

REGIONAL: RRP6 MONTHLY UPDATE - MARCH

FOOD SECURITY



More than USD 85 million has been injected into local economies through food voucher or e-card redemption during 2014

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

Food assistance programmes across the region continued to expand. Following an assessment of four camps in Turkey in March, the E-Food Card Programme will be expanded to include around 3,300 beneficiaries in Malatya camp from next month. In Egypt, where food voucher assistance now reaches 86 per cent of the targeted beneficiaries, the addition of a new supermarket partner has gone smoothly. In Iraq's Domiz Camp, retailers have now been selected for shops inside the camp as part of the voucher programme.

While voucher and card programmes bring choice and convenience to beneficiaries, they can also bring the risk of price rises. As such, monthly **price monitoring** of staple food items continues in Egypt, while in Turkey the first of the market monitoring committees (which will be established in all camps where the E-Food Card Programme is operational) has been formed. Monitoring efforts were also stepped up in Lebanon, with food sector partners focusing on shop monitoring and adding more shops in refugee locations.

In Lebanon, a **livestock vaccination programme** continued in March, including joint training workshops on improving the trans-boundary diseases surveillance system in the country. In Iraq, a food security and livelihoods needs assessment is underway in the three governorates of the Kurdistan Region.



SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

2,606,281

Current Refugee Population

4,100,000

Refugee Population
Planning figure, end-2014

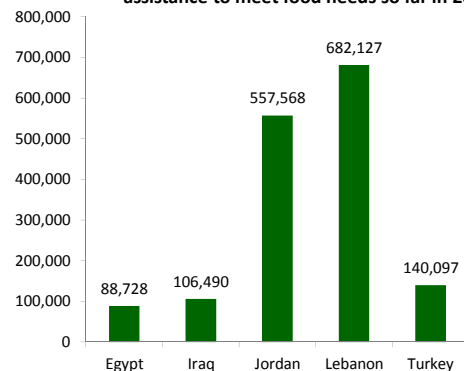
NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The majority of Syrian refugees rely on humanitarian food assistance as their primary source of food. Without external support, the level of vulnerability of Syrian refugees would likely increase, particularly affecting vulnerable groups such as female-headed households, children, the elderly, sick and the disabled.

In Lebanon and Egypt, 70 per cent of refugees are food insecure. The results of the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) in Lebanon show that half of a household's expenditure was spent on food. In Iraq, large numbers of Syrian refugees, in both camp and non-camp settings, cite food as their top priority need. In Jordan, food expenditure by refugee families constitutes more than a third of their budgets. In Turkey, all families living in refugee camps rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their daily food needs.

Across the region, refugee households report resorting to spending their savings, taking their children out of school to work, and relying on credit and selling household assets to meet their food needs. Incidents of child malnutrition, though not significantly prevalent, have been identified inside Syria and in nearly every refugee-hosting country in the region. The amount and nutritional value of the food available to refugees is critical to prevent the occurrence of malnutrition.

Individuals who have received in-kind, cash or voucher assistance to meet food needs so far in 2014



REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS:

1,575,010 individuals receiving in-kind, cash or voucher assistance to meet food needs

1,575,010

Planned
Response, by
end-2014

2,589,320

25,358 children reached with micronutrient supplements/supplementation, including school feeding programmes

25,358

67,520

0 individuals receiving agricultural livelihoods support

0

100,000

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Planned response based on full funding of RRP6 for an expected population of 4.1 million Syrian refugees in the region by end-2014. There are currently 2.6 million refugees in the region and the overall RRP6 appeal is 24% funded.