

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

Situation Report # 28

Reporting Period: 11-17 November 2012



**World Food
Programme**

Fighting Hunger Worldwide

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

JORDAN – The first November cycle distribution of dry rations to refugees in Al Za'atri camp concluded on 10 November, reaching over 20,000 beneficiaries. The second round of distribution started on 16 November and is ongoing. So far, WFP has reached over 29,000 of the 48,000 planned beneficiaries with voucher assistance under the November cycle; distributions are ongoing.

LEBANON – During the reporting period, WFP completed November cycle voucher distribution in the Bekaa Valley. Distribution in the North targeting 45,000 people will start next week. So far, WFP has reached over 32,600 beneficiaries in November. November cycle distributions are ongoing with plans to assist 85,000.

IRAQ – WFP completed the second round of food distribution in Domiz on 14 November, reaching almost 10,400 Syrian refugees with 150 mt of mixed food commodities. Food distribution in Al Qaim is expected to start by the end of November. WFP will launch its voucher programme in Domiz camp in December targeting over 12,000 beneficiaries.

TURKEY – WFP and the Turkish Red Crescent Society launched the Electronic Food Card Programme in three camps in Hatay on 17 November. Preparations are ongoing for further expansion of the programme in Hatay. WFP is targeting some 22,000 beneficiaries in Kilis and Hatay by the end of November.

EGYPT – WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR concluded the joint rapid needs assessment of Syrian refugees in Egypt. A heads of agencies debriefing of the assessment outcome is scheduled to take place on 27 November. UNHCR has registered over 7,000 Syrians in Egypt, while media reports indicate that 150,000 have entered the country.



Returnee to Baba Amr in Homs who witnessed fierce fighting and destruction. WFP is providing food assistance to those who returned. ©WFP/Laure Chadraoui

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 14 November, UNHCR has registered 88,026 Syrians in Jordan with an additional 31,967 who have received appointments for registration. These numbers now include those registered in Al Za'atri camp. During the reporting period, Al Za'atri camp received 3,321 new arrivals. Large numbers of beneficiaries have left the camp either through voluntary return to Syria, the bailing system, or by their own means. WFP has assessed whether adjustments to its programming are needed given winterization concerns and food price increases in Jordan. In Al Za'atri camp, WFP dry rations combined with UNHCR complimentary goods provides nearly 2,400 kilocalories per person on a daily basis. Based on the current level of caloric intake, an increase in kilocalories per person is not necessary for

winterization purposes in Al Za'atri camp. However, a recent price monitoring survey concluded that the voucher value in urban areas needs to increase by 2 Jordanian dinars per person per month in order to account for food price increases and winterization of the food basket. In response to fuel subsidy cuts in Jordan, protests took place in several cities on 13 November. WFP is monitoring the situation to ensure that demonstrations do not affect its assistance activities.

A budget shortfall of US\$15.5 million needs to be funded urgently for the EMOP in Jordan.

WFP RESPONSE

The November first cycle dry ration distribution in Al Za'atri concluded 10 November; WFP reached 20,075 beneficiaries during the first cycle. The second round of dry ration distribution began on 16 November, with plans to finish in five days; UNHCR has requested distribution for 26,392 beneficiaries. In addition, cooperating partner Save the Children continues to distribute welcome meals on a daily basis to new arrivals in Al Za'atri camp. In King Abdullah Park (KAP), welcome meals distribution was suspended for three days in coordination with the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) to allow other entities to provide food assistance. During the reporting period, WFP distributed 140kg of bread daily to beneficiaries in KAP and through cooperating partner Save the Children, 6 mt in Al Za'atri camp. Distributions of food, along with non-food items, from the new joint UNHCR/WFP/NRC/Save the Children distribution centre began on 16 November for new arrivals. Depending on the date of arrival, Syrian refugees receive either a full two-week ration or half one-week ration from the new arrival distribution point until they can be incorporated into the regular distribution cycle.

On 13 November, WFP met with JHCO to discuss the way forward with the introduction of vouchers to Al Za'atri camp and KAP. JHCO has signed implementation agreements with five community-based organizations (CBOs) allowing them to open shops and sell food items

in the camp, with plans to sign agreements with ten more CBOs. WFP and JHCO agreed that cooperating partner Save the Children will be implementing the project in Al Za'atri camp. WFP has offered to host some shops in its food distribution point compound. WFP received JHCO approval to work with cooperating partner Human Relief Foundation (HRF) as the voucher distribution partner in KAP. Markets in KAP will be ready next week, and WFP, through HRF, will begin voucher distribution there before the end of November.

While the bread distributions are improving and the beneficiaries are adjusting to the new distribution system, they continue to request a bigger bread ration. WFP and cooperating partner Save the Children are working to improve the distribution with proper verification to avoid shortages. During the second cycle dry ration distribution in November, Save the Children is distributing a new bread coupon, similar to a ration card, in order to improve the verification and tracking of bread distributions.

Difficulties in determining the number of beneficiaries in Al Za'atri camp continues to affect WFP operations as many beneficiaries are arriving to receive dry rations with inactive UNHCR ration cards. It is possible that beneficiaries were not present in their tents during the UNHCR tent by tent verification exercise and are therefore no longer registered in the database. WFP

and UNHCR are working together to identify the cause of the inactive ration cards.

Assessments: WFP and UNICEF completed the data collection for the General Nutrition Survey in Al Za'atri camp and preliminary results will be available by the end of the month. The Participatory Assessment tool, in conjunction with UNHCR, was finalized and training for staff who will act as facilitators was undertaken prior to the commencement of the field work this week.

Monitoring: WFP Regional Protection Adviser provided protection training for field monitors and staff in Al Za'atri camp on 14 November. The training included basic protection issues in the WFP operational context as well as how to conduct successful focus groups. More extensive training will be provided in the near future.

During the reporting period, field monitors conducted 61 post-distribution monitoring (PDM) interviews in all areas of Al Za'atri camp as well as daily distribution monitoring of general food distributions, bread and welcome meals to new arrivals. The following observations were made from distribution and post-distribution monitoring in Al Za'atri camp:

- Field monitors noted that several women have emphasized the need for gender segregation during peak distribution times at the bread distribution point. During the most crowded times, men move to the womens' line as there are typically fewer women collecting bread. WFP is working with cooperating partner Save the Children to address this request.
- The new joint UNHCR-WFP distribution centre for new arrivals is efficient and well organized. WFP and UNHCR's cooperating partners, Save the Children and Norwegian Refugee Council respectively, are cooperating to distribute both food and non-food items.
- Winterization is often discussed now that the temperature is dropping in the camp. Beneficiaries are requesting caravans and warmer clothes. Monitors have noted that some of the caravans donated by Saudi Arabia have started entering the camp.

Voucher field monitors received 50 hotline calls mainly pertaining to questions about cycle three November distribution. Voucher monitoring indicates that:

- Beneficiaries are spending on average 50% of their vouchers on fruit, vegetables, dairy products and meat.
- Beneficiaries have reduced their overall spending on food from non-voucher resources. The voucher programme has increased their ability to pay utilities, rent and purchase non-food items.
- Beneficiaries highlight that vouchers are preferred over dry rations because the voucher system is less restricted and provides more opportunity to access a variety of food items.
- In general, beneficiaries and shopkeepers are very satisfied with voucher distributions and are comfortable with the simplicity of the voucher programme.
- Beneficiaries report that they feel 'like everyone else' who buy their food from shops, allowing them to maintain their dignity.

Coordination: WFP, with UNHCR and UNICEF, participated in coordination meetings on 13 November with the Governors of Mafraq and Irbid and the Health, Education, Electricity and Waste Management Departments. Governors called for a shift in attention from the camp settlements to the host communities where the majority of the Syrians are residing and noted WFP's voucher programme as an effective modality of assistance. The Waste Management Department of Mafraq appreciated the introduction of dry rations in Za'atri camp, which significantly reduced the daily garbage disposal requirements. WFP thanked the Department of Health for its close collaboration with WFP during both hot meal assistance period and the ongoing dry ration distributions.

Representatives from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) visited Al Za'atri camp on 17 November. WFP and UNHCR gave a brief on the current operations in the camp then toured the representatives through a kitchen and the food distribution point.

WFP met with Emirati Red Crescent Deputy Ms. Naeema Eid AlMheiri and discussed WFP's support to Syrian refugees especially in Al Za'atri camp.

YUM! Brands, a WFP corporate partner, visited the Amman office and was briefed on WFP's support to Syrians. As part of their voluntary efforts, families collected olives from the orchard in front of the WFP office. Original plans to volunteer in Al Za'atri camp were cancelled due to gas price demonstrations around the country.

SITUATION UPDATE

To date, 88,794 Syrians are registered with UNHCR in Lebanon; an additional 33,500 have been in contact with UNHCR to be registered. This brings the total number of refugees in Lebanon to 122,000. This week, the majority of Syrians who registered with UNHCR are from Homs, Damascus, Aleppo, Edleb and Hama.

In the Bekaa Valley, the UNHCR mobile registration team moved to a center in Al Marj in Central Bekaa, where the largest number of Syrians are awaiting registration; the team will continue registration in Al Marj for one month. In North Lebanon, registration activities continued in Tripoli where 2,926 people were registered. Following discussions with the authorities in North Lebanon, mobile registration in Wadi Khaled is now planned to begin on 19 November to register

vulnerable individuals who have been unable to reach the center in Tripoli. Registration in South Lebanon also continued through mobile efforts and at a registration center in Ghazie. As of 16 November, 2,432 Syrians were registered in the South, with more than 2,000 Syrians having also contacted UNHCR for registration appointments.

A budget shortfall of US\$5.5 million needs to be funded urgently for the EMOP in Lebanon. WFP plans to assist up to 120,000 Syrians in Lebanon by the end of 2012.

WFP RESPONSE

WFP has assisted over 32,500 beneficiaries in the November cycle so far; distributions are ongoing. In October, WFP reached a total of 66,089 beneficiaries. WFP is currently printing 110,000 vouchers for the December cycle distribution based on the following target figures: 49,000 for the Bekaa Valley, 56,000 in the North and 5,000 in the South.

North: WFP printed 44,000 vouchers for November cycle in the North. On 12 November, WFP and cooperating partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) planned for the distribution of half-value food vouchers for newly registered Syrians who were previously assisted with food parcels.

The first day of food and non-food item distribution for the November cycle was scheduled to start on 13 November in Tripoli. However due to interruptions, the distribution was postponed and will take place next week in Wadi Khaled.

Bekaa Valley: WFP printed 31,299 vouchers for 6,896 families in the Bekaa Valley and handed them over to its cooperating partners DRC and World Vision (WV) for the November first cycle distribution.

The November first round voucher distribution was completed this week, except for Aarsal (1,301 HHs) and Al Ain (328 HHs) which have been postponed until next week.

Assessments: DRC is assessing Al Ain area in the Bekaa Valley for a new distribution site. WFP continues to negotiate with potential partners for programme implementation in areas surrounding Beirut, Mount

Lebanon and South Lebanon and plans to sign agreements with two partners; Action Contre La Faim to cover the South of Litani area and Nabatiyeh and Première Urgence to cover Saida, the coastal area between Saida and Beirut, Mount Lebanon and urban settings in Beirut.

Monitoring: In the North, WFP conducted ten household post-distribution monitoring (PDM) interviews in Halba and Tripoli. In the Bekaa Valley, WFP conducted distribution and shop monitoring visits for the November cycle and around 80 household PDM interviews. The interviews aim to cover the Syrian beneficiaries in the Bekaa Valley who received food vouchers in the first round of the October cycle. In addition, WFP in the Bekaa Valley conducted 39 shop monitoring and price checklist visits, and six distribution visits in Central, West and North Bekaa this week.

Highlights from the previous week's monitoring include:

- The total number of beneficiaries in the 16 interviewed households is 85.
- 88% of beneficiaries live in rented accommodation and 12% live in tents.
- The most selected food items are: 31% oil, 25% cereals and 19% beans.
- 63% of the families also chose fresh food including vegetables, dairy, eggs, meat and bread.

- The main constraints include: 38% cold, 25% shelter and 25% rent.
- There is still a gap in the fresh food availability and accessibility in almost all the areas of the Bekaa Valley, especially vegetables, fresh meat and chicken.

Coordination: A meeting was held on 12 November at UNHCR to discuss the inputs of the fourth revision of the Regional Response Plan. Another meeting was held on 14 November to collect feedback from other agencies and NGOs that are providing food and non-food item assistance to complement the activities and consolidate the budget for the Regional Response Plan. The final version of the agreement between IOM, WFP and HCR for assistance to Lebanese returnees is ready and should be signed next week. All partners hope that the implementation of assistance to Lebanese returnees can start with the December cycle.

WFP Bekaa Valley had a visit from the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development. It is a small NGO that is currently providing food assistance to about 100 non-registered Syrian families and plans to increase that number to 250 in 2013.

On 16 November, WFP Syria chaired a Logistics Sector Coordination meeting in Beirut. Eight humanitarian organizations attended and shared their activities and winterization plans both for Syria and Lebanon. WFP shared its plan to focus on regional facilities (Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan) to safeguard stocks which could be targeted in Syria. Organizations also expressed the need for enhanced coordination in Lebanon; suggestions included a forum to share procedures to harmonize activities in the field and technical training for a coordinated emergency response in the country.

Iraq

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 18 November, UNHCR reported that there are 54,175 Syrians registered in Iraq. The majority are in Kurdistan Region governorates. UNHCR reports that some 15,000 refugees currently reside in Domiz camp, while others move between the camp and host communities due to a lack of formal shelter facilities.

WFP, humanitarian partners and local authorities are concerned about resources to meet the needs of the increasing number of refugees in Northern Iraq. WFP food assistance is planned for 10,000 refugees in Domiz camp, however according to UNHCR there are 15,000 refugees in the camp including new arrivals who have reached the camp with no means to sustain their needs; the Department of Displacement and

Migration (DDM) will provide assistance for the additional 5,000 refugees in the camp.

Food prices have remained relatively stable in November, although 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 by the third week of November.

A budget shortfall of US\$1.9 needs to be funded urgently to meet the needs of up to 60,000 beneficiaries by December 2012.

WFP RESPONSE

Following the arrival of food commodities, WFP initiated October cycle distributions on 22 October to Syrian refugees in Domiz camp. By 17 November, WFP reached 10,396 Syrian refugees in Domiz with 150.28 mt of direct food assistance. The ration is comprised of: rice, sugar, wheat flour, pulses, vegetable oil, sugar and salt. WFP will launch its voucher programme in Domiz camp in December targeting over 12,000 beneficiaries. The monthly voucher value will be US\$31 per person.

Food distribution in Al-Qaim will start immediately after the arrival of food parcels which are expected to arrive in Iraq by the end of November. In Al-Qaim, the selection process for cooperating partners for food distribution is almost complete. The field level agreement (FLA) will be signed by the third week of November. Additionally, an existing tripartite agreement between UNHCR, WFP and Islamic Relief has been extended until the end of December 2012. Two wiik-halls are on their way to Al Qaim from Amman. Qandil NGO will install the storage facilities

- one in each of the camps. More wiik-halls will be required once the third camp, which is currently under construction, becomes operational.

Assessments: WFP is planning to conduct a Household Food Security Assessment in December of the refugees in Domiz.

After the launch of the voucher programme in Iraq, WFP will start to conduct regular market price data collection of the shops under the voucher system.

WFP conducted regular food and beneficiary contact monitoring in Dahuk during the reporting period. Some findings indicate that refugees who managed to escape Syria into Iraq have spent significant amounts of money during their journey; most refugees have arrived in Iraq with limited personal resources and are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Coordination: UNHCR has confirmed in a recent coordination meeting that a full-fledged winterization plan is being implemented in 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. IOM has also supplied some winterization items that complement UNHCR supplies.

WFP will join the next UN joint mission to Al-Qaim scheduled for 20-22 November. These joint UN missions are planned every two weeks where international staff based in Baghdad visit Al-Qaim to address various operational matters and hold discussions at the coordination meeting in Al-Qaim.

Turkey

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 16 November, there are 120,147 Syrians accommodated in 14 camps in seven provinces and in a temporary reception centre. This represents an increase of 10% since the end of October. According to the Government of Turkey, there are an estimated 70,000 Syrians who are living in urban settings; this brings the total number of displaced Syrians in Turkey to over 200,000. Reportedly from 14 to 16 November, 2,365 new arrivals were registered and accommodated in camps and 470 people have returned to Syria voluntarily. The camp officials reported that since the clashes started in Ain Al Rasoul across the border from Ceylanpınar, more than 9,700 people have been registered in both Ceylanpınar and Akçakale camps and some 6,700 people have left and are staying with relatives in nearby villages of Şanlıurfa.

According to the authorities, there is no change in Turkey's open border policy even though the total

number of Syrians accommodated in camps has exceeded 100,000. Syrians seeking asylum are admitted and referred to the newly opened camps of Nizip-1 in Gaziantep province and the camp in Adıyaman province, unless they have immediate family members in other camps.

Local Government officials have informed the UN that there are more than 25,000 Syrians on the Syrian side of the border; the Turkish Red Crescent is providing assistance at the zero point of the border. The Government is admitting 500-2,000 people on a daily basis with priority given to the most vulnerable, including women, children and the elderly.

A budget shortfall of US\$508,783 needs to be funded urgently to cover the needs of up to 30,000 Syrians in Turkey by the end of December 2012.

WFP RESPONSE

On 17 November, WFP and the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRSC) launched the Electronic Food Card Programme in Hatay. The programme is covering 1,188 people in Altinozu Tekel Camp 1 and a total of 5,270 people in Yayladagi 1 and 2. Preparations are ongoing to launch the programme in Altinozu Boynuyogun targeting 1,589 people. Through e-card programme, WFP and TRSC are

targeting a total of 21,769 beneficiaries in Kilis and Hatay from 15 to 30 November.

This week, TRCS received the updated list of beneficiaries in Kilis from the Disaster and Emergency Response Management Presidency (AFAD) and charged the cards for the third cycle of the programme on 15 November.

So far, TRCS has contracted six shops in Hatay for the programme; another four will be contracted this week. TRCS conducted an e-card programme information campaign for both beneficiaries and shop retailers in Hatay. Beneficiaries of Altinozu 2 camp in Hatay will be able to shop in supermarkets that are currently being constructed near the camp in addition to those in the city. The Sub Governor's Office will provide shuttle buses for those who want to shop in the city.

WFP expects that AFAD and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) will provide a written request to increase its assistance to cover all camps and to provide a timeframe for where and when this expansion should occur – based on when camps will be prepared to have household level cooking facilities. A draft plan will be available tentatively by the end of November. Household cooking facilities are required in order to implement the programme. WFP is working closely with the TRCS and UNHCR to ensure that sufficient cooking facilities will be ready to be installed as the Government makes space available in the camps.

Coordination: Prior to the launch the Electronic Food Card Programme in Hatay, various meetings took place between WFP, the Sub Governor of Hatay, AFAD representatives and TRCS. The programme launch in Hatay on 17 November was attended by the Sub Governor of Altinozu, the WFP team and a representative from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) who was invited for the occasion. WFP staff met with SDC on

13 November in Ankara. SDC and WFP discussed SDC funding for WFP operations in Turkey in 2013 and the potential for an SDC voucher specialist to be seconded to WFP Turkey to work in the sub-office in Gaziantep to support the expansion of the programme there. WFP has prepared draft TORs that will be shared with SDC to proceed with the identification of a suitably qualified person for the secondment.

WFP and TRCS met on 16 November to discuss further expansion of the e-card programme. Based on discussions between TRCS and the Government, Islahiye camp (8,000 people) which falls under Gaziantep administration, is likely to be the next location for the programme implementation.

USAID Administrator, Dr. Rajiv Shah, will visit Turkey in late November and his mission will include a site visit to Kilis camp on 27 November. WFP is liaising with colleagues at USAID and will work closely to support USAID as required. The planned mission to Yemen of WFP Regional Director and the President and Director General of TRCS has been postponed due to Dr. Shah's visit. The Yemen mission will be rescheduled for late 2012.

A workshop is being planned for the first week of January between TRCS, WFP field staff and Government camp managers. The aim of this workshop is to discuss how the programme is operating so far, including issues that need to be resolved and to identify opportunities for improvement and expansion.

Regional Coordination and Resource Mobilization

To sustain good partnerships with WFP donors, the Regional Cell, in coordination with WFP Jordan, prepared this week for donor briefings and visits of key donors, namely CIDA and USAID-FPP.

The Regional Protection Adviser conducted a training session for protection awareness in WFP operations in Jordan. WFP field monitors and staff at Al Za'atri camp in Jordan attended this training. The Protection Adviser also took part in the training of the facilitators for the UNHCR-WFP Participatory Assessment which will be conducted over the next two weeks.

The Regional Refugee Emergency Coordinator (RREC) participated in the second regional contingency planning meeting for Syrian refugees in Amman on 14 November. The latest interagency contingency plans and scenarios were shared.

UNHCR reports that more than 360,930 Syrians have registered in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey. About 66,500 additional people are in contact with UNHCR to register in Lebanon and Jordan, and another estimated 9,730 people are registered in North Africa bringing the total number to 437,160. In line with the interagency Regional Response Plan, WFP is targeting up to 460,000 displaced Syrians in these four countries by December 2012.

Resource update -Budget Revision 4-				
Country	Requirements (US\$)	Resourced (US\$)	Shortfalls (US\$)	Percent Shortfall
Jordan	33,833,855	18,286,752	15,547,103	46%
Lebanon	16,765,670	11,268,764	5,496,906	33%
Iraq	4,928,479	3,037,027	1,891,452	38%
Turkey	7,163,402	6,654,619	508,783	7%
EMOP total	62,691,406	39,247,163	23,444,243	37%

USA, UK, EC, UN CERF, Japan, Canada, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia and WFP Multilateral funds (Sweden and USA) have contributed to the EMOP.

For further information contact:

Ms. Abeer Etefa, Sr. Regional Public Information Officer

+20 1066634352 Abeer.Etefa@wfp.org

Please visit: <https://www.wfp.org/stories/wfp-responds-syrian-refugee-crisis>

