

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

Situation Report # 22

Reporting Period: 30 September – 6 October 2012



**World Food
Programme**

Fighting Hunger Worldwide

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

JORDAN – Food vouchers for the October cycle have started for more than 40,500 refugees living in urban areas and in the Cyber City transit centre. During the reporting period, WFP delivers two hot meals per day to an average of 30,050 beneficiaries daily in Al Za'atri Camp and King Abdullah Park and about 1,600 welcome meals to new arrivals in Al Za'atri camp. WFP has also started distribution of dry food rations to families in Al Za'atri camp in preparation for the phase over to in-kind food assistance, targeting 28,556 beneficiaries in the October cycle. UNHCR is currently finalising the kitchens which will allow the beneficiaries to cook this food.

LEBANON – In September, WFP assisted 47,549 refugees in Lebanon; 41,109 received vouchers while 6,440 received food parcels. In October, WFP will provide food vouchers to 65,000 refugees in the Bekaa Valley and in the North. The distribution of food parcels will continue for new comers in both areas with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). During the reporting period, food parcel and voucher distributions took place in Tripoli reaching 11,240 individuals.

WFP's Regional Director Daly Belgasmi was on mission in Lebanon from 3-6 October. He visited the operation and met with key officials and sister agencies to coordinate the response to Syrian refugees and Lebanese returnees.

IRAQ – In September, WFP reached 10,212 Syrian refugees in Domiz camp with 133.3 mt of food. The October distribution cycle will commence immediately after the arrival of 162 mt of food commodities which have been procured from Turkey.



TURKEY – On 5 October, WFP and the Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay) signed the Field Level Agreement for the implementation of the voucher programme. Implementation is planned to start in Kilis in mid-October and following this, in Hatay. The programme will cover an initial caseload of 25,000 people and is expected to expand as cooking facilities and access to shops become available in other camps.

REGIONAL – Budget Revision Number 3 has been approved by WFP Executive Director and FAO General Director.

Figure 1 - Syrian woman in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley during a WFP monitoring visit. © WFP/ Maria Anguera de Sojo

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 3 October, UNHCR has registered 55,462 Syrian nationals in Jordan.

During the reporting period, Al Za'atri camp received 1,592 new arrivals, bringing the total number of Syrians in the camp to approximately 37,974.

WFP RESPONSE

In September, WFP assisted over 66,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan; 37,058 individuals living in urban communities or in Cyber City transit centre received value-based voucher assistance, while 29,050 received daily hot meals in Al Za'atri camp and KAP.

In October, WFP plans to assist 40,577 Syrian refugees through its voucher programme. WFP's voucher programme cooperating partners Islamic Relief Worldwide, Save the Children and Human Relief Foundation are distributing vouchers to beneficiaries for the first October cycle.

WFP continues to provide assistance to Syrians through hot meals at transit centers close to the border. During the reporting period, WFP provided a total of 451,800 hot meals (an average of 60,100 meals per day) through its implementing partners in Al Za'atri camp in Mafraq and King Abdullah Park in Ramtha, reaching a daily average of 30,050 beneficiaries. In addition, WFP provided 1,592 welcome meals to new arrivals in Al Za'atri camp.

WFP also delivers meals daily to patients hospitalized at the French and Moroccan health clinics in Al Za'atri camp.

WFP launched dry food distributions in Al Za'atri camp on 2 October in preparation for the phase over to in-kind food assistance. Distribution was done from the newly constructed food distribution point (FDP). The FDP includes a waiting area and verification halls that are gender segregated. In order to receive their entitlement, beneficiaries are required to show their UNHCR ration cards, which are barcode-scanned and registered electronically. The atmosphere at the FDP is calm, despite the otherwise volatile camp environment. The orderliness of the FDP has been thoroughly appreciated by female heads of households.

After 4 days of distributions, 1,322 families have collected their entitlement; WFP plans to assist 8,075 families/28,556 individuals during the first cycle. Once the cycle is completed, a full analysis of the case load

The number of beneficiaries in King Abdullah Park (KAP) in Ramtha remained at from 1,050 during the reporting period.

will be conducted. The WFP two-week rations consist of: bulgar wheat, lentils, pasta, rice, sugar and vegetable oil. UNHCR complementary food rations are distributed simultaneously and consist of: tuna, tomato paste, canned meat, chick peas, white kidney beans, tea, cheese and halva.

Once the kitchens are fully operational, beneficiaries will be able to prepare their own meals and diversify their food consumption. The kitchens will have solar-powered lights and sinks, but not running water.

A joint help desk, staffed by WFP, Save the Children and UNHCR has been established in Al Za'atri to handle complicated cases. A food assistance committee composed of community leaders provides assistance and has helped to reduce tensions during distributions.

Assessments: The inter-agency General Nutrition Survey will be conducted to assess the levels of acute malnutrition among Syrian refugees in Jordan and the presence of factors that could result in malnutrition. Training for the Nutrition Survey is underway at UNICEF headquarters. Data collection will commence on 8 October and the Al Za'atri camp assessment will run in parallel to the host community assessments.

Coordination: Budget revision 4 includes a major expansion of all activities to reach the revised beneficiary numbers. While the original planned beneficiary number for Jordan was 80,000, the revised figure for December 2012 is 250,000, an increase of more than 300 percent over the original planning figure. This revision accommodates the increase in beneficiary numbers expanding the voucher modality to assist 95,000 beneficiaries living in host communities and in-kind food support to the camp residents expected to rise to 155,000 by December 2012, as well as the programmatic and organizational structure to support this expanded intervention.

The Jordan Country Office (CO) organized a field trip to Cyber City transit centre for a delegation from DFID to receive a briefing of the voucher programme. The trip

included visiting retailers, cooperating partners and beneficiaries participating in the voucher programme in the transit centre.

Jordan CO attended a Regional Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) workshop held jointly by WFP Jordan,

OPT, Lebanon, Turkey and the Regional Bureau to standardise the M&E tools and forms for the voucher programme.

Lebanon

SITUATION UPDATE

To date, 60,089 Syrian refugees are registered with UNHCR in Lebanon; an additional 25,150 awaiting registration bringing the total number of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon to 85,250. UNHCR has closed the Baalbek registration centre and is setting up a centre in Aarsal where it will start registration on 8 October.

The joint effort of WFP, UNHCR, HRC and local authorities has helped ease tensions in Wadi Khaled. Distribution of vouchers and non-food items resumed on 4 October and will be completed on 9 October.

WFP RESPONSE

During the September cycle, WFP has assisted more than 47,549 Syrian Refugees in Lebanon so far; distributions are on-going in Wadi Khaled. The distribution plan for the October cycle has been prepared; 27,250 food vouchers for the Bekaa Valley and 38,000 for the North. The distribution of food parcels will continue for newcomers in both areas with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

In the North, Between 1-3 October, food and NFI distributions under the September cycle took place at a new distribution site in Tripoli that is located in a more secure area. During these three last days of distribution (out of 4), 11,240 individuals (2,248 HH) received 516 food parcels and 8,376 food-vouchers.

On 4 October, the September cycle food and NFIs distribution resumed in Wadi Khaled area. Local authorities identified three new distribution sites where security was guaranteed. During the first day of distribution, around 2,850 individuals (570 HH) received 90 food parcels and 2,158 food-vouchers. The September cycle distributions will be completed in Wadi Khaled on 9 October.

WFP staff actively participated and supported DRC at control desks, for tracking problem cases and for the food-voucher deliveries.

In the Bekaa Valley, no food or voucher distributions took place during the reporting period as the September cycle is completed. In September, WFP assisted 17,590 beneficiaries (3,794 HH) with full-value food-vouchers and an additional 2,566 beneficiaries (589 HH) with half-value mid-month food-vouchers.

On 5 October, WFP Bekaa Valley received 27,650 blank vouchers for the October round of distribution. The vouchers will be completed and distributed to the partners at the beginning of next week.

Assessments: WFP and DRC selected four new shops in Wadi Khaled area, in the North, following a quick assessment to increase the number of shops involved in the food-voucher programme.

Four new shops have also been added in Central and West Bekaa Valley after a selection exercise conducted by a joint team composed of WFP and World Vision (WV) staff. Additional shops still need to be added in other areas to ensure competition and increased beneficiary choice.

Shop evaluations regarding voucher misuse have been completed and warning letters are being sent to violators.

Monitoring: On 4 October, the Qobayat Head of Sub-Office and one Field Monitoring Assistant (FMA) went to Zahle Sub-Office to work with the team on household interview methodology and to share the new monitoring and evaluation Excel data-entry tool.

On 5 October, WFP paid shop monitoring visits to most of the 24 shops recently selected in Tripoli. The regulations were reiterated where needed and no major issues were identified.

During the reporting period, the Bekaa Valley team conducted 40 household post-distribution monitoring interviews (PDM). A total of 70 PDM visits have been conducted for the September cycle (2% of the target

population). Highlights from last week's monitoring include:

>Some beneficiaries reported that the vouchers cover their food needs for the duration of the entire month, while others stated that the vouchers only meet their needs for 20-25 days and that they are using their own resources to buy items like vegetables, bread, chicken and meat to complement items purchased with the vouchers. This will be investigated further in the joint UNHCR-WFP assessment planned for mid-November.

>All the distribution processes were successful in terms of crowd control, waiting time, pre-informing beneficiaries by SMS and organization; no major challenges were reported.

>Shopkeepers are satisfied with the benefit and impact of voucher redemption on their businesses, which were apparent directly following distributions. However, shopkeepers in Central Bekaa reiterated complaints about the delayed payments and threatened to withdraw from the programme if this continues.

>Shop keepers stressed the need to be paid by the beginning of each month because they have commitments with suppliers.

>All the visited shops are well maintained, clean and keep good quality food. WFP-listed food items are available except for vegetables in some shops.

Logistics: The Lebanon overland corridor to Syria has been tested for contingency planning and is currently operational. The third shipment to Syria via the Beirut corridor was finalized on 27 September consisting of 50 containers (819 mt) of vegetable oil.

Coordination: WFO held a meeting in Beirut with DRC to finalize pending reporting issues such as quantitative tables of vouchers and food parcels assistance and

WFP's signature on the letter confirming the need to assist the newly displaced vulnerable Syrian families coming to Lebanon while they await registration with UNHCR.

WFP Regional Director (RD) Daly Belgasmi visited Lebanon from 3-6 October and met with officials and sister agencies. On the second day, the RD visited the Zahle Sub-Office in the Bekaa Valley and met with partners and WFP staff and visited the voucher programme including one refugee family visit and a shop visit.

On 4 October, WFP attended the UNDP and UNHCR co-chaired task force meeting on "the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanese host and border communities." UNHCR discussed the developing tensions between host communities and refugees; Lebanese communities have helped the refugees for months and now the assistance is dedicated almost solely to the refugees even though the local population sees their livelihoods disrupted by the situation. Potential support to Lebanese communities was discussed and UNHCR, DRC, NRC, UNDP and WFP have established a group to follow up and come up with a proposal in order to start the resource mobilisation process. The attendees stressed the importance of the participation of the Government in the next meeting in order to establish a sustainable system for assisting poor Lebanese communities.

Between 1-2 October, the WFP Qobayat and Zahle Program Assistants attended the WFP Regional Monitoring and Evaluation workshop in Amman. COs involved in the regional EMOP shared their monitoring tools and worked on future harmonization strategies. The questionnaires and databases already in use were discussed.

Iraq

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 5 October, UNHCR reported that there are 36,500 registered refugees in Iraq. The majority are in Kurdistan: 23,949 in Dohuk Governorate, 4,859 in Erbil Governorate and 1,293 in Suleimaniyah Governorate. The remaining, 6,399 are in Anbar Governorate in Al Qaim, Al Waleed and Rabyaa.

Iraq depends heavily on imported food. In Kurdistan, most of the imported food items originate from

Turkey, Iran and other countries in the region and food prices fluctuate rapidly in line with the market. WFP has noted that the prices of some commodities like rice, lentils and oil have increased by 10-30% since the June voucher assessment. This indicates that the fluidity of prices could affect the upcoming voucher programme.

WFP RESPONSE

In September, WFP assisted 10,212 individuals in Domiz camp with 133.3 mt of food; UNHCR reports that some 19,000 refugees currently reside in the camp, while only 9,457 are registered. WFP is targeting a total of 40,000 refugees in Kurdistan Region by December 2012.

WFP has signed a Field Level Agreement (FLA) with Islamic Relief Worldwide Iraq for the implementation of the value-based voucher programme in the Kurdistan Region. The FLA covers the period 15 October – 15 December 2012, supporting 10,000 refugees in Kurdistan Region in October/November and 15,000 refugees in November/December. WFP met with the Head of Mission for IR and discussed the implementation plan.

Save the Children and ACTED for the implementation of the voucher programme in Erbil and Suleimaniyah Governorates. Both are under review by the WFP programme team and selection will be based on competitive and cost effective offers.

The commencement of the October distribution cycle is postponed due to the delay in the arrival of 162 mt of food commodities procured from Turkey. DDM has

agreed to provide emergency rations in the camp until the shipment arrives and WFP can resume food distributions.

WFP is in the process of procuring of 362 mt of food for a two month ration (October-November) comprised of fortified wheat flour, rice, vegetable oil, sugar, lentils and salt for 10,000- 15,000 refugees in Al Qaim. The assignment plan has been prepared and CO procurement is following up with HQ. Another procurement is also under process for additional food rations for November and December to assist up to 20,000 refugees, the number estimated for Al Qaim by December.

WFP participated in the UNHCR-chaired coordination meeting on 4 October with participants from other UN agencies and NGOs. Ways forward in view of the increasing refugee numbers in the camps were discussed, especially in light of winterization issues and water and sanitation needs which were discussed as priority concerns. WFP gave a brief on its direct food assistance and voucher programmes and informed members that IR is its main cooperating partner in Domiz and Dahuk.

Turkey

SITUATION UPDATE

According to the Government of Turkey, as of 4 October estimates, there are 95,774 Syrians registered and accommodated in Turkish camps, including those temporarily staying in schools and hospitals. This represents about a 5% increase since the end of September.

Reportedly, there are more than 10,000 Syrians across the border from Kilis and Hatay despite the admissions. Reportedly the border is open and humanitarian assistance (food, water and medical

assistance) is provided at the zero point on the border.

Currently there are 14 camps including five in Hatay, two in Gaziantep, two in Şanlıurfa, one in Kahramanmaraş, one in Adiyaman, one in Osmaniye and one container city in Kilis. An additional camp in Nizip opened this week. Three more camps are currently being constructed. When all planned camps are complete, Turkey will have the capacity to host 130,000 people.

WFP RESPONSE

WFP in partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay) plans to launch the voucher programme in Kilis from the second week of October and following this in Hatay, covering an initial caseload of more than 25,000 people. Printing of the e-voucher (Visa e-cards) for beneficiaries in Kilis camp will start from 9 October.

Assessments: The voucher feasibility study recommended 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 over the first two weeks of October and to cover the needs of 25,000 people, is expected to be expanded as cooking facilities and access to shops is made available. WFP will continue to work with the Turkish Government to plan to

increase assistance to cover additional camps where cooking and market facilities can be installed.

Technical staff from WFP and Kizilay have travelled to Gaziantep to plan further the implementation of the voucher programme with local officials. A mission consisting of technical staff is likely to travel to Hatay over the coming weeks.

Coordination: On 4 October, WFP and Kizilay technical staff met to discuss the plan of action to prepare for the launch of the voucher programme during the second week of October week. WFP and Kizilay are now working in close coordination to ensure a smooth roll out of the programme.

WFP and the Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay) signed the Field Level Agreement (FLA) for the implementation of the voucher programme on 5 October and are planning to officially launch the voucher programme to coincide with a visit from the WFP Regional Director (RD) from 13-17 October.

During the RD's visit, WFP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs plan to sign a Letter of Understanding between the Government of Turkey and WFP for the provision



The General Manager of Kizilay Mr Ömer Taşlı and WFP Emergency Coordinator Mr Jean-Yves Lequime signing the FLA of the e-Card voucher programme on 5 October.

of support to Syrians who have found temporary protection in Turkey.

Regional Coordination and Resource Mobilization

The revised Regional Response Plan (RRP) for Syrian refugees was launched on 27 September and increased the interagency planning figures and consequently those for the WFP operation. Projected beneficiary numbers are now 710,000 by December 2012: 250,000 in Jordan; 120,000 in Lebanon; 280,000 in Turkey and 60,000 in Iraq. These figures will be reflected through a fourth budget revision to WFP's EMOP 200433 with maximum numbers for the period of October – December 2012 of 250,000 in Jordan, 120,000 in Lebanon, 60,000 in Iraq and 30,000 in Turkey, totalling 460,000 refugees.

Following the launch of the revised RRP, the requirements have increased notably, creating an urgent need for increased contributions especially for Jordan and Lebanon which have budget shortfalls of over 50% for the rest of 2012.

The Regional Bureau Heads of Unit, Emergency Coordinator and Amman Cell will meet in Amman from 6-8 October. The meeting will provide an opportunity for the Country Offices, the Regional Bureau, the Amman Cell and HQ to develop a to strategic plan for the operation beyond 2012, update

the joint work plan for RB, Amman and the COs until the end of the year and agree upon standard operating procedures, internal controls, structure and communication flow to ensure that standardised and harmonised systems are in place. A monitoring and evaluation (M&E) training took place in Amman from 1-3 October. At the training, it was agreed that the Regional EMOP will share a Regional M&E database, based on the oPt model, that all monitoring tools will be harmonized between the regional COs by the end of October and that a minimum sample of 2.5% post-monitoring activities will be the standard. The training also included discussions about best practices, measuring the food basket and prices purchased through vouchers and whether the WFP-UNICEF nutrition survey can be used as a baseline before the end of the year. The training was attended by oPt, Iraq, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt and Regional Bureau Officers.

Budget revision number 3 of the Regional Refugee Emergency Operation was approved by the Executive Director and General Director of FAO on 2 October. This budget revision incorporates the caseload in Turkey.

Resource update (based on requirements from Budget Revision 4, still under approval):

Country	Requirements (US\$)	Resourced (US\$)	Shortfalls (US\$)	Percent Shortfall
Jordan	34,116,495	14,953,061	19,163,434	56.17%
Lebanon	16,817,879	7,813,723	9,004,156	53.54%
Iraq	4,812,683	2,551,080	2,261,603	46.99%
Turkey	6,944,352	6,772,572	171,780	2.47%
EMOP total	62,691,409	32,090,436	30,600,973	49%

USA, Japan, ECHO, Switzerland, Canada, UN CERF, SRAC (USA), UK, SRAC (SWE) have contributed to the EMOP

For further information contact:

Ms. Abeer Etefa, Sr. Regional Public Information Officer

+20 1066634352

Abeer.Etefa@wfp.org



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