

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

Situation Report # 29

Reporting Period: 18-24 November 2012



World Food
Programme

Fighting Hunger Worldwide

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

JORDAN – The second cycle November dry ration distribution to refugees in Al Za'atri camp concluded on 22 November, reaching 27,927 beneficiaries. WFP reached over 20,000 people with dry rations in the first cycle November distribution. WFP continues to distribute 140kg of bread to beneficiaries in King Abdullah Park and 6 mt in Al Za'atri camp on a daily basis. November cycle voucher distribution targeting over 48,000 beneficiaries is ongoing.

LEBANON – WFP has reached some 46,000 beneficiaries in November cycle so far, with plans to reach 85,000. This week, WFP distributed 10,000 vouchers to about 2,100 Syrian families in the North; distribution is ongoing. The first December cycle voucher distribution will start on 29 November in the Bekaa Valley parallel to the Danish Refugee Council's fuel voucher distribution. Following UNHCR registration pace, WFP plans to start distributions in south Lebanon in early December targeting 5,000 beneficiaries in Saida, Nabatiyeh and Tyre.

IRAQ – In November, WFP has reached 10,400 Syrians with direct food assistance in Domiz so far; in coordination with the Department of Displacement and Migration (DDM), WFP is assisting an additional 3,000 beneficiaries in November. Food distribution in Al Qaim is planned to start by the end of November, contingent on the timely arrival of commodities. WFP will launch its voucher programme in Domiz camp in December targeting over 15,000 beneficiaries.

TURKEY – Following the successful launch of the Electronic Food Card programme in Hatay, WFP Turkey together with the Turkish Red Crescent Society is now providing e-card assistance to over 21,700 Syrian beneficiaries. This includes 13,700 in Kilis camp and 8,060 in camps in Hatay.

EGYPT – The number of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Egypt has reached 8,000, with the projected number of 10,000 by the end of the year. Upon completion of the joint needs assessment, WFP Country Office is coordinating with UNHCR, WFP Regional Bureau in Cairo and the Egyptian Government authorities to ensure the inclusion of Syrian refugees in Egypt in the regional emergency response.



Syrian man who sought safety in Homs receiving WFP ration during a door to door distribution by SARC and WFP staff. © WFP/Laure Chadraoui

SITUATION UPDATE

Syrians in Jordan

UNHCR Registered: 93,990

Awaiting Registration: 32,173

Total: 126,163

(Government figure: 240,000)

Al Za'atri Camp: This week, Al Za'atri camp received 2,003 new arrivals. Large numbers of beneficiaries have left the camp either through voluntary return to Syria, the bailing system, or by their own means.

Winterization: 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

WFP RESPONSE

Food Distribution: The second cycle November dry ration distribution in Al Za'atri camp concluded on 22 November and reached 27,927 beneficiaries; WFP reached 20,075 people during the first cycle.

Cooperating partner Save the Children distributed welcome meals to new arrivals on a daily basis in Al Za'atri camp this week. In King Abdullah Park (KAP), welcome meals were suspended for six days in coordination with the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) to allow outside entities to provide food assistance. This week, WFP distributed 140kg of bread daily to beneficiaries in KAP and 6 mt in Al Za'atri camp.

Distributions of food and non-food items for new arrivals from the new joint UNHCR/WFP/NRC/Save the Children distribution centre began on 16 November. Depending on the date of arrival, Syrian refugees receive either a full two-week ration or a half one-week ration from the new arrival distribution point until they are incorporated into the regular distribution cycle.

Voucher Distribution: In Cyber City transit centre and in communities, WFP has distributed food vouchers to over 14,900 beneficiaries under the November cycle so far; distribution is ongoing. Al-Takaful Charity Organization finalized the construction of a supermarket for the voucher programme in KAP. The supermarket is being stocked with food and non-food items. WFP received JHCO approval to work with cooperating partner Human Relief Foundation (HRF) as

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. WFP plans to increase the monthly value per person to 24 Jordanian dinars, starting with the January cycle.

Security: Protestors continued to hold demonstrations on a daily basis around the country in response to recent price increases in petrol and cooking gas. WFP is monitoring the situation to ensure that demonstrations do not affect its assistance activities.

the voucher distribution partner in KAP. WFP, through HRF, plans to begin voucher distribution in KAP before the end of November.

Beneficiaries Reached in Jordan	
July	5,247
August	18,000
September	48,050
October	69,752
November	42,830, ongoing

Operational Issues: Distributing the correct amount of bread to beneficiaries in Al Za'atri camp has been a challenge. On several occasions during the reporting period, Save the Children purchased additional bread to cover shortages. Save the Children has taken steps to mitigate the over-distribution of bread by implementing the new bread ration card system. The recent increase in cooking gas prices places a further burden on UNHCR to refill kitchen gas frequently.

Beneficiaries are constantly moving around the country, which is a great challenge as WFP works to relocate vouchers to those who moved to different governorates, often being managed by different cooperating partners.

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.

Monitoring of Food Distribution: This week, field monitors conducted 99 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 PDM in Al Za’atri camp:

- The new joint UNHCR-WFP distribution centre for new arrivals is well organized and operating efficiently. WFP, UNHCR, Save the Children and Norwegian Refugee Council are cooperating effectively to distribute food and non-food items.
- Winterization is often discussed now that the temperature is dropping in the camp. UNHCR has begun to winterize tents for those who will not be receiving caravans.
- Provision of gas in the kitchens continues to be a challenge, as beneficiaries complain of gas shortages.

Monitoring of Voucher Assistance: Field monitors received 101 hotline calls pertaining mostly to registration issues with UNHCR’s database, conducted 58 beneficiary PDMs, visited four shops and monitored 9 distribution points. The following observations were made:

- Beneficiaries, on average, spend 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.

- In general, beneficiaries and shopkeepers are very satisfied with voucher distributions and are comfortable with the simplicity of the voucher programme.

Voucher visibility items were posted in all distribution centres and supermarkets partnered with WFP. The posters include hotline information for all partners, allowed food items in the voucher programme and donor logos.

Coordination: The Director of Food for Peace (FFP) visited WFP in Amman on 18 November. The envoy visited a voucher distribution and travelled to a nearby shop to observe voucher redemption and speak with shop representatives and Save the Children volunteers. During the debriefing, FFP was impressed with the voucher programme and thanked WFP for hosting such an informative visit.



Lebanon

SITUATION UPDATE

Syrians in Lebanon
UNHCR Registered: 94,603
Awaiting Registration: 34,238
Total: 128,841

Registration Activities: In the Bekaa Valley, the UNHCR mobile registration team has moved to a centre in Al Marj in central Bekaa, where the largest number of Syrians are awaiting registration. The team will be in Al Marj until mid-December. The forthcoming plan is to establish a centralized registration centre in Ferzol, central Bekaa, for individuals in all the areas of the Bekaa Valley. UNHCR will also send mobile registration teams to areas where registration is needed urgently.

Since 19 November, the UNHCR mobile registration team regularly visits Wadi Khaled area to register vulnerable individuals who have been unable to reach the registration centre in Tripoli. Registration in South Lebanon also continues through mobile efforts and through the registration centre in Ghazieh. By of 23 November, 6,386 Syrians were registered in the South, with more than 4,000 Syrians having also contacted UNHCR for appointments.

Security: Between 17 and 24 November, the overall security situation remained relatively calm in Lebanon with some occasional shelling along the Syrian border in North Lebanon which did not affect the humanitarian activities.

WFP RESPONSE

North: Between 19 and 21 November, food and non-food items distribution started in Kouachra for refugees living around Bire and Halba. During these 3 days, around 2,100 Syrian households received 10,000 food vouchers. Some problem cases also received manually-made food vouchers from WFP. Newly registered refugees were informed that their half-value vouchers would be distributed in 10 days. Since the beginning of November, 153 WFP food parcels have been distributed to vulnerable newcomer Syrian households in Akkar by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and ECHO.

Bekaa Valley: WFP finalized November cycle voucher distributions in the Bekaa Valley on 24 November. In North Bekaa, DRC has distributed 33 food parcels so far to unregistered newcomers as part of its Newcomer project.

WFP will start the first December cycle voucher distribution on 29 November. On the same day, DRC will start distributing fuel vouchers. The value of a fuel voucher is US\$100 per family, per month. For the first fuel voucher distribution, DRC will issue vouchers for November and December cycle to each family at a total value of US\$200.

South /Mount Lebanon/Beirut: The Beirut-South sub-office is operational. WFP has already visited Nabatiyeh, Marjaayoun, Khyam, Tyre, Bint Jbeil, Bourj Hammoud and Nabaa. Field Level Agreements (FLA) for the implementation of the voucher programme should be ready to be signed by early next week. Following UNHCR registration pace, WFP South expects to start distributions in early December for 5,000 beneficiaries in Saida, Nabatiyeh and Tyre.

Beneficiaries Reached in Lebanon	
July	30,942
August	37,470
September	49,342
October	68,381
November	45,997, ongoing

Assessments: WFP has conducted desk reviews and comparisons of potential Electronic Voucher systems contextualized to the Lebanon situation. Meetings with service providers (VISA and Ticket Restaurant) have been set to understand better the pros and cons of each model. The Voucher Programme Officer travelled to the Regional Bureau on 21 November to present

findings of the preliminary assessment and to seek guidance on the way forward.

The Regional Bureau nutrition team will travel to Beirut to participate in the analysis and presentation of the Nutrition Assessment results in late November.

Monitoring: WFP Lebanon has prepared monthly consolidated monitoring reports for July, August and September; they are ready to be shared with the Regional Bureau and partners in Lebanon next week after final editing.

WFP North has conducted more than 30 Syrian household post-distribution monitoring (PDM) visits since the beginning of November, mainly with families identified as vulnerable or with problem cases. Follow-up will be done with the Danish Refugee Council's Protection team and with the UNHCR registration team.

Between 15 and 23 November, WFP visited the 30 partner shops in Akkar for PDM and price surveys; Tripoli area will be assessed next week. The harmonization of commodity brands and unit weights for the retail prices survey between the two areas of Akkar and Tripoli has been finalized and the analysis will be completed soon.

WFP Bekaa has conducted around 80 household PDM interviews for the first round of the October cycle. WFP Bekaa conducted 19 shop monitoring and price checklist visits, and eight distribution visits in central, west and north Bekaa this week. WFP also conducted six household visits in Zahle and Britel.

Highlights from the previous week's monitoring include:

- The distributions in all areas were well organized, however some of the distribution sites are not yet suitable for the winter season.
- Late payment to shopkeepers from both DRC and World Vision negatively affected their relationship with the suppliers.
- There is still a gap in the fresh food availability and accessibility in most of the Bekaa Valley, especially vegetables, fresh meat and chicken.
- Some visited shops have a landline phone; others are willing to provide one in order to participate in the upcoming e-voucher programme.

Coordination: On 22 November, WFP Emergency Coordinator (EC) participated in the official celebration of Lebanese Independence day; the occasion provided

a good opportunity to meet with Lebanese officials and Ambassadors. Following the event, various meetings with donors were scheduled for the following week, in particular with Japan, Germany and Sweden.

On 22 November, the EC attended a meeting with the Minister of Social Affairs (MoSA), the Head of the High Relief Committee and the newly appointed Relief Coordinator from the Office of the Prime Minister. Other attendees were UNHCR and UNICEF, main actors in the emergency response. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the coordination, the way forward for refugee registration and the strategy to improve assistance to Lebanese returnees and Lebanese communities through strengthening MoSA capacity at the field level. WFP committed to provide support to the MoSA both through staff and knowledge transfer. MoSA expressed interest to discuss with WFP how the GoL could use the voucher system to provide complementary assistance to the most vulnerable cases of the social welfare programme, mainly isolated elders. Follow-up meetings are scheduled in the upcoming weeks.

The agreement between IOM, WFP and HRC regulating the assistance to Lebanese refugees is still pending signature. The signing is scheduled 26 November. All partners hope that implementation of assistance to

Lebanese returnees could start immediately after, with the December cycle.

On 19 November, WFP Bekaa and DRC attended a meeting with the community leaders in Al Ain to discuss the suspension of the distribution there and to solve the community dispute that led to postponing the distribution. Consequently, the November distribution took place the following day and was extended to 24 November.

On 21 November, WFP Bekaa met with DRC to discuss the fuel vouchers and the December distribution. To address the vulnerability of beneficiaries with the approaching winter season DRC, UNHCR and WFP decided to initiate the December distribution early since the fuel vouchers are ready. An agreement was made to start the joint distribution on 29 November but the validity date of the food vouchers will be from 3 to 31 December.

WFP South has had several meetings with municipal representatives in the South, Beirut and Beirut Suburbs to introduce WFP and the voucher project.

The contingency planning exercise for 2013 is ongoing and is due to be finalized along with WFP Lebanon Emergency Preparedness and Response Package (EPRP) by the end of next week.

Iraq

SITUATION UPDATE

Syrians in Iraq
UNHCR Registered: 56,982

Domiz camp: 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.

Food Security: 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.

Winterization: UNHCR is implementing a full-fledged winterization plan 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 RESPONSE

Domiz: In coordination with the Department of Displacement and Migration (DDM), WFP is assisting an additional 3,000 beneficiaries in Domiz in November. WFP has already assisted 10,400 beneficiaries in Domiz with 150mt of food this

month. The ration is comprised of: rice, sugar, wheat flour, pulses, vegetable oil, sugar and salt. WFP will launch its voucher programme in December in Domiz targeting 15,000 beneficiaries and has completed

preparations for the launch. The monthly voucher value will be US\$31 per person.

Al Qaim: Food distribution in Al-Qaim will start immediately after the arrival of food commodities 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. 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.

Beneficiaries Reached in Iraq	
September	10,212
October	10,400
November	10,400, ongoing

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, 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. 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: WFP Iraq's Country Director and Deputy Country Director visited Domiz refugee camp on 21 November; the mission also visited the Governor of Dohuk. On 22 November, the mission met with the Minister of Planning and the Minister of Education of Kurdistan Regional Government. WFP will launch the food sector coordination group in December. The first meeting is planned on 10 December at Domiz camp.

WFP participated in the UN Joint mission to Al-Qaim from 20 to 22 November. These joint UN missions are planned for every two weeks where staff based in Baghdad visit Al-Qaim to address various operational matters and hold discussions at the coordination meetings in Al-Qaim.

Turkey

SITUATION UPDATE

Syrians in Turkey
Government Registered: 123,747
Government estimate of Syrians present in country: 200,000

Syrians in Turkey: According to the Government of Turkey, there are an estimated 60-70,000 Syrians who are living in urban settings due to the crisis. Anecdotal reports by local camp managers indicate that some families who were previously being hosted in the community are now seeking support in the camps as they have depleted their financial resources to live independently. According to the authorities, there is no change in Turkey's "open

border policy" despite the total number of Syrians accommodated in camps exceeding 100,000. 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 provinces, unless they have immediate family members in other camps.

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

WFP RESPONSE

Voucher Distributions: Following the successful launch of the Electronic Food Card programme in Hatay, WFP Turkey is now providing assistance to

21,760 Syrian beneficiaries. This includes 13,700 in Kilis camp and 8,060 in camps in Hatay.

Beneficiaries Reached in Turkey	
October	12,223
November	21,760 ongoing

Operational Issues: WFP Turkey received both an ICT mission and HR mission from the Regional Bureau to assist in the ongoing establishment of the Country Office in Ankara and the sub-office in Gaziantep; both missions successfully completed their tasks. WFP is currently planning for a security mission between 3 and 14 December to support in the selection of office space in Gaziantep, the recruitment of a local security officer and to assess the overall security needs of the sub-office.

The Swiss Development Corporation (SDC) will second a voucher specialist to WFP Turkey from mid-December for at least six months. WFP has prepared the terms of reference and SDC is now identifying a suitable candidate to propose to WFP. The position will be based in Gaziantep.

It is expected that AFAD and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) by early December will provide WFP with a written request to expand its e-voucher programme to more camps and to provide a timeframe for where and when this should occur, based on when camps will be prepared to have household level cooking facilities.

Coordination: A Donor Coordination meeting took place on 23 November. WFP updated the donor community on the implementation of the WFP-Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRSC) Electronic Food Card programme including the latest increase in beneficiary numbers in Kilis and Hatay. WFP indicated its plans to scale up in response to the Government's request to include all camps in the programme. The WFP Emergency Coordinator highlighted the transparency and accountability provided by the use of the Electronic Card.

AFAD has notified WFP of its plans to establish four new container camps with the capacity of hosting about 30,000 beneficiaries in total. AFAD requested assistance (through WFP and partners, including UNHCR and TRCS) to establish cooking facilities in the new camps which will be in Harran, Malatya, Nizip and Kilis. WFP is following up on this request. AFAD is also planning to reinforce the power capacity in the camps in order to accommodate the use of electric stoves and refrigerators. UNHCR has ordered and started to distribute 25,000 'shell kitchen sets' however the stoves and cooking implements are still required. On 26 November, AFAD will inform UNHCR about the specifications for the additional cooking implements that are required and UNHCR will discuss with TRCS the fastest way to procure the items.

Regional Coordination and Resource Mobilization

The Regional Cell worked with the Jordan and Syria country offices to organize a donor visit in Jordan for the USAID Food for Peace Director. FFP is interested in both the Syria and Refugee operations and contributes to some 40% of the funding of the regional EMOP. FFP wanted to know more about the effectiveness of the voucher approach. Concern over FFP's cash contribution availability for 2013 was discussed, as well as the issues of monitoring, non-food item inputs from other partners, the level

of assistance compared to other operation standards and WFP's support to host communities. The Regional Cell continued to coordinate efforts for the Contingency Planning simulation (CRX2), internal contingency planning, monitoring and evaluation tool harmonization and the related database, the nutrition surveys in Jordan and Lebanon and the Regional Bureau desk review of all assessments done so far.

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%

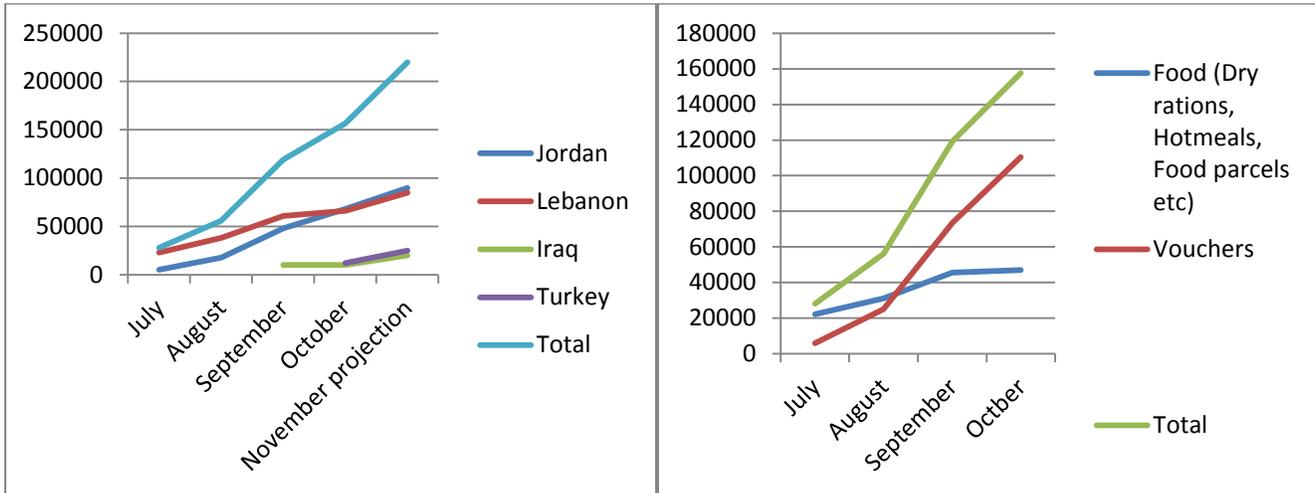
USA, UK, EC, UN CERF, Japan, Canada, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia and WFP Multilateral funds (Sweden and USA) have contributed to the EMOP contributed to the EMOP.

OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL EMOP

REGISTRATION OF SYRIAN NATIONALS IN THE REGION				
Country	UNHCR Registered	Awaiting Registration	Total	Other
Jordan	93,990	32,123	126,113	Government Figure: 240,000
Lebanon	94,603	34,238	128,841	
Iraq	56,982	-	56,982	Total includes 12,401 partially registered
Turkey	123,747	-	123,747	Government Estimate of Syrians in country: over 200,000
Egypt	8,000	-	8,000	Projected 10,000 by end of 2012
Total	377,322	66,361	443,683	

BENEFICIARIES REACHED IN THE REGION						
Country	Modality of Assistance	July	August	September	October	November (ongoing)
Jordan	Vouchers	-	-	19,000	37,752	14,903
	DFA	5,247	18,000	29,050	32,000	27,927
Lebanon	Vouchers	5,747	24,355	42,902	63,491	44,679
	DFA	25,195	13,115	6,440	4,890	1,300
Iraq	DFA	-	-	10,212	10,400	10,400
Turkey	Vouchers	-	-		12,223	21,760
Direct Food Assistance Total		30,442	31,115	45,702	47,290	39,627
Voucher Total		5,747	24,355	61,902	113,466	81,342
Total beneficiaries reached		36,189	55,470	107,604	157,745	120,969

*The term Direct Food Assistance (DFA) includes dry rations, food parcels, hot meals and welcome meals
The term Vouchers includes paper and electronic modalities*



Beneficiaries reached in the Region

Beneficiaries reached per modality of assistance

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>

