

Over 1,600 farmers supported with training and material for sustainable agriculture production in Lebanon

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

In Turkey, the Food Security Sector reached approximately 306,000 beneficiaries in March, thereby reaching 88 per cent of its planned target. This includes 156,222 people reached in camps, and 149,774 people reached out of camps.

In Lebanon, during the first quarter of 2016, the Food Security Sector assisted up to 691,000 vulnerable individuals with food assistance and agricultural support. Beneficiaries assisted include around 590,800 displaced Syrians, reached through e-cards (95 per cent) and vouchers. With the aim of promoting food availability and supporting sustainable agricultural production, the Food Security Sector in Lebanon also supported more than 1,628 farmers with training and agriculture inputs for sustainable crop and livestock production. Ninety-five micro-gardens were created in Akkar and Tripoli benefiting more than 460 individuals.

In Jordan, March was the first month since April 2014 where the planned amounts of monthly cash-based transfers were provided to all eligible beneficiaries, increasing the amount received by extremely vulnerable beneficiaries in communities to USD 28 per person. This month, WFP also launched the iris scan payment system in Azraq camp, and partners are now working to streamline processes and monitor the implementation of the new system.

In Iraq, a total of 45,893 Syrian refugees received food assistance in March. In addition, the transition to the SCOPE system was completed in all refugee camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

In Egypt, distributions for the month of March targeted nearly 65,164 beneficiaries. Since the beginning of the year, more than USD 1.5 million were injected into the local economy through vouchers and e-cards.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The majority of Syrian refugees in the five countries in the region rely on critical humanitarian food assistance as their primary source of food. Even with the support provided, evidence from assessments and monitoring reveals a startling deterioration in refugees' food security throughout 2015.

In Jordan, 14 per cent of refugees were food secure compared to 53 per cent in 2015. In Lebanon, moderate food insecurity has doubled since last year, affecting one quarter of refugee households, while the percentage of food secure households has decreased sharply from 25 per cent to 11 per cent.

In Turkey, evidence from a vulnerability assessment found that 16 per cent of refugees not living in Government camps had school-aged children involved in income generation to complement food needs. While the most commonly reported livelihood coping strategy was buying food on credit (40 per cent), other strategies included spend savings (20 per cent) and reducing non-essential non-food expenditures such as health and education (28 per cent). In Egypt, monitoring indicated that 37 per cent of respondents in mid-2015 had already exhausted all their savings.



Syrian refugees at Azraq refugee camp, Jordan, shop for food and groceries at the Salameh mall. © UNHCR/Ivor Prickett

Sector Response Summary:



3,078,500 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end of 2016
1,840,700 assisted in 2016



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,687,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2016
4,765,000 currently registered



Food Security Sector Funding status:



USD 787 million required in 2016
USD 128 million received in 2016



"HEALTHY KITCHENS" INITIATIVE EMPLOYS SYRIAN WOMEN TO PREPARE SCHOOL LUNCHES

As the Syrian conflict entered its sixth year in March 2016, 3RP partners continue to develop innovative programming to address the multi-faceted challenges of this protracted crisis.

WFP's "Healthy Kitchens" project is one such example, providing employment for Syrian women to prepare, cook, and serve healthy school lunches for Syrian children in school.

In addition to creating livelihood opportunities for vulnerable Syrian women, the project provides key nutritional support for children while helping to reinforce educational outcomes. Beyond direct support to women and students, the Healthy Kitchens project increases impact by engaging with local supply chains for commodity procurement, strengthening local food production, processing, transport, and distribution while stimulating local economic growth.

The Healthy Kitchens project is currently being piloted in Jordan's refugee camps (Zaatari and Azraq), where over half of the total population are children (around 60,000 children), and an average of 37 per cent of households are headed by women.

The project's pilot phase will employ approximately 200 women to prepare and cook healthy school meals such as fresh cheese and thyme bread (manaqeesh) served with a seasonal vegetable and fruit. These will be provided to over 4,000 students in Zaatari and 1,500 students in Azraq each day.

The Healthy Kitchens project is an example of supporting the complete food supply chain: production, processing, transport, and distribution/retail. By supporting the whole supply chain, the project seeks to build the capacity of both the public and private sectors, ensuring increased economic development at local, national, and regional levels; providing direct and indirect livelihood opportunities; and helping communities strengthen their resilience.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - MARCH 2016



These dashboards reflect the achievements of the more than 200 partners, including governments, UN Agencies, and NGOs, involved in the 3RP response in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Progress and targets may change in line with data revisions. All data on this Dashboard is current as at 31 March 2016. The first indicator progress refers to the highest number of monthly beneficiaries reached this year, while the second indicator is cumulative since the beginning of the year.