

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

Situation Report # 17

Reporting Period: 26 August- 1 September 2012



World Food Programme

Fighting Hunger Worldwide

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

JORDAN – During the first month's implementation cycle, WFP distributed food vouchers to a total of 19,000 beneficiaries, an 83 percent implementation ratio. During the reporting period, WFP has provided an average of over 36,274 meals per day in both transit centres in Ramtha and Al Za'atari camp in Mafraq, reaching more than 18,000 beneficiaries daily.

LEBANON- The August cycle is on-going in the North and will be completed when UNHCR's NFI arrive from Tripoli. A total of 1580 households have received vouchers so far, while 229 households in areas with limited access or other restraints received food packages. The voucher programme will begin in Tripoli area in September.

The second round of August voucher distribution in Central Bekaa, postponed last week due to security threats, has now taken place this week for about 2,464 refugees. In August, 233 food packages (reaching about 1,000 persons) have been distributed through DRC to UNHCR registered households in Masharia al Qaa and other remote villages.

IRAQ - WFP is following up the second procurement of 162 mt of food from Turkey to meet the increased food needs of 10,000 Syrians in Kurdistan Region.

TURKEY- WFP presented its strategy for transition from government in kind to WFP voucher-based assistance for two camps in Yayladagi and discussed the operational arrangements with the Government in Turkey; the transition will start in mid-September.



Voucher beneficiaries in Bekaa Valley, Lebanon © WFP/ Maria Anguera de Sojo

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 1 September, UNHCR has registered 46,703 Syrian nationals while the Government of Jordan reports that over 150,000 Syrians have entered the country. In addition, 6,709 people have registration appointments and 23,335 people are awaiting registration in Al Za'atari camp, bringing the number of people eligible for assistance to 77,165. 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 September, WFP is targeting 48,000 refugees registered with UNHCR in the communities and in the Cyber City transit camp with vouchers. WFP is also assisting an increasing number of Syrian nationals (an average of 18,000 this week) with hot meals in additional transit centers close to the border.

During the first month implementation cycle, cooperating partners distributed food vouchers to a total of 19,000 beneficiaries. The redemption of these was completed in the designated retailers.

WFP has provided an average of over 36,274 meals per day through its implementing partner *Tkiyet Um Ali* (TUA) in both transit centres in Ramtha and Al Za'atari camp in Manfra, reaching more than 18,000 beneficiaries daily.

WFP and UNHCR are working together to set up kitchen facilities for refugees at AL Za'atari camp to transition from hot meal distribution to dry rations. This will enable refugees to prepare their own meals and diversify their food consumption. The construction of kitchens facilities started on 29 August and will be completed on 16 September. WFP is currently repositioning dry food commodities for Al Za'atari camp in Manfra Food Distribution Point.

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 and they are repositioned at WFP's rumbhall in the Al Za'atari camp.

Monitoring Three WFP Field Monitors are dedicated to Za'atari and King Adullah Park, and another two are

The Government of Jordan has reconsidered bailing for extreme vulnerable cases and family reunions on humanitarian grounds and accepted some bailing on a case-by-case basis.

The rate of new arrivals remains high, with a daily average of 1,400 Syrians arriving at Al Za'atari camp over the past week, bringing the total number of those received in the camp to about 23,400. Those crossing illegally are transferred directly to the Zaatari camp.

dedicated to monitoring WFP's voucher programme including shop visits. During the reporting period WFP conducted 14 hot meal distributions and one shop along with 10 beneficiary interviews for the voucher programme. Main findings and following actions taken include:

HOT MEAL DISTRIBUTIONS: The timely distribution is challenging due to high number of beneficiaries; WFP is increasing distribution staff. Beneficiaries have highlighted a lack of dietary diversity; WFP is requesting partners to diversify hot meals. Refugees have requested to cook their own food, however there are no kitchen facilities in the camp; UNHCR is installing kitchens and WFP is constructing a food distribution center to allow dry ration distribution. Furthermore, the upcoming establishment of Food Management Committees will facilitate further the elevation of critical issues.

VOUCHERS: Following the request from beneficiaries, WFP has expanded the list to include fresh/ frozen meat, fish and chicken as well as other complementary items in order to meet the Syrians needs and habits. Vegetables and fruit are popular items. In addition, during the reporting period, shop monitoring form and distribution checklist has been developed and are being used in the field

"Before the vouchers, some people had no money; they would look at the nearby shop and just dream to go inside. With the vouchers, now they do."
Nourhan, 19 years old. Syrian refugee from Daraa at Cyber city centre in Ramtha.

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 30 August, UNHCR has registered 42,947 Syrians in the country: 23,151 in the North and 17,827 in the Bekaa Valley, with the remaining 1,969 in Beirut and the Jabal area. An additional 15,054 Syrians have contacted UNHCR to be registered. Part of the registered caseload is awaiting receipt of their cards required to obtain WFP vouchers; WFP is assisting these refugees with family food packages and will

phase over to vouchers as soon as UNCHR finalises their registration.

Following the relatively tense security situation in the previous week, this week has seen a much calmer security situation with less impact on the project, allowing UNHCR registrations and WFP distributions to continue.

WFP RESPONSE

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

In the North, the August cycle started in Akkar in mid-August: A total of 1580 households received 7800 vouchers; while 229 households with problem cases (eg households who came to the wrong distribution points and therefore could not receive their vouchers or where problems are being resolved in the UNHCR database) received food packages. Some vouchers were immediately redeemed in the surrounding selected shops; WFP staff made frequent inspections in all shops to make sure that the regulations were respected. However, the completion of the distribution in Wadi Khaled was postponed as UNHCR's NFIs (distributed alongside WFP vouchers) were blocked in Tripoli city. The voucher programme will begin in Tripoli area in September.

In the Bekaa Valley: The second round of August voucher distribution in Central Bekaa was postponed last week due to security threats, but has taken place this week for about 2,500 refugees.

WFP Bekaa received from WVI the July reconciliation documents on 29 August and the verification of the reconciliation from WFP part is ongoing.

In remote and conflict-affected border areas, WFP will continue to provide food parcels. About 233 food packages (reaching about 1,000 persons) have been distributed through DRC to UNHCR registered households in Masharia al Qaa and other remote villages.

ASSESSMENTS

North: Shop assessments have been completed in the Tripoli area for the voucher programme, and 28 shops have been selected by DRC and WFP. A shops training

will be organized next week, and the contracts will be signed the same day. Moreover, the 24 selected shops in Akkar districts are now receiving the first redeemed vouchers of August cycle, closely monitored by WFP staff.

Bekaa Valley: DRC conducted extra shops assessment/selection in Baalbeck area and, with WFP, selected three shops to participate in the project from eight assessed.

A focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted jointly with DRC for beneficiaries in Mahsari Al Qaa, an area difficult to access for WFP and partners, to assess their preference between vouchers and food parcels. While the final results of the FGD are being consolidated by DRC before sharing, preliminary results show that these beneficiaries would prefer assistance through vouchers even if they have to travel to shops in other areas to redeem them.

MONITORING

Currently, WFP staff in the North is conducting monitoring visits on the 24 selected shops receiving the first vouchers in Akkar.

During the previous reporting period WFP in Bekaa Valley had conducted 12 HH PDM visits and five shop visits. Main findings include In general the beneficiaries as well as shopkeepers 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 or to pay the rent.

WFP will continue monitoring, building a more comprehensive picture of voucher utilisation and addressing 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 will also request a decision on the use of the UNHCR identity card in shops as this should reduce the opportunity for beneficiaries to sell their vouchers.

Coordination: Following the official request from HRC for WFP to assist Lebanese returnees, WFP will participate in a working group chaired by the

Government of Lebanon High Relief Commission to develop an interagency assistance strategy. This caseload of less than a thousand families could be included in the WFP beneficiaries for the September distribution cycle if the strategy has been agreed.

Iraq

SITUATION UPDATE

According to UNHCR the total number of Syrian refugees has now reached 18,682 (13,989 are registered with another 4,693 awaiting registration). This number exceeds WFP's planning target for December (15,000), highlighting the need to revise the food requirements in the September RRP update. There has been an increase in the number of new arrivals at the Kurdistan Regional Governorate as some 2,784 Syrians have crossed the borders during the week. This brings the total number of Syrians hosted in Kurdistan to 14,410 including 3,166 in Domiz camp.

The construction of the UNHCR and Iraqi Red Crescent camp at Ksak (Talafar district of Ninewa)

WFP RESPONSE

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

The UNHCR registers required to prepare the WFP beneficiary lists not made available on time and has caused a delay in the distributions planned for 2 September. WFP, Islamic Relief, UNHCR and DDM will meet on 3 September to finalize distribution arrangements. WFP has agreed to a proposal to use temporary coupons for identification of refugees living in the camp to enable them receive their rations on time. Over 3,000 Syrians in the camp will receive their rations as the first priority group.

WFP is following up the second procurement of 162 mt of food ex Turkey to meet the increased food needs of 10,000 Syrians in Kurdistan Region.

Assessments: The final report of the Joint UN Interagency Needs Assessment of Syrian Nationals in Iraq is awaiting approval from the Kurdistan Region Government authorities before dissemination to

with a capacity for 1,000 people is on-going. A UNDSS mission is assessing the security situation in the area for humanitarian movement. Iraqi returnees in this area will be accommodated in school buildings.

Al-Qaim camp is now hosting 2,090 Syrian refugees, while another 3,682 people in the area are accommodated in local schools and public buildings in the city. Construction works are in progress to expand the capacity of Al-Qaim camp which will have a capacity for 6,000 refugees. Food assistance is provided by the Government of Iraq and the local community.

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 is seeking CERF funding to meet emergency needs in the area, which will be included under EMOP BR4. UNHCR is installing various infrastructure in the camp including rubble-halls and they can provide additional storage facilities within short notice if required, including food storage.

Turkey

SITUATION UPDATE

On 30 August, 2012, the Government of Turkey reported that the number of Syrians registered and accommodated in the camps including those temporarily placed in the schools and those under medical treatment in the hospitals reached 80,410 persons. Reportedly the camp in Kahramanmaraş (15,000 capacity) as well as the one in Gaziantep-Karkamış (8,000 capacity) have opened. Currently there are 11 operational camps including five in Hatay, two in Gaziantep, two in Şanlıurfa, and one in Kahramanmaraş and one container city in Kilis; an additional three camps each with 10,000 capacity are under construction and planned to open during September 2012.

WFP RESPONSE

The WFP Office in Ankara is being set up and voucher specialists have been deployed to Turkey to kick start the implementation of the project. WFP is deploying additional support staff in Ankara in preparation for the launch of the voucher programme, furthermore, identification and recruitment of additional international staff to support WFP operations is ongoing.

Budget revision number 3 of the Regional Refugee Emergency Operation which incorporates the caseload in Turkey in the operation was endorsed by the Project Review pending some changes and is now being finalized. WFP is planning to start its operation in Kilis camp and later on in Hatay province over the second half of September to initially cover the need of

Local authorities informed that there are already 4,000 persons transferred to Karkamış camp and about an additional 4,000 will be transferred from the schools. The camp in Kahramanmaraş is expected to receive people as of Monday 3 September.

According to the authorities, there are still over 8,000 people waiting across the border on the Syrian side that will be admitted gradually. The border is open and humanitarian assistance (food-water-medical assistance) is provided to Syrians at the 'zero point' of the border. The Turkish Red Crescent also continues to distribute relief items including food to the vulnerable people in the villages across the border.

20,000 people, though this figure is likely to be reconsidered in BR #4 based on the revised interagency appeal expected to be consolidated in September.

Assesments: The 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 start in September and to cover the needs of some 30,000 people, is expected to be expanded as cooking facilities and access to shop is ensured.

Resource Mobilization

Budget revision number 3 of the Regional Refugee Emergency Operation which incorporates the caseload in Turkey in the operation was endorsed by the Project Review Committee pending some changes and is now being finalized. WFP will start assisting a caseload of 30,000 by the end of the year, though this figure is likely to be reconsidered in BR #4 (as below).

The fourth revision of the budget is now being drafted, 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	3,676,471
Switzerland	198,346
CANADA	1,494,024
UN CERF	2,904,292
UN SRAC	1,070,000
UK	4,709,576
Total confirmed	22,368,197
REG EMOP 200433 Cost	33,846,728
SHORTFALL	11,478,531

Thanks to contributions from ECHO and the governments of USA, Japan, Canada, Switzerland, UK the UN CERF and the UN SRAC US\$22.4M has been resourced to date towards the Regional EMOP, leaving a budget shortfall of US\$11.5M.

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