meal distribution to the appropriate meal times: the lunch meal was distributed at sunset, while the breakfast meal was distributed before dawn. WFP is also providing over 1,300 daytime meals for non-fasting individuals including lactating mothers and children. WFP implementing partners are ready to move food commodities to Za'atri camp at Mafraq for distribution starting immediately after the camp is operational and kitchen facilities are installed.

WFP and UNICEF have received official approval from the Government to conduct the nutrition survey of the Syrian refugee population after Ramadan. Technical, logistics and operational preparations are being completed in the meantime. The Regional Bureau ICT Assistant was in Amman 15-19 July finalising the voucher format and setting up the database which will facilitate close monitoring of the programme.

WFP monitors the delivery of all food to communities through a daily, weekly and monthly reporting system in coordination with its implementing partners. WFP and implementing partner NGO Takiyet um Ali are both monitoring the implementation of hot meal assistance in transit centres especially given the escalation of beneficiaries since the beginning of Ramadan.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS: WFP is updating contingency plans in collaboration with other agencies and participated in a UNHCR-led taskforce meeting to coordinate support to Syrian refugees during Ramadan.

“We are looking forward to receiving the vouchers. We will then be able to cook our own food every day and decide what we want to eat. What if I don't want stuffed zucchini today? What if I feel like having potatoes today!”

**Abu Qassem, 37 years, from Dara'a
Syrian refugee in Jordan**

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 18 July, UNHCR has registered 29,986 Syrian refugees in the country; 18,830 in the North and 10,169 in the Bekaa Valley, with the remaining 987 in Beirut and the Jabal area. An additional 1,500 Syrians in Tripoli and 1,000 in the Bekaa Valley are pending registration.

UNHCR reports that over 75% of the Syrian refugees who are being assisted are women and children. According to UNHCR, some 18,000 Syrians crossed into Lebanon in the reporting period. Many refugees report that they plan to stay in Lebanon for 3-4 weeks until security is restored in Damascus and Homs.

Interagency assessments indicate that most new arrivals are not in need of support while some 1,500 in the Bekaa Valley may be vulnerable and in need of immediate assistance.

Violence within Syria continues to spill over affecting a number of Lebanese border villages, particularly in the North. WFP is monitoring the security situation as consequently concerns have been raised about the August start of the voucher programme in Akkar as planned.

US\$7.8 million is urgently needed.

WFP RESPONSE

In July, WFP is targeting some 30,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon, 3,000 more than the 27,000 planned under the EMOP, reflecting the new arrivals.

Part of the Syrian population registered with UNHCR is

WFP July planned Voucher Distribution in the Bekaa Valley

July	Households	Individuals
Initially planned	1,277	5,833
Updated	1,305	5,938

awaiting receipt of their final registration cards which are required to obtain WFP vouchers; WFP is assisting these refugees with family food packages and will phase over to vouchers as soon as beneficiaries receive their cards.

Only registered Syrians are currently receiving assistance from the UN and partners. UNHCR and partners are looking at possible assistance to other affected populations including: Lebanese returnees, Syrians who are not willing to register with UNHCR for security reasons, Syrians who did not yet have the chance to register with UNHCR and Syrians living in conflict border areas.

In the North, WFP is assisting about 15,000 beneficiaries with family food packages, while finalizing the preparatory steps to phase into voucher programming. For the July cycle, 4,675 packages have been distributed so far in Akkar, Bireh and Halba.

Through WFP implementing partner, Danish Refugee Council, the voucher programme will begin in Akkar in August and in Tripoli area by September.

In the Bekaa Valley, WFP is providing assistance through value-based food vouchers distributed in a phased approach to about 6,000 beneficiaries. In West Bekaa, Zahle, Hermel and Ba'albeck, an additional 9,200 people will receive assistance through family food packages while awaiting eligibility for the voucher programme. WFP implementing partner, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), has completed distribution in Hermel and continues distributions in Ba'albeck and Qaa.

WFP voucher distribution in the Bekaa Valley for July has started in areas where registration has been completed; in Aarsal, Al Sahel and Central Bekaa, distribution was completed on 14 July.

ASSESSMENTS: The field work for the rapid nutrition assessment of the Syrian refugee population has been postponed to after Ramadan in line with the advice of WFP and UNICEF experts.

DRC, Lebanese Red Cross and WFP completed the retail assessment in the Akkar district (North Lebanon) and selected 25 shops, while assessments in Tripoli are ongoing.

The Regional VAM Officer visited Lebanon to set up a price monitoring system based on the data collected by the Government as part of a planned food security analysis of the Syrian refugee population in Lebanon. Feedback and advice on the Price Monitoring Tool is awaited to proceed with the data collection.

A Voucher Workshop took place in the Bekaa Valley on 19 July with the objective of capitalizing on the pilot

and first round of voucher distribution experience to inform future planning and decision making. WFP staff from the Qobayat sub-office and DRC representatives also participated.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS: The Regional Emergency Coordinator visited the voucher programme in the Bekaa Valley on 16 July and met with the Secretary General of HRC, the Minister of Social Affairs, UNHCR, UNICEF the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator. On 21 July, he attended the Humanitarian Country Team meeting in Beirut following the influx of refugees and visited the Masna border. WFP attended the weekly distribution sector and coordination meetings in the North and the Bekaa Valley.



Syrian refugee from Homs, in Aarsal in the Bekaa Valley. Copyright WFP/Laure Chadraoui

Turkey

From 24 May to 13 July, there has been an increase of 78% in the total number of Syrians currently receiving temporary protection from the Government of Turkey. As of 20 July, there are 43,387 refugees registered with the Government.

The WFP Head Quarters and Regional Bureau mission is ongoing; the mission has visited the camps in Kilis, Islahiye, and Akçakale and has not been affected by the recent riots in some camps. WFP is liaising with government officials and UN agencies in Istanbul to coordinate upcoming voucher assistance in the camps, initially for 30,000 refugees.

The Government of Turkey has identified two new camp sites in the towns of Gazinatep in Nizip and Kahramanmaraş in Türkoğlu, each to accommodate 10,000 people.

Riots in Gaziantep refugee camp occurred after an influx of some 2,000 Turkmen refugees. The refugees were relocated to the Yayladagi camp which was re-opened by the authorities to diffuse tensions. WFP is monitoring the situation as it underlines the fragility of the security situation which could potentially impact the planned voucher programme.

Iraq

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 20 July, UNHCR has registered 7,490 Syrian refugees while an additional 1,453 await registration. UNHCR reports that more than 10,000 Iraqi refugees have fled violence in Syria over the past week in spite of security concerns. The Government of Iraq is supporting the return of Iraqi nationals in Syria with dedicated flights and UNHCR is also providing transport. WFP is monitoring the situation in Ninewa, Anbar, and Duhok Governorates bordering Syria following the recent increase in violence. Reportedly,

most Iraqi returnees are entering into Kurdistan Region.

WFP and UNHCR are in discussion regarding the urgent need for assistance to meet the Ramadan food needs of the 3,000 Domiz camp refugees and to those living with the host communities.

The number of refugees in need of food assistance has already nearly doubled to 8,000 in northern Iraq. WFP has increased its planning figure from an initial 10,000 to 15,000 refugees in December.

WFP RESPONSE

WFP will target Syrian refugees from late-July with the provision of direct food assistance; priority will be given to camp refugees in Domiz, Dohuk Governorate. After two months, WFP will phase into voucher assistance.

167 mt of mixed food commodities have been purchased and will be shipped to Dohuk by 25 July and WFP will begin food distribution immediately thereafter. Until then, the Bureau of Migration and Displacement (BMD) has agreed to provide food

assistance to the refugees in the Domiz refugee camp. The Department of Displacement and Migration (DDM) continues the provision of daily hot meals to single males and food packages to families. Requests have been made for daily snacks for the children in the Domiz camp school whose parents do not have the means to provide them with food before coming for classes.

WFP Cash & Voucher feasibility assessment report is being finalized in preparation for the implementation of the voucher component of the Regional EMOP. WFP Regional VAM Advisor was on mission to Erbil from 13-18 July to assist in the joint UN interagency needs assessment. The assessment is underway and fieldwork has been completed. The first draft of the report will be available in the first week of August.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS: WFP has evaluated the proposals submitted by three NGOs to distribute WFP food assistance to the refugees in Domiz and will finalise selection in the coming week.

WFP met with DDM in Dohuk to discuss the implementation of the WFP food assistance from late-July. DDM will assist WFP with customs clearance of supplies and food commodities at the border and will facilitate coordination between WFP and the Kurdistan Region Government.

A joint inter-agency mission with senior officials from the Federal Ministry of Displacement and Migration held a coordination meeting with local partners and met with the Governor of Duhok who agreed to the establishment of a new camp to accommodate 5,000 Syrian refugees near the camp in Domiz.

US\$1.9 million is urgently needed.

Activities and coordination at Sub-Regional level

WFP is updating contingency plans in collaboration with other agencies. An interagency meeting is planned for 26 July.

Thanks to the generous contributions from the Government of Japan, the UN CERF, and the Government of Switzerland, US\$3,418,127 has been resourced to date towards the Regional EMOP. **A shortfall of US\$20,020,686 needs to be funded urgently.**

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