

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

Situation Report # 15

Reporting Period: 12- 18 August 2012



World Food Programme

Fighting Hunger Worldwide

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- **JORDAN** – WFP has provided an average of more than 18,800 meals per day (9,100 Iftar and 9,700 Suhur) in transit camps in Ramtha and Al Za'atari, reaching more than 9,700 beneficiaries daily during the reporting period.
- UNHCR has noted a major increase in daily arrivals; they now estimate 1000 Syrians enter Jordan every day compared with 400 per day during the last reporting period
- Voucher distribution continues and beneficiaries are redeeming the vouchers in stores across the country.
- **LEBANON**- The July cycle distributions of vouchers and family food packages have been completed in both the North and the Bekaa.
- August distribution is on-going with family food packages in Tripoli and the first voucher distributions in Akkar region in the North. From September on, all refugees in the North will receive vouchers.
- In the Bekaa Valley, voucher distribution continues for the August cycle.
- **IRAQ** - 137 MT offloaded in Domiz camp will be distributed after Eid El-Fitr to all registered Syrians in this camp and those hosted in communities in Dohuk.
- **TURKEY** A voucher specialist will be deployed to Turkey on August 21, (Ankara, Kilis and Hatay). An additional staff member from the Regional Bureau is expected by 30 August.



Syrian children in Aarsaal, Lebanon. © WFP/ Maria Anguera de Sojo

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 16 August, UNHCR has registered 42,934 Syrian nationals while the Government of Jordan reports that over 142,000 Syrians have entered the country. As the situation in Syria persists, large numbers of Syrians continue to cross the Jordanian borders seeking asylum, mainly through the cities of Mafraq and Ramtha.

WFP RESPONSE

In August, WFP is targeting 22,888 registered refugees in the communities and in the Cyber City transit camp with vouchers. WFP is also assisting Syrian nationals in transit camps close to the border with hot meals.

The implementation of the voucher programme has been divided into three geographical areas, each covered by one WFP partner: Islamic Relief Worldwide Human Relief Foundation and Save the Children.

In Cyber City transit center, distribution of vouchers started on 1 August and is planned to finish on 13 August. Islamic Relief, HRF and Save the Children started the distribution of vouchers on 5 August and plan to finish by 17 August.

Beneficiaries started redeeming their vouchers in retail stores on 2 August in Cyber City transit center and 9 August in all other governorates.

Field Level Agreements (FLAs) have been signed with partners through September 2012 and contracts with the retailers involved in the programme are finalized.

During this reporting period, WFP has provided an average of more than 18,800 meals per day (9,100 Iftar and 9,700 Suhur) through its implementing partner Tkiyet Um Ali (TUA) in transit camps in Ramtha and Al Za'atari, reaching more than 9,700 beneficiaries daily.

WFP will phase out 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 repositioning dry food commodities for Al Za'atari camp at the main warehouse in Amman.

Although the bailing system was suspended, the Government of Jordan is now applying it for extremely vulnerable cases and to allow family reunion.

The new arrivals rate has substantially increased in the reporting period, from an average of 400 people per day in the previous reporting period to more than 1,000 per day.

In addition to hot meals, WFP is distributing welcome packages to new arrivals who come to Al Za'atari camp mostly in the middle of the night, requiring a 24/7 WFP staff presence. The welcome packages are comprised of six ready to eat non-perishable items which are prepositioned at WFP's rub hall in the Al Za'atari camp.



Syrian Girl in Zaatari camp © WFP/ Maria Anguera de Sojo

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 16 August, UNHCR has registered 37,541 Syrians in the country: 20,364 in the North and 15,942 in the Bekaa Valley, with the remaining 1,235 in Beirut and the Jabal area. A further 9,432 Syrians have contacted UNHCR to be registered together with the estimated 1,000 people yet to be registered in Tripoli and surrounding areas.

WFP RESPONSE

In August, WFP is targeting over 33,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon:

In the North, the first voucher distributions in Akkar region have started for 13,690 individuals under the August cycle. Some vouchers were immediately redeemed in the surrounding selected shops. Distribution of family food packages will be done in Tripoli for 6,865 beneficiaries.

July cycle food distribution has been completed. In Akkar and Tripoli area, 14,510 Syrian individuals received WFP food packages and UNHCR NFIs. An extra 1,980 individuals received Muslim Aid food packages and UNHCR NFIs in Wadi Khaled.

Through Danish Refugee Council DRC, WFP will begin the voucher programme in Tripoli area in September.

In the Bekaa Valley, WFP is providing assistance through value-based food vouchers to 12,864 persons during August, most of the refugee population except a small caseload of 211 households who will receive family food packages due to access constraints.

Two rounds of distributions are planned this month to accommodate delays in UNHCR registration and ensure maximum coverage of beneficiaries. The first round of August voucher distribution is finalized in 6 locations; the second round of vouchers distribution in Central Bekaa will take place the third week of August for about 2,300 refugees plus the 133 refugees already registered in Zahle.

In remote and conflict-affected border areas, WFP will continue to provide food parcels. About 200 food packages (reaching 900 persons) have been distributed through DRC to UNHCR registered households in Masharia al Qaa. The August round for additional

Events in Syria continue to affect Lebanese border villages both in the North and the Bekaa Valley. Lebanese Army presence has been increased along the northern border to control tensions. However, there is sporadic shelling from Syria along the Lebanese side of the border almost every night. WFP is monitoring the situation closely.

remote villages (about 250 registered refugees) is running later than planned following delays in procurement.

ASSESSMENTS

North: Shops assessments are on-going in the Tripoli area for the voucher programme. The 25 selected shops in Akkar districts have signed their contract with DRC and are now ready to start the programme.

Bekaa Valley: The original selection of 43 shops is completed but assessment and selection of additional shops are taking place given the increasing number of families registered with UNHCR for the August round of voucher distribution. The shop assessment in West Bekaa was conducted and an extra three shops have been added to the programme; however more shops still need to be added. Zahle shop assessment started this week and will be completed in the coming weeks; selection will be finalised once UNHCR provides registration figures.

MONITORING

North: WFP staff started PDM interviews in Akkar province, interviewing 16 refugee households that received the July food packages two weeks ago. The beneficiaries were satisfied with the assistance. 50 percent of the monthly food (on average) was found in the kitchens, which correlated with the distribution cycle, and the refugees were keen to move to the voucher programme. Monitoring by WFP staff is now concentrating on the selected shops receiving the first vouchers in Akkar.

Bekaa Valley: During the previous reporting week, WFP has conducted 24 shop monitoring visits and six distribution visits. In general the beneficiaries are satisfied with the voucher system however some

misuse of voucher has been reported highlighting the need for beneficiaries to cover other urgent needs such as cooking gas, NFIs and hygiene products.

WFP will continue monitoring, building a more comprehensive picture of voucher utilisation and addressing the issues raised. WFP has also shared the information with UNHCR who is now working with other organisations to see how the NFI assistance can meet some of the non-food needs raised by

beneficiaries. WFP is also advocating to use UNHCR identity cards in shops as this should reduce the risk of voucher abuse.

Coordination: WFP received an official request from HRC to assist Lebanese returnees. In collaboration with IOM, UNHCR and CPs, WFP is working on a strategy to assist this specific caseload which is less than a thousand families and could be included in the WFP beneficiaries for the September distribution cycle.

Iraq

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 18 August, UNHCR has registered 10,743 Syrians in Kurdistan Region and 4,241 in Al Qaim, making total of 14,984 Iraq wide. Another 1,150 refugees are awaiting registration.

The construction of the UNHCR and Iraqi Red Crescent camp at Ksak (Talafar district of Ninewa) has started and will accommodate 1,000 Syrian nationals. Iraqi

returnees in this area will be accommodated in school buildings.

UNHCR indicated that the construction of a second camp adjacent to Domiz to accommodate about 5,000 Syrians will start as soon as the work in Domiz is completed.

WFP RESPONSE

WFP is targeting an initial caseload of up to 15,000 Syrian nationals by December with the provision of direct in-kind food assistance; priority is given to those in the Domiz camp, Dohuk governorate.

WFP Food distributions of 137 mt will start after Eid El-Fitr to all registered Syrians in Domiz camp and to those hosted in communities in Dohuk.

Following several contacts and meetings with Ministry of Health authorities in Erbil, 5 WFP trucks held up at the Iraqi border post of Ibrahim Khalil for five days were finally released to WFP. The truck carried a total of 114 MT of food (92 MT of wheat flour, 16 MT of sugar, 2 MT of iodized salt, 4 MT of Red Split Lentils).

A consignment of 30 MT of rice was rejected by the authorities at the Preventive Health Department in Dohuk for non-compliance with required health specifications. WFP has requested for the supplier to replace this commodity in line with the conditions of the contract.

A Tripartite Agreement between UNHCR, WFP and Islamic Relief Worldwide-Iraq to distribute food to

Syrian nationals, including the 3,000 people in Domiz camp and to those living with host communities, from mid-August has been signed by WFP and is pending UNHCR and Islamic Relief signature due to the long Eid holidays.

Assessments:

The final report of the Joint UN Interagency Needs Assessment of Syrian Nationals in Iraq has been cleared by WFP. UNHCR as the lead coordinating agency for the refugee operation under the RRP will transmit the report to Kurdistan Region Government authorities for their approval before dissemination to internal and external stakeholders including donors. Preliminary findings of this assessment indicate that Erbil is conducive to voucher programme implementation to serve the Syrian nationals in the area, including those in Domiz Camp

Coordination: Following the request from the Ministry of Displacement and Migration to assist Syrian national in Al Qaim, WFP met with UNHCR to discuss way forwards in the area.

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 17 August 2012, and with the arrival of approximately 5,000 refugees who crossed the border in the last 24 hours, it is estimated that almost 70,000 Syrian have now found refuge in the camps in the four border provinces of Hatay, Sanliurfa, Gaziantep and Kilis.

Authorities informed that, due to shortage of capacity in the existing camps, there are about 8,000 people accommodated temporarily in the boarding schools in Kilis, Gaziantep, Osmaniye, Kahramanmaraş and Adana. Reportedly the camp in Karkamış/Gaziantep is expected to be open by end of August and Osmaniye during September. Therefore until the new sites are operational, the Government is planning to accommodate new arrivals in temporary shelters (schools and

dormitories etc.) in various cities. With the ongoing construction of four additional camps, the Government is expecting to reach a camp capacity to host up to 100,000 people (13 camps in total).

The authorities also informed that upon decision by the Government of Turkey, the Turkish Red Crescent has established warehouses at Kilis and started to provide assistance at border “0” point with Syria to cover the needs of new comers until their admission process is completed. The Turkish Red Crescent is also distributing relief items to the vulnerable people in the villages across the border as well as to Aleppo and Azaz districts through the Syrian Red Crescent.

WFP RESPONSE

The WFP Office in Ankara is being set up and voucher specialists are being deployed in Hatay and Gaziantep to kick start the implementation of the project. In September, WFP will provide food assistance through this voucher system to 30,000 Syrian refugees in Turkey with plans to further scale up the operation to reach 60,000 by the end of the year.

Assessments: The forthcoming final report of the voucher feasibility study recommends a phased transition from direct food assistance to a market based approach with food vouchers in camps where people have or will have cooking facilities and access to shops. The proposed assistance, to initially cover the needs of some 30,000 people, is expected to be expanded as cooking facilities and access to shop is ensured

Coordination: This week’s meetings between WFP Emergency Coordinator and the Ambassador Iscan, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

representatives of the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) indicated that WFP’s assistance to support the national and local authorities in establishing a voucher programme to assist refugees is of upmost importance to the Government of Turkey. WFP is pursuing its discussions with the Government of Turkey on the implementation of the voucher programme and has requested AFAD to arrange for a joint meeting next week between WFP, AFAD and Turkish Red Crescent upon the arrival of WFP food voucher specialists.

The national authorities have also expressed their willingness to support WFP’s initiative to strengthen its procurement hub within Turkey for its food assistance and humanitarian interventions in the region and worldwide (WFP is currently procuring worth US\$ 50 million yearly in Turkey) and have requested WFP for regular progress report on its activities

Resource Mobilization

WFP has submitted Budget Revision 3, which will include a case load with the addition of 30,000 refugees in Turkey, with an approximate additional financial requirement of US\$8.3 million bringing the total cost of the EMOP to about US\$36 million; this additional requirement is not included in this table).

Another budget revision is planned which will incorporate the additional caseloads of refugees in the neighbouring countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey based on the revised interagency appeal expected to be consolidated in September.

| DONOR | CONFIRMED US\$ |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| USA | 8,000,000 |
| Japan | 315,488 |
| ECHO | |
| Switzerland | 198,346 |
| CANADA | |
| UN CERF | 2,904,292 |
| UK | 4,709,576 |
| Total confirmed | 16,127,702 |
| REG EMOP 200433 Cost | 27,728,035 |
| SHORTFALL | 11,600,333 |

Thanks to contributions from the governments of USA, Japan, Switzerland, UK and the UN CERF, US\$16.1M has been resourced to date towards the Regional EMOP, leaving a budget shortfall of US\$11.6M.

For further information contact:

Ms. Abeer Etefa, Sr. Regional Public Information Officer

+20 1066634352

Abeer.Etefa@wfp.org

