

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

Situation Report # 25

Reporting Period: 21-27 October 2012



**World Food
Programme**

Fighting Hunger Worldwide

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

JORDAN – WFP assisted almost 20,000 Syrian refugees with dry food rations during the second October cycle distributions in Al Za'atri camp. WFP also continues to provide welcome meals to new arrivals in Al Za'atri Camp and to patients hospitalized at the French and Moroccan health clinics in the camp. The September-October cycle voucher distributions targeting 41,000 people are ongoing in communities and in Cyber City transit centre; WFP has reached about 30,000 people so far.

LEBANON – WFP assisted some 65,500 Syrian Refugees in Lebanon during the October cycle and plans to assist 85,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon in November. In the Bekaa Valley, there were no food parcel distributions for refugees in remote areas as refugees who would normally receive food parcels expressed their preference to be incorporated into the voucher programme.

IRAQ – Following the arrival of food commodities in Iraq, WFP conducted October cycle distributions on 22 October to ensure that refugees had food before the Eid Al Adha holidays. So far, WFP has reached 2,707 Syrian refugees in Domiz with 27 mt of direct food assistance. Food distributions in Al Qaim will start in mid-November.

TURKEY – Through the electronic food card programme, WFP and Kizilay are assisting around 13,000 Syrians in Kilis and will expand to Hatay over the coming weeks to cover more than 25,000 people. Initial reactions indicate that beneficiaries are thoroughly satisfied with the programme so far. During the reporting period, WFP and Kizilay went on a joint planning mission to Hatay to plan further the expansion of the programme there.



Syrian family in Homs who receives WFP food parcels on a monthly basis. © WFP/ Laure Chadraoui

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 24 October, UNHCR has registered 60,089 Syrians in Jordan with 32,160 awaiting registration appointments. During the reporting period, Al Za'atri camp received 1,380 new arrivals. However, large

numbers of beneficiaries have left the camp either through voluntary return to Syria, the bailing system, or by their own means. Most refugees who remain in Jordan are now living in local communities.

WFP RESPONSE

In Al Za'atri camp WFP completed the second cycle October distributions of dry rations on 24 October reaching 19,886 beneficiaries. During this cycle, WFP's cooperating partner Save the Children simultaneously distributed coupon booklets that beneficiaries can redeem for bread at the food distribution point (FDP), starting on 31 October. The first cycle November general food distribution (GFD) in Al Za'atri is planned to commence on 2 November. WFP also provided 1,380 welcome meals to new arrivals in Al Za'atri Camp.

In addition, cooperating partner Save the Children continues to distribute welcome meals on a daily basis to patients hospitalized at the French and Moroccan health clinics in Al Za'atri camp.

WFP continues to distribute welcome meals and bread in King Abdullah Park (KAP) until markets are established and a voucher program can be implemented. WFP, the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) and Tkaful (a local NGO) met this week to discuss the required preparation for the implementation of the voucher programme in KAP: the establishment of kitchens as well as a shop in KAP should be finalized within a week.

Voucher distribution in the communities is still ongoing as of 26 October due to missing beneficiary information. However, WFP and its cooperating partners have extended distribution to reach these beneficiaries through relatives and local NGOs to allow them to collect their entitlements. About 30,000 of the 41,000 targeted beneficiaries have been reached so far.

Assessments: Data collection for the inter-agency General Nutrition Survey in Al Za'atri camp has been delayed due to the Eid holidays and the resulting change in diet; the planned completion date is now 4 November. Data collection for the host community was completed 24 October.

Monitoring: On 25 October, WFP held a field monitor training in Al Za'atri camp to familiarize field staff with an updated set of monitoring tools including: distribution, post-distribution and focus group monitoring forms. A sample was taken from Al Za'atri camp using the updated tools and the following observations were made:

1. While refugees in Al Za'atri camp appear to be receiving their entitled amount of bread on a daily basis, many are calling for an increase in the bread ration as they prefer bread to other WFP commodities.
2. Of those sampled, all are cooking once a day and eating readily prepared foods such as canned goods and cheese for the other two meals.
3. Most families received donations from Arab governments during the Eid holidays including food and non-food items (NFI).

Coordination: UNHCR is currently leading the inter-agency winterization planning to prepare for the harsh weather conditions expected in Al Za'atri camp.

On 22 October, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Vice President of the commission visited kitchens and the FDP in Al Za'atri camp. WFP, together with UNHCR and UNICEF participated in the briefing.

Members of the Arab League were briefed by WFP in Al Za'atri camp this week, visiting schools and kitchens in addition to participating in a press conference as a sign of support for Syrian refugees. WFP also received members of the Emirati Embassy and Emirati Red Crescent over the Eid holiday as they brought donations of food and NFIs to Al Za'atri camp for Syrian refugees.

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 29 October, 74,720 Syrian refugees are registered with UNHCR in Lebanon; an additional 29,948 have been in contact with UNHCR to be registered. This brings the total number of refugees to 104,668.

UNHCR set up a registration centre in Arsal where it has already registered over 5,000 refugees in October. In the coming weeks UNHCR will set up a registration centre in Qaa.

In the aftermath of the 19 October bombing in Beirut, the security situation in Lebanon remained tense. As a

result, all external missions to Lebanon were suspended and all granted security clearances were immediately revoked; all movements of UN staff in Lebanon were forbidden until 23 October.

With UNDSS coordination, the Heads of Sub-Offices (HoSO) and most staff returned to their duty stations by 23 October. Precise headcount and location was maintained by the CO until 24 October when UNDSS authorised internal missions with the exception of Tripoli where the situation remains tense.

WFP RESPONSE

WFP has assisted about 50,000 beneficiaries in the October cycle so far, distributions are ongoing.

North: Between 22-23 October, WFP staff who could safely reach the Qobayat sub-office recounted the 19,500 redeemed vouchers collected by WFP cooperating partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) for the first round of the September cycle. No errors were identified and DRC proceeded with the payment. The final collection for this cycle will be completed next week.

Between 24 and 25 October, the food and non-food item (NFI) distribution under the October cycle started in Wadi Khaled area; around 7,000 individuals (1,400 HH) received 160 food-parcels and 6,300 food-vouchers. October distribution in Tripoli could not be completed due to insecurity.

Bekaa Valley: In October, WFP assisted 25,199 beneficiaries with full-value food vouchers. During the reporting period, an additional 4,781 half-value mid-month food vouchers were handed over to WFP cooperating partners who finalised the mid-month (second round) of October distribution in all areas.

Food parcel distribution is limited to the newcomer programme implemented by DRC. The newcomer programme targets households that recently arrived in Lebanon (less than one month) and are not yet registered with UNHCR. WFP, through its cooperating partner DRC, provides food assistance based on a household vulnerability assessment. Figures for September are not yet available.

Distribution meetings have been held with cooperating partners to share and discuss best practices to avoid crowding and security incidents at distribution sites.

World Vision (WV) September reconciliation verification has taken place with the remote support of the Regional Bureau IT Officer. The number of redeemed vouchers has been reconciled however an issue regarding missing beneficiary signatures is being investigated by WFP. DRC September reconciliation verification is still ongoing.

Assessments: Based on shop evaluations conducted by DRC and WFP staff, it was agreed that three shops will receive warning letters. Additionally, WV and DRC have organised a shopkeeper refresher training that is scheduled to take place next week.

The joint UNICEF-WFP Nutrition Survey report has been postponed due to new delays in the data collection for the Jordan component due to Eid.

Monitoring: The October price monitoring data collection is conducted by WFP Bekaa Valley sub-offices for 90% of the WFP shops while another 10% has been delayed due to security constraints.

During the reporting period, the Bekaa Valley team conducted 14 household post-distribution monitoring visits in Arsal and visited two distribution centres. Highlights from the previous week's monitoring include:

- The distributions were well organized, managed and controlled except in Baalbeck and Bar Elias where the distribution site was crowded.
- Some distribution sites are not equipped and suitable for winter because the waiting area is not covered by a roof to protect beneficiaries from winter weather. Partners are looking for convenient, safe and suitable distribution centres for winter.

- Sensitization on the voucher usage is needed at distribution points, especially for the beneficiaries who are receiving vouchers for the first time. Moreover explanation on the distribution process for people waiting should also be emphasized.
- Most of the visited shops have landline telephones or are willing to reactivate the cut off ones they have. Only one of the visited shops (in Baalbeck) has the electronic credit card machine but all of the shop owners were interested in the e-voucher service.

In parallel to the distribution, the Program Assistant of Qobayat sub-office visited all of the shops in Wadi Khaled area: seven newly selected shops received training, and the other ones were monitored. Some warning letters will be sent soon to two shops that do not follow the program regulations.

Coordination: The WFP Emergency Coordinator (EC) had various meetings with humanitarian actors in the

country to prepare for the WFP Executive Director's visit; coordination with Government entities and sister agencies is ongoing.

The next meeting with the Government's High Relief Commission (HRC) and IOM regarding assistance to Lebanese returnees was postponed due to the crisis situation following the 19 October bombing and the fact that HRC was busy addressing the needs of the families affected by it. The meeting will be held on 29 October.

The EC continued consultations with potential partners for the programme in the South. In addition to Terre des Homme (TDH) Italy and Save the Children, the EC met with Première Urgence and ACF. All potential partners will submit a short concept of operation for potential partnership in the South by the beginning of November.

WFP met with UNHCR to discuss the referral mechanism across agencies.

Iraq

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 24 October, UNHCR reported that there are 44,772 registered refugees in Iraq. The majority are in Kurdistan Region governorates: 28,099 in Dohuk, 6,477 in Erbil and 1,846 in Suleimaniyah. The remaining, 8,358 Syrians are in Al Qaim in Anbar Governorate.

UNHCR reports that some 14,000 refugees currently reside in Domiz camp, while others move between the camp and host communities due to a lack of formal shelter facilities.

UNHCR reports indicate that between August and October, over 5,000 Syrians on average arrived in Iraq per month. Because the Kurdistan authorities are preoccupied with the provision of shelter, education,

WFP RESPONSE

Following the arrival of food commodities, WFP initiated October cycle distributions on 22 October to ensure that refugees had food before the Eid Al Adha holidays. So far, WFP has reached 2,707 Syrian refugees in Domiz with 27 mt of direct food assistance. The ration is comprised of: cereals, pulses, oil, sugar and salt.

Food distribution in Al-Qaim is expected to start after the second week of November.

health and security services, there is an urgent need for regular funding and resource mobilization beyond Iraq Country Office capacity to enable sustainable food assistance to the increasing number of refugees. WFP needs both in-kind food and value-based voucher assistance programmes.

Food Security: The market survey this week confirmed that food prices have remained relatively stable as reported in early-October; however there has been an increase of 10-12% in the price of pulses and vegetable oil. Regular market price monitoring in the Al-Qaim area will start after the hiring process of an Al-Qaim based Programme Assistant is completed in early-November.

WFP and cooperating partner Islamic Relief facilitate food distributions for women in Domiz camp. The women and their children are accommodated in a shaded area built by UNHCR while waiting for their entitlements. WFP and UNHCR give priority to women during food distributions and registration. UNHCR-hired guards provide security during the distributions and provision of other services in the camp. The singles amongst the refugees are assisted separately from the families.

The procurement process of 162 mt of food commodities for a one-month ration (October) for 10,000 refugees in Al Qaim is being finalized. The rations will be comprised of fortified wheat flour, rice, vegetable oil, sugar, lentils and salt.

Available stocks are enough for a one-month ration to meet the needs of 10,000 refugees in Domiz camp. The remaining caseload will be assisted through the voucher programme.

Coordination:

During the reporting period, WFP participated in several meetings with UN agencies and the Government. The Kurdistan Regional Ministries of Education and Health have appealed for support to children in Domiz camp through provision of education and health services; WFP was requested to provide fortified biscuits during breakfast time in

class, as many parents cannot afford food for their children during school hours. UNICEF has taken the lead through the provision of caravans with enough space to accommodate 1,200 children in the camp. UNHCR is planning to provide enough space for up to 3,000 school children in Domiz camp. The Ministry of Education has offered free space in their public schools to all Syrian school children living in host communities.

UNHCR has confirmed in a recent co-ordination meeting that a full-fledged winterization plan is being implemented for the two camps in Al-Qaim. This includes replacement of all existing tents with more wind and cold resistant tents and the provision of additional quilts and blankets, cooking stoves, heaters, kerosene and other necessities for each family.

Turkey

SITUATION UPDATE

There have been no updates to the official figures reported by the Government of Turkey on October 17, the total official number of Syrians registered and accommodated across 14 camps in seven provinces is 101,834.

According to the authorities, there is no change in Turkey's "open border policy." Syrians who would like to seek asylum are admitted and referred to the newly opened camps of Nizip-1 in Gaziantep province and the camp in Adiyaman province, unless they have immediate family members in other

camps. Due to the increase in the new arrivals, both Adiyaman and Nizip-1 camps have reportedly reached almost 50% of their capacities.

Local Government officials have informed the UN that there are more than 10,000 Syrians at the borders of Hatay and Kilis provinces, however not all are willing to cross into Turkey because of the humanitarian assistance provided by Kizilay at the zero point and also because some feel safer at the border.

WFP RESPONSE

Through the electronic food card programme, WFP and Kizilay are assisting around 13,000 Syrians in Kilis and will expand to Hatay over the coming weeks to cover more than 25,000 people. Initial reactions indicate that beneficiaries are thoroughly satisfied with the programme.

To date, WFP and Kizilay have distributed 1,987 cards to cover the needs of 12,215 beneficiaries in Kilis camp. Cards were distributed to one household member per container; 74% of the cards were issued to women (1,141 cards). The next payment to cover the first two weeks of November will be made 1 November.

Kizilay is expecting to receive from AFAD the updated list of beneficiaries to prepare for charging the cards for the next cycle on 1 November.

Assessments: WFP is now preparing to launch the electronic food card programme in Hatay. A joint WFP-Kizilay planning mission to Hatay took place from 22 to 23 October. WFP and Kizilay will start the shop selection process after 30 October.

The mission visited three camps and found that cooking facilities are available including electric and gas stoves. Each family also has a small refrigerator for fresh food.

Based on the Government's request to increase further the assistance in Turkey, WFP is now

planning to reach 40,000 beneficiaries by the end of 2012; this is an increase from the original planning figure of 30,000. WFP and the Government are planning jointly to determine where expansion should occur next.

Coordination: During the joint WFP-Kizilay field mission in Hatay Province WFP met with local authorities (Governors and AFAD) to discuss the modality for expanding the electronic food card programme in four camps of Yayaladagi and Altinovu districts. The mission visited the camps and met with the Sub-Governors of Altinovu and Yayaladagi cities who are responsible for the daily management of the camps as well as the AFAD

Regional Coordinator. Both Governors welcome the introduction of the electronic food card programme in the four camps and they are pleased that the programme will boost the local economy.

The Sub-Governor of Altinovu indicated that Altinovu Boynuyogun camp is located far from the market place and proposed to organize a tender for selecting supermarkets that can install shops inside the camp, as is the case in Kilis camp. The proposed plan is to initiate the programme in three of the camps on 15 November and to continue in Altinovu Boynuyogun after the installation of the markets in the camp.

Regional Coordination and Resource Mobilization

Contingency planning: As the humanitarian situation in Syria continues to deteriorate, an inter-agency contingency planning process is progressing steadily. To ensure coherent and effective WFP related preparedness actions, WFP held a contingency planning workshop in Amman from 22 to 23 October, bringing together elements from the Regional Bureau, Regional Cell, relevant Country Offices and WFP HQ as part of a wider planning process for Syria and surrounding countries. The aim of this process is to strengthen operational response and readiness for current operations in the region

and also to facilitate incremental scale up based on the IASC agreed scenarios.

Assessment, Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) and Nutrition: The Regional Cell in Amman coordinated with the Regional Bureau Advisors (Nutrition and Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping): planning for the finalization of the nutrition surveys in Jordan and Lebanon; harmonization of the monitoring and evaluation tools with the various country offices; follow up with UNHCR on the light joint assessment mission; ways to adjust the value of the voucher and food ration for the winter.

Resource update -Budget Revision 4-

Country	Requirements (US\$)	Resourced (US\$)	Shortfalls (US\$)	Percent Shortfall
Jordan	33,833,855	15,405,266	18,428,589	54%
Lebanon	16,765,670	7,875,329	8,890,341	53%
Iraq	4,928,479	3,812,463	1,116,016	23%
Turkey	7,163,402	6,763,184	400,219	6%
EMOP total	62,691,406	33,856,242	28,835,164	46%

USA, Japan, ECHO, Switzerland, Canada, Sweden, UN CERF, SRAC (USA), UK, Saudi Arabia and Sweden have contributed to the EMOP

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