

IRAQ: RRP6 MONTHLY UPDATE - JANUARY

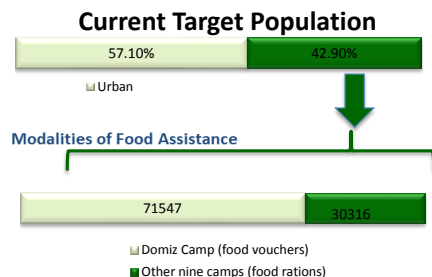
FOOD SECURITY



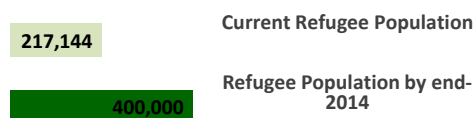
47% (101,863) of the 217,144 registered syrian refugees are currently receiving food assistance, and the number of beneficiaries is expected to grow to 290,000 (160,000 in camps, and 130,000 non-camp) out of 400,000 expected refugees by the end of 2014

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

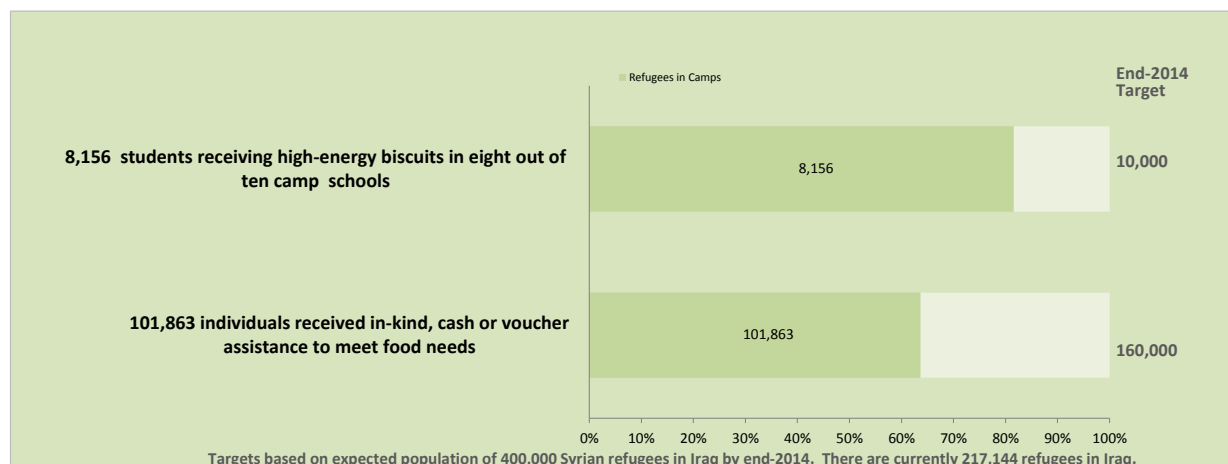
- WFP continued its food assistance to Syrian refugees in Iraq, providing food rations, A29 energy bars and vouchers to refugees living in ten camps across the Kurdistan Region and Anbar governorate.
- Following the opening of the Peshkabour border between Dohuk governorate in Iraq and Al-Hassakeh governorate in Syria on 5 January, WFP dispatched A29 bars to Bajid Kandela Transit Camp/Reception Center to provide immediate assistance to the newly arrived Syrian refugees.
- In addition, WFP stockpiled family food rations sufficient for 300 families (1,500 people) for one month at the camp to meet their immediate food requirements pending transfer to other camps.
- Distribution of the food parcels to newly arrived refugees has commenced; however, only refugees deemed as genuine cases of asylum seekers are currently being granted entry into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.
- While food rations were provided to 30,316 Syrian refugees in nine out of the ten camps in Iraq, up to 71,547 beneficiaries in Domiz camp received food vouchers.
- In January 2014 alone, WFP injected US\$2.2 million into the local economy through this food voucher programme. The next cycle of distributions for the month of February started on 4 February, targeting 74,000 Syrian refugees.



REFUGEE POPULATION IN IRAQ:



PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS:



NEEDS ANALYSIS:

A household food security assessment in the KR in December 2012 conducted jointly by UNHCR and WFP found that more than 30 per cent of non-camp refugees are vulnerable and food insecure.

The Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in early 2014 will inform on the overall humanitarian needs for refugees in camps and in host communities.

Results from WFP monitoring found that refugees in camps are fully dependent on food assistance whereas non-camp refugees are reliant on assistance from host communities.

To cope with the situation, most refugees have changed their consumption patterns, with lower intake of meat and fresh foods, and in some cases reduction of the number of meals to one or two per day.

Other negative coping strategies being employed include incurring debt to buy complementary food or pay rent in non-camp settings.

In Domiz camp 78 per cent of respondents declared that WFP food assistance represented between 51 and 75 per cent of their needs. UNHCR's contingency plan for Iraq indicates that the capacities and structures of host communities to absorb refugees will reach its limits with the continued influx of refugees.

As the number of Syrian refugees continues to increase, their needs ranging from protection, social services and food become evident.

Hence, there is a critical need to provide food assistance to save lives for extremely vulnerable individuals in the camps and non-camp settings as well as female headed households in host communities.