

All camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq have now transitioned from in-kind to voucher assistance

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), with the transition of Arbat camp to voucher operations, all camps have now transitioned from in-kind to voucher assistance. 49,876 beneficiaries were reached in October, and the voucher values were maintained at USD 19 per person per month for extremely food insecure families and USD 10 per person per month for moderately food insecure families.

In Egypt, distributions and e-voucher uploads reached 58,397 beneficiaries across six governorates in October. The food voucher value continues to be USD 17 per person per month (rather than the planned USD 24.2). Also in October, 3RP partners funded by the Government of Canada launched a programme to provide daily distribution of nutritious high energy biscuits to 95,000 children (of whom around 3,5000 are Syrian refugees) in 93 schools in Alexandria and Damietta.

In the Jordan, the Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH) - WVI Jordan project in the Azraq Camp continued to support school feeding. In addition to the regular date bars, students also received a juice drink. In the area of food assistance, JOD 10 assistance to vulnerable refugees in communities and JOD 15 to extremely vulnerable was reinstated in October. These levels of assistance will continue through to January 2016. Also in October, WFP successfully tested its new biometric verification payment system, which allows beneficiaries to pay for their purchases using nothing other than their eyes, a global first.

In Lebanon, due to the receipt of additional funding, WFP was able to increase its monthly food assistance amount to USD 21.6 per person per month (from USD 13.5 per person per month) in October. Sector partners continued the household assessment process to identify those most vulnerable to food insecurity. As of October, over 100,000 households have been assessed, and the extensive information now collected will help to form the basis of a new mechanism to expedite the identification of the most vulnerable households.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The majority of refugees from Syria rely on humanitarian food assistance as their primary source of food. Without such support, refugee vulnerabilities would increase, particularly affecting groups such as female-headed households, children, the elderly, those with chronic illness, and persons with disabilities.

The threats to agriculture could also have long-term repercussions if unaddressed. The crisis is putting increasing pressure on scarce natural resources and the uncontrolled entry of diseased plants and animals from Syria could devastate the region's food chain. As conflict and displacements continue, the lack of funding for agriculture interventions would seriously undermine efforts to protect and restore food security, employment, economic growth, the natural resource base and social cohesion throughout the region.



Voucher redemption, Basirra camp, Erbil, Iraq. WFP/Dilovan Mahamza

Sector Response Summary:



2,358,096 Refugees & Local
Community Members targeted for
assistance by end-2015
2,020,369 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees
expected by end-2015
4,279,567 currently registered or
awaiting registration



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.3 billion
required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 2.019 billion received in 2015



ASSESSMENT SHOWS FOOD SECURITY FOR REFUGEES IN JORDAN WORSE THAN EXPECTED

WFP has released its 2015 Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise (CFSME) for Jordan, finding that the food security situation for Syrian refugees is worse than initially expected. Refugees are clearly now very vulnerable and food insecure and they lack the resilience to cope with even small reductions in humanitarian assistance.

The study found that families have already taken steps to reduce their food requirements to the minimum and adopted various coping mechanisms. Despite the ongoing very generous support from their Jordanian hosts, many refugee families are reaching the end of their ability to continue in exile. Reductions in assistance, particularly food assistance given its previous extensive coverage, are therefore among the main drivers of refugee movement back to Syria, to the camps and potentially elsewhere.

The CFSME found that 85 percent of Syrian refugee households living in the host community are now either vulnerable to food insecurity or food insecure, a dramatic increase in comparison to the 48 percent in 2014.

Food insecurity for refugees living in the community has been driven by the depletion of resources: over two thirds of households (68 percent) live below the absolute poverty line of USD 96. This is a considerable increase since 2014, when less than half of refugees lived below the absolute poverty line.

Food security in Zaatari refugee camp has remained stable at around 20 percent. The more recently opened Azraq refugee camp has lower levels of food security with only 13 percent of Syrian refugee households recorded as food secure. This rate is similar to those for refugees living in host communities. Differences in food security levels between Azraq and Zaatari refugee camps indicate that, as both contexts receive full WFP assistance, greater access to alternative livelihood opportunities and informal markets is key to the food security of refugees living in Zaatari camp.

The full CFMSE report is available at:

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=9700>

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - OCTOBER 2015*



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 October 2015.

* Progress data not yet received for Turkey in October 2015.