

WFP Syria Crisis Response

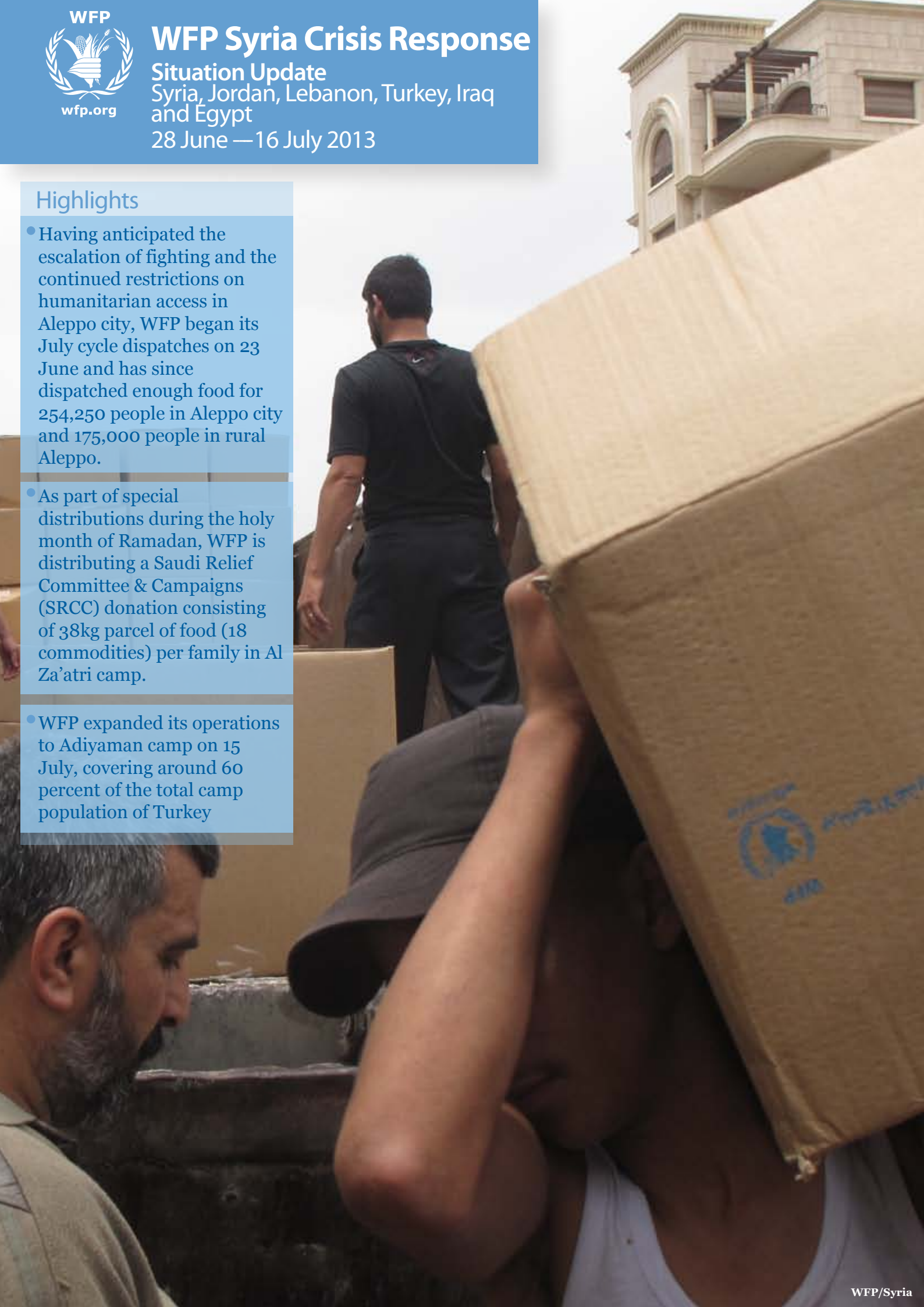
Situation Update

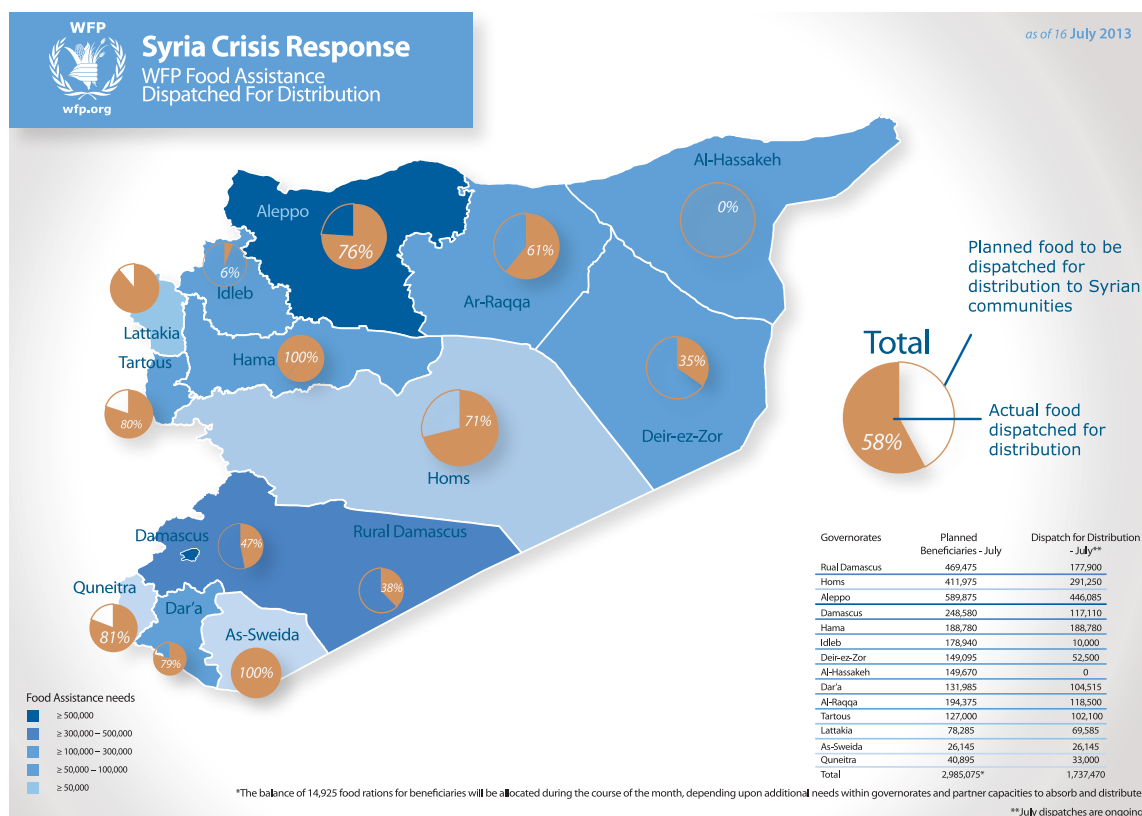
Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq
and Egypt

28 June — 16 July 2013

Highlights

- Having anticipated the escalation of fighting and the continued restrictions on humanitarian access in Aleppo city, WFP began its July cycle dispatches on 23 June and has since dispatched enough food for 254,250 people in Aleppo city and 175,000 people in rural Aleppo.
- As part of special distributions during the holy month of Ramadan, WFP is distributing a Saudi Relief Committee & Campaigns (SRCC) donation consisting of 38kg parcel of food (18 commodities) per family in Al Za'atri camp.
- WFP expanded its operations to Adiyaman camp on 15 July, covering around 60 percent of the total camp population of Turkey





During the June cycle, WFP dispatched for distribution 100 percent of its planned 2.5 million food rations. In July, WFP is scaling up to reach 3 million people across Syria and has, as of 16 July, dispatched enough food for over 1.7 million people in 13 governorates. Despite WFP's efforts to scale-up its operations, there continue to be areas of considerable need that WFP cannot access due to the continuing crisis. The humanitarian situation in the cities of Aleppo and Homs are especially worrying as fighting in the city is seriously impacting food supplies and food prices. WFP appeals to all parties to allow humanitarian assistance to enter the city.

Ongoing hostilities in Aleppo, coupled with highly restricted humanitarian access, are increasing the vulnerability of those affected by the crisis. Already high fuel prices in Aleppo, as a result of decreases in the national fuel subsidy and further devaluation of the Syrian Pound, are also diminishing the purchasing power of families. Currently, the limited transfer of food between neighbourhoods in the governorate is leading to localized food shortages, resulting in increased prices for staple products such as bread, grains and vegetables. When WFP management visited SARC warehouses in Aleppo in April 2013 with the OCHA Operations Director, John Ging, it was apparent that food needs were high, with SARC volunteers often splitting rations three times to reach those in need.

Having anticipated the escalation of fighting and the continued restrictions on humanitarian access in Aleppo, WFP began its July cycle dispatches on 23 June. More than 70 percent of the total allocation for Aleppo city was dispatched to partners prior to 3 July, before heavy restrictions on humanitarian access to the city began. WFP dispatched enough family food rations for over 216,500 people. Food was dispatched equally to SARC, WFP's main cooperating partner, and WFP's charity partners in Aleppo. A further 35,000 family food rations, sufficient for 175,000 people, were dispatched to beneficiaries also affected by ongoing hostilities in rural Aleppo. On 16

July, a convoy of ten trucks carrying enough food rations for 22,750 people and ready-to-eat rations sufficient for 15,000 people, as well as 6 mt of high-energy biscuits and 80 mt of wheat flour, departed for Aleppo city.

A Joint Humanitarian Convoy, supported by the Logistics Cluster and coordinated by OCHA, reached Aleppo on 14 July with over 440mt/ 940m³ of relief cargo on behalf of IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNRWA and WHO. Fifteen trucks coordinated by the Logistic Cluster transported vital relief items including food, health, shelter, hygiene items and school supplies. The convoy included six trucks carrying enough WFP food rations to feed 28,000 people and 80 mt of wheat flour.

In Homs, heavy fighting has reportedly trapped an estimated 2,500 people in the old city. WFP is monitoring population flows from the area and is preparing to respond using a stock of ready-to-eat food rations sufficient for 5,000 people, prepositioned at the SARC warehouse in Homs.

Ramadan Preparations and Distributions

In preparation for the increased caseload this month and given a slow-down in transport and other services likely to be experienced during the current holy month of Ramadan, July cycle food dispatches commenced early on 23 June. By 10 July, over 272,850 family food rations for 1.36 million people, or 46 percent of the monthly plan, had been dispatched to 13 governorates. Dispatches to Al-Hassakeh have been delayed due to insecurity on the roads.

Operational Constraints

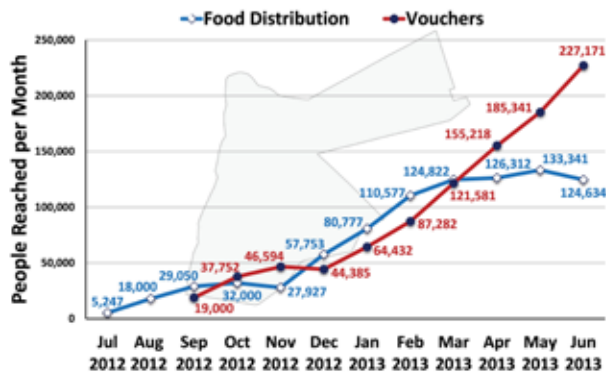
Restrictions on access continue to prevent humanitarian deliveries to some areas where needs are believed to be considerable. While the recent intensification of fighting in and around Damascus has had a limited impact on ongoing food distributions, a proliferation of additional checkpoints around the city is slowing down food dispatches both within Damascus and to other governorates. To some extent, WFP programme monitoring is also affected, as some locations subject to military activities are “no go” to UN staff.

Inadequate resourcing and the delayed arrival of some commodities have forced WFP to reduce the ration of some commodities for July cycle distributions (specifically pasta, vegetable oil, bulgur wheat and sugar). From July to September, WFP operations inside Syria will cost US\$134 million, of which US\$83 million remain unfunded.

Food and Agriculture Sector Coordination

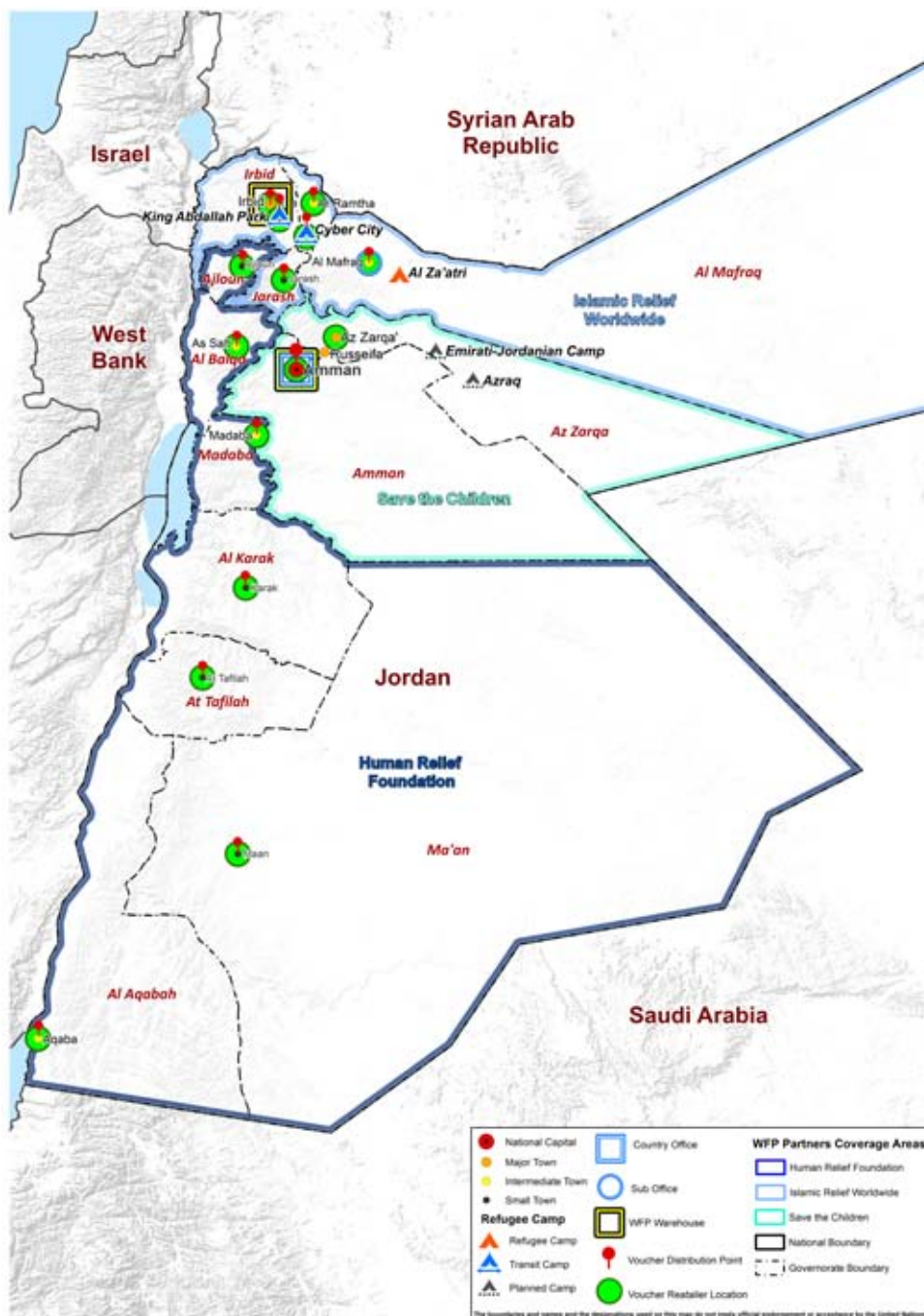
WFP and FAO released a joint Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) report on 5 July. The assessment found that Syria’s food security situation has significantly deteriorated over the past year and domestic agricultural production will further decline over the next 12 months if the present conflict continues. Furthermore, household food insecurity has increased due to massive population displacement, disruption of agricultural production, unemployment, economic sanctions, currency depreciation and high food and fuel prices. The average monthly price of wheat flour more than doubled between May 2011 and May 2013 in several locations.

WFP and FAO also co-lead the Food and Agriculture sector which meets every two weeks in Damascus to coordinate the sector response. During the last meeting, contingency planning for Homs, Aleppo and rural Damascus, currently experiencing intense fighting, was discussed. The aim is to develop a strategy that outlines combined agency resources and capacities to respond to higher needs resulting from the continuing conflict.



WFP reached over 350,000 Syrian refugees through dry ration and food voucher distributions in the month of June. In Jordanian communities, WFP reached 98 percent of the UNHCR manifest with food voucher assistance in June. WFP also continues to distribute around half a million pita bread every day to the entire population in Al Za'atri camp from three

distribution points starting at 5:30am due to the eagerness of beneficiaries to receive their daily bread entitlements. A third bread distribution point along the southern ring road of the camp has been completed and became operational on 2 July.



The first distribution of WFP “reduced-value” voucher assistance (US\$8.47/person/month) in the Emirati-Jordanian Camp began on 17 June, reaching 2,967 beneficiaries. Reduced-value vouchers are being distributed given that the Emirati Red Crescent is already providing meals to camp residents. WFP plans to conduct focus group discussion in the camp in order to determine the level of beneficiary satisfaction with the voucher programme and to determine areas for improvement.

Ramadan Preparations and Distributions

In preparation for the holy month of Ramadan, WFP and partner Save the Children International (SCI) were asked by the Syrian Refugees Camps Department (SRCD) and UNHCR to coordinate food donations for the camps while the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) will coordinate Ramadan assistance to refugees living in the community. WFP is therefore working with the SRCD and partner SCI to put in place a system for the collection and distribution of additional foods on behalf of specific donors, as well as sponsorship to cover repacking and transport costs as in-kind donations through corporate social responsibility programmes. WFP has erected two additional temporary warehouses in the final distribution point (FDP) to increase the storage capacity for these foods and SCI has rented additional transportation vehicles to take beneficiaries home from distribution as the food packages will be quite heavy.

Furthermore, WFP finalized an agreement with the Saudi Relief Committee and Campaigns (SRCC) to distribute a 38kg parcel of food (18 commodities) to each family in Al Za’atri camp alongside the usual WFP dry rations and UNHCR complementary food during the first cycle of July distributions.

In response to repeated refugee requests for dates, WFP will be distributing date bars during Ramadan given the importance of dates during Iftar, the meal which breaks the daily fast. WFP is distributing one date bar per person during the first July cycle and two date bars per person during the rest of the Ramadan distributions.

Communal Kitchens

Following beneficiary requests for cleaning supplies and given the poor state of cooking facilities in Al Za’atri camp, WFP has procured kitchen cleaning supplies for 500 beneficiary kitchens. WFP has finalized a formal agreement with International Relief and Development (IRD), under which IRD is responsible for this one-off distribution of cleaning materials in Al Za’atri camp. Distributions by IRD lasted four days and concluded on 11 July.

School Feeding

WFP expanded its school feeding activity in Al Za’atri camp to include the “catch-up” and vocational training programmes organized by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in coordination with UNICEF. Students enrolled in the NRC education programmes will receive one micro-nutrient fortified date bar every day that they attend class, thereby encouraging class attendance and improving student concentration during lessons. In June, 3,985 students in Al Za’atri camp received daily fortified date bars as part of WFP’s school feeding programme.

Nutrition

WFP is preparing to launch a Nutrition Programme and has already processed the procurement of the specialized nutritious food (SuperCereal Plus) for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in pregnant and breastfeeding women, and children under 5 in urban and camp settings. The specialized food will also serve as an age-appropriate product for children between 6-24 months which will be distributed as part of the general food ration regularly provided in Al Za’atri camp. Distributions as part of the Nutrition Programme are scheduled to begin in September.

Monitoring

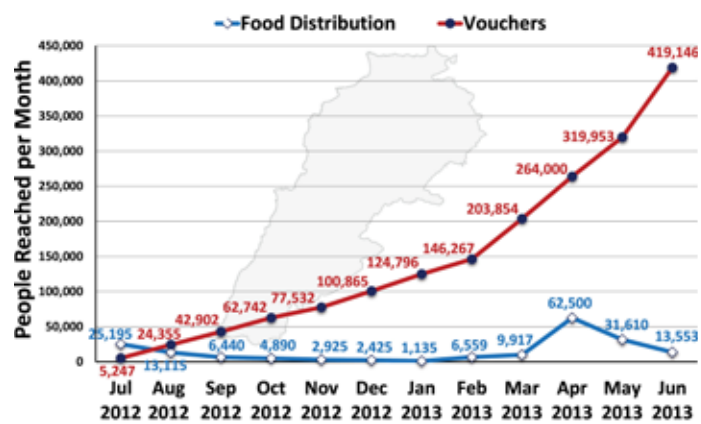
WFP monitored seven distributions and conducted 72 household post-distribution monitoring surveys in Al Za’atri camp. WFP field monitors noted that a greater number of staff are required during date bar distributions to monitor the distribution process. WFP has since notified partner SCI regarding this issue. Field monitors also noted that beneficiaries continued to cite bread, oil and sugar as their preferred WFP provided commodities.

In Jordanian communities, WFP visited 11 partner shops and conducted 42 post-distribution monitoring surveys. Voucher distributions for the July cycle started early (at the end of June) in order to reach as many beneficiaries as possible prior to the start of the holy month of Ramadan. Most shops visited by field monitors were compliant with WFP shop policy; however, one shop in northern Jordan was lacking some basic commodities and was given written warning by the partner. The shop will be closely monitored in the coming weeks.

Information Communications Technology

After persistent efforts by WFP and partner SCI to improve internet connection for the RAIS database used for the verification of refugees prior to food distribution, a long-awaited mobile cell tower was installed in the FDP in Al Za’atri camp. Distributions should now occur more smoothly with no internet outages, hence reducing refugee frustrations with long wait times for verification.

Lebanon

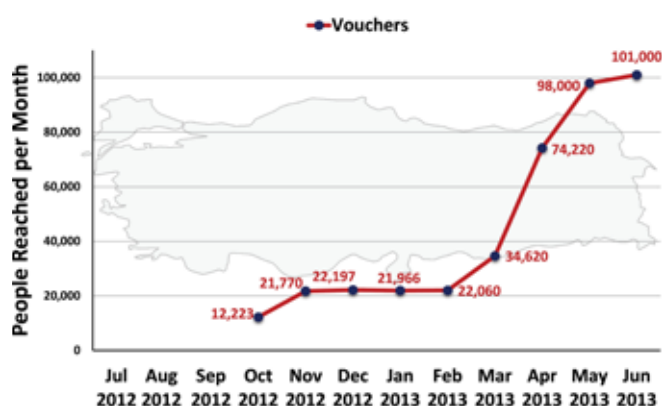


The unpredictable security situation in Lebanon is a source major concern for WFP and its operations in the country. Many of the areas in which WFP regularly operates are unstable with breaches of security occurring regularly and unpredictably. WFP operations continue to experience delays, at times severe, due to incidents of violence.

As a result of the increasing number of refugees in Lebanon—one in every eight people in the country is now a registered Syrian refugee—vulnerable Syrian families have begun to settle in communal areas in Beirut (highway underpasses, the green spaces between major roads, etc.).

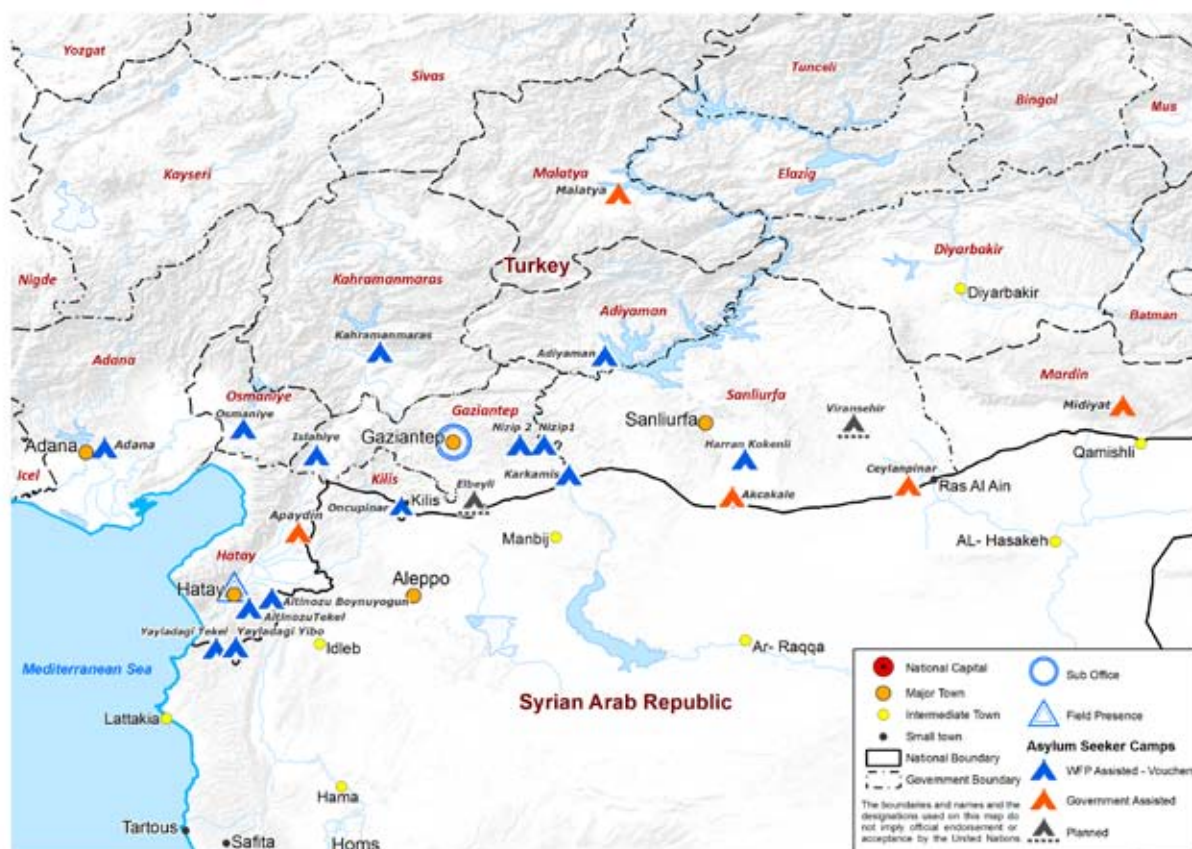
In June, WFP assisted 432,699 Syrian refugees, over 95 percent of whom were reached with food vouchers. In July, due to the growing number of refugees, WFP plans to assist over 560,000 refugees, the first time WFP will assist over half a million refugees in Lebanon. The July distribution cycle is underway in all areas and is nearing completion. WFP introduced a special, early distribution schedule for the Ramadan period. North Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley sub-offices are close to completing distributions and the Beirut/South sub-office will finish early next week.

Turkey



WFP, in partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), is now assisting 111,000 Syrians in fourteen camps following the expansion on July 15 into Adiyaman camp. The programme therefore covers around 60 percent of the total camp population of Turkey. For the month of July, a total of US\$4.4 million was uploaded on the e-food cards, bringing the total amount uploaded since the beginning of the operation in October 2012 to US\$21.3 million.

The Government of Turkey has requested that WFP and TRC expand their joint e-Food Card programme to all camps in Turkey. However, due to its funding constraints, WFP will not expand further in the medium term and will aim to provide sustained assistance to 110,000 beneficiaries. As a result, the Government plans to start a separate voucher programme in Malatya Beydagı, Akçakale and Ceylanpınar camps. Each voucher in these camps will be worth 100 Turkish lira (US\$51), of which 80 Turkish lira (US\$41) will be allocated to food. This is the same amount provided under the WFP-TRC e-Food Card programme.



Challenges

WFP and TRC are continuing to address the ongoing challenge of replacing lost or damaged cards and ensuring that there is continuity in assistance until new cards are received. WFP is currently in discussions with TRC to overcome the problem of beneficiaries not receiving food assistance during the transition period for the replacement of cards. One solution proposed is to create a temporary card which would be allocated to TRC staff, who would accompany beneficiaries to the market and deduct any amount spent from the balance of the family's account.

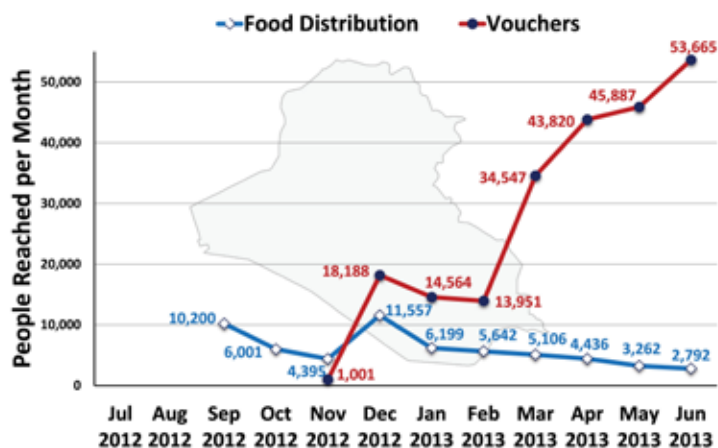
Monitoring

During the reporting period, WFP field monitors visited Altinozu 2 (Boynuyogun) camp in Hatay and Islahiye camp in Gaziantep. Camp access has recently been granted in Altinozu 2 in Hatay. WFP field monitors noted that in this camp there was a need to provide more and better quality fresh produce and WFP is working with the markets to ensure the standard is improved.

With the holy month of Ramadan underway, there is an increased need to ensure that refrigerators are installed in all camps so that households can store food overnight for the first meal that is now eaten before sunrise. Refrigerators have not yet been distributed across all camps. TRC, UNHCR and the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) are working to distribute the refrigerators across the camps.

WFP and TRC have also worked with markets in camps to extend opening hours so that people can shop later in the day when it is cooler and closer to the evening meal time.





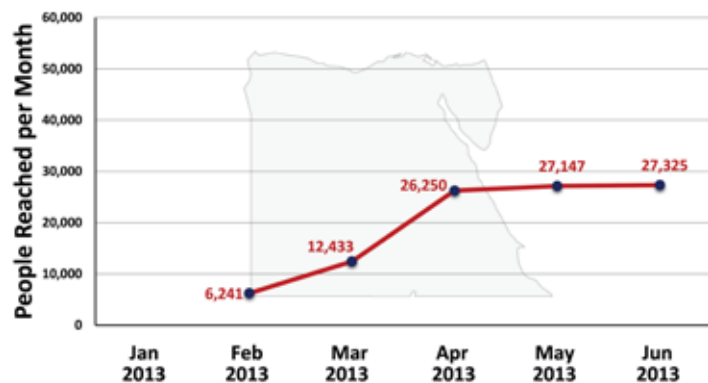
operational planned target recorded in May to 119 percent in June.

WFP and other UN agencies continue to raise concerns regarding the humanitarian needs of vulnerable Syrian refugees living in host communities in Iraq. There are increased reports of non-camp Syrian refugees resorting to negative coping strategies, such as begging in public places of major town in Kurdistan. It is important that the food needs of vulnerable families living in host communities also be address.

In Al Qi'am, 2,915 food parcels were distributed to Syrian refugees residing in camps. Refugees also received a total of 2,792 food parcels as a one-off distribution in preparation for the holy month of Ramadan. The Ministry of Displacement and Migration continues to also provide bread to refugees. Furthermore, the relocation of 2,227 Syrian refugees from camps 1 and 2 in Al Qa'im to camp 3 in Al Obayde as per a decision made by the Ministry of Displacement and Migration was successfully conducted by UNHCR and Islamic Relief Worldwide from 22 to 27 June. 210 refugees including 35 still waiting to be registered opted to return to Syria rather than move to the new camp. WFP in-kind food stocks have also been moved to Camp 3.

The border in Fishkabor remains closed to the Syrian refugees since 19 May due to tensions between different Kurdish groups in Syria and Iraq. A few refugees have been allowed entry into Iraq Kurdistan for family reunion or on medical grounds.





Mass demonstrations estimated in the millions in Cairo and across Egypt marking the anniversary of the presidential elections on 30 June resulted in the ousting of President Morsi and the installation of an interim government by the military. Protests continue across Egypt with clashes on 5 July resulting in 30 dead and

over a thousand wounded according to the Ministry of Health. This was followed days later by the shooting of 51 protesters and the injury of several hundred at the Republican Guard (figures from Ministry of Health). With calls for retaliation and the arrest of senior Muslim Brotherhood members the situation remains tense. Due to ongoing security concerns, food voucher distributions scheduled to begin in Damietta on 5 July were rescheduled tentatively to two weeks later to ensure the safety of refugees as well as staff.

The current security situation has affected travel and has, increased tension in certain communities, affecting food voucher distributions. However, with special regard to the holy month of Ramadan, WFP is taking all measures to ensure that food vouchers are provided without significant delays.

In the month of June, WFP Egypt reached over 27,000 beneficiaries exclusively through food vouchers and plans to reach near 34,000 Syrian refugees in July. In addition, WFP has been requested by the Government of Egypt to provide assistance through UNRWA to 6,000 Palestinian refugees who have moved from Syria. Recently WFP Egypt and UNRWA are currently drafting a Letter of Understanding subsequent to the global Memorandum of Understanding between UNRWA and WFP signed on 21 June at the headquarters level.

Syrians travelling to Egypt, who did not require a visa before 30 June 2013, are now required to apply for a visa and security clearance prior to arrival. However, Egyptian state media reported on 15 July that visas would be a temporary measure for Syrians entering Egypt. Nonetheless, this new restriction will have implications on the flow of refugees to Egypt, particularly as UNHCR notes that the Egyptian Embassy in Damascus does not have the capacity to issue visas. On 9 July, authorities at Cairo International Airport banned 276 Syrian passengers from Damascus from entering and UNHCR reported that recently scheduled flights from Syria to Cairo have been cancelled. However, as there are currently 88,000 Syrian refugees in Egypt including 70,000 registered with UNHCR and 18,000 awaiting registration as of July, WFPs target of assisting 60,000 to 70,000 Syrian refugees per month by the end of the year is still achievable.

Monitoring

Post-distribution monitoring by telephone will be trialed in July to ensure greater privacy for respondents and facilitate interviews with female-headed households by male field monitors. Telephone interviews are also efficient in an urban context or where refugees are spread out in a big metropolis such as Cairo. WFP collects updated telephone numbers of all the refugees during voucher distributions.

Funding & Shortfalls

Resourcing (July to December 2013)

Until the end of 2013, WFP operations in Syria and the region will cost US\$763 million, of which US\$648 million remain unfunded.

Given the escalating conflict, and heightened demands for the humanitarian response, WFP operations cost US\$27 million per week to

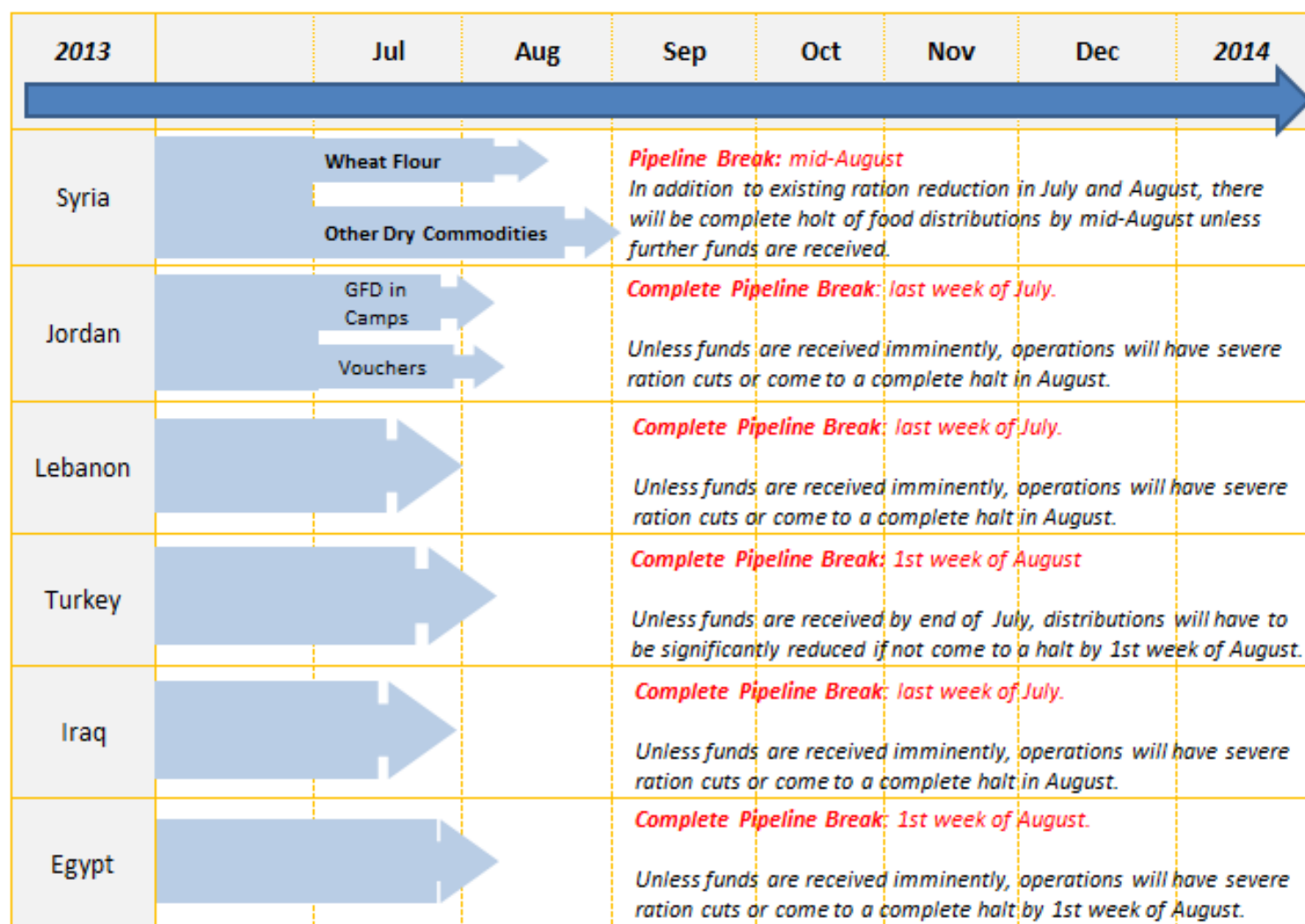
meet the needs of vulnerable people inside Syria and in neighboring countries. Given the planned scale-up, WFP will experience a total shortfall of US\$238 million in the coming three months and US\$648 until the end of this year.

Country	Total Requirement	Total Resourced	Total Shortfall ⁽¹⁾	
			US\$ M	%
Syria	312	81	231	74%
Jordan	163	11	152	93%
Lebanon	168	11	157	93%
Turkey	73	8	66	89%
Iraq	35	3	32	91%
Egypt	11	0	10	96%
Total	763	115	648	85%

Pipeline Breaks

At current resourcing levels, pipeline breaks for all commodities will occur before September.

Timeline for pipeline breaks by country:



WFP is grateful for the critical support provided by multilateral donors in response to the Syria crisis, as well as that of Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Luxembourg, Norway, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Turkey, Russia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, the United States and private donors.



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Donors are represented in alphabetical order.

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