



REFUGEE POPULATION IN JORDAN



APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

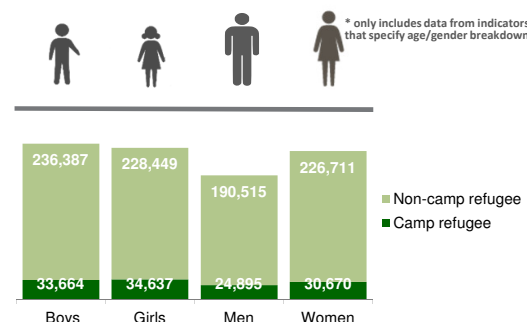
Azraq opening: Refugees arriving at Azraq camp received one-week in-kind food rations (rice, lentils, bulgur, sugar, oil and salt) and complementary food and dates, distributed by WFP cooperating partner ACTED. In addition, all new arrivals received New Arrival Vouchers; from April 28–30, the opening period of the new camp, WFP reached 868 beneficiaries with these vouchers (JOD10/week/individual), which cover an initial period of two weeks, after which beneficiaries will be incorporated into the regular two-week voucher distribution, similar to the system operating in Zaatar camp. WFP supermarket Sameh market was fully functional by the time Azraq camp opened, and beneficiaries expressed their satisfaction with the quality of the establishment.

Impact of voucher programme: WFP released the final report on the financial impact of their voucher assistance in Jordan since the start of operations. Economic Impact Study: Direct and Indirect Impact of the WFP Food Voucher Programme shows that WFP assistance will equate to 0.7 per cent of the Jordanian GDP through the voucher programme in 2014. The voucher program has already led to some USD2.5 million investment in physical infrastructure by the participating retailers, created over 350 jobs in the food retail sector and generated almost USD6 million in additional tax receipts for the Jordanian government.

Assistance in communities: LWF continued their complementary assistance programme, distributing complementary food vouchers to 2,875 Syrian refugees in Mafraq and 2,460 Syrian refugees in Irbid. WFP has completed e-card distributions in the following governorates: Ma'an, Tafila, Karak, Ajloun, Jerash and Balqa, as well as Ramtha district in Irbid, and Bayader Wadi Al Seer and Tabrbour districts of Amman.



POPULATION ASSISTED* BY FOOD SECURITY SECTOR



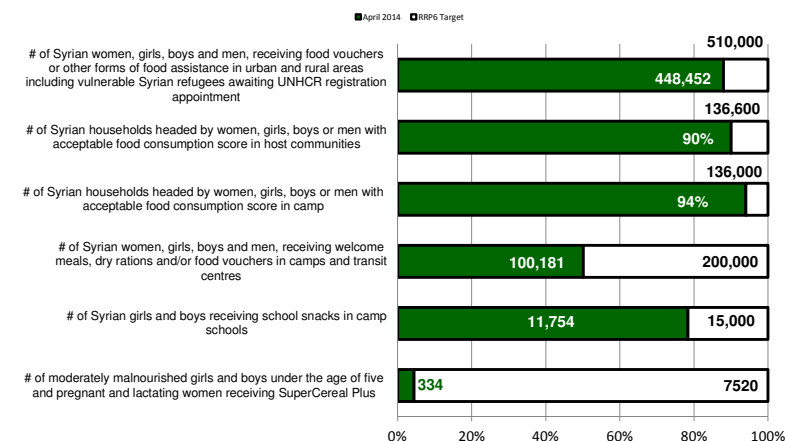
NEEDS ANALYSIS

Food expenditure constitutes more than one-third of all expenditure for both Syrian refugees and Jordanians. The income versus expenditure gap, caused by limited livelihood opportunities, rising rent, food and service prices, induces increased use of negative coping strategies as the Syrian crisis becomes more protracted, increasing the financial pressure on vulnerable refugees and Jordanians alike.

Syrian refugees are highly reliant on food assistance as their main food source, and thus food assistance remains a high priority to prevent the deterioration of refugees' food security status, particularly in camp settings where there are very few income opportunities. Increased food, rent and service prices, combined with the refugee competition for informal unskilled labour has aggravated the food security and livelihood conditions of poor Jordanians living in host communities.

Recent assessments and monitoring have shown that beneficiaries prefer to go to shops on a regular basis (multiple times per week), given that many households have limited food storage capacity. In addition, beneficiaries have expressed dissatisfaction in having to attend monthly distributions due to expensive transportation costs, compounded by difficult weather conditions in the winter months. E-cards bring several important benefits to the beneficiaries, including the possibility of spending their monthly entitlements in multiple visits to the shops. This offers beneficiaries much more flexibility in their food purchases, as well as a greater sense of normalcy. As they resemble debit cards, e-cards also provide a more discrete assistance modality.

PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS*



*The first four indicators are measured against monthly targets while the last two are measured against the annual targets

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Agencies who reported in this update:

