



Who is eligible for WFP assistance?

October 2015

Targeting: identifying the most vulnerable people in Lebanon

Targeting:

ensuring that assistance goes to the most vulnerable households;
a responsible and core element of humanitarian programming;
the process of optimising limited resources.

Targeting is a core component of WFP's humanitarian programming and is routinely performed and continuously refined based on the most recent situational analyses.

Five years into the Syrian conflict, humanitarian operations in Lebanon are adjusting and evolving to fit the framework of an operation moving from an emergency to a protracted context. WFP's targeting began in late 2013 by moving from supporting all Syrian refugees in Lebanon to supporting 75 percent of the most vulnerable refugees by the end of the year.

In 2015, those efforts are continuing. Based on a tighter targeting methodology, WFP is reducing the overall beneficiary caseload. Whilst the overall numbers of people receiving assistance are decreasing, WFP is using a robust methodology to ensure that the most vulnerable households continue to receive the sustainable and adequate level of assistance required to meet their most basic needs.

WFP's last comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR 2015) showed a continued deterioration of the food security status of Syrian refugees across Lebanon, compared to 2014. More households increased their debts and dependency on food assistance was reported as the main livelihoods source. The proportion of food insecure households increased from 75% in 2014 to 89% in 2015. At the national level, 17% of households had high or very high expenditure on food ($\geq 65\%$), representing a 6% increase as compared to 2014.

Whilst the level of need amongst Syrian refugee households has increased the amount of assistance provided has decreased over the course of 2015. WFP is therefore utilizing the robust targeting approach to ensure that the households in the most vulnerable categories are being assisted.

The targeting methodology in a nutshell:

Individual household vulnerability is assessed through a series of visits, questionnaires and data analyses. Based on vulnerability criteria, WFP and its partners assess each household's situation. With that information, WFP is able to ensure that its finite resources are provided to the households with the most significant food consumption gaps, or that are marginally able to meet food needs with irreversible coping strategies, or are at the highest risk of falling into this situation.

The targeting methodology through household visits

COLLECTING DATA

The most effective and accurate way to gather information for eligibility assessments is through **household visits**. There, enumerators use an **inter-agency questionnaire** based on a range of multi-sectorial indicators to gain information which they complement with their own observations of household living conditions. Questions are focused on key variables relating to food **security, shelter, WASH, education, health, non-food items, protection and socio-economic situation**. It is the same questionnaire used to determine eligibility for cash assistance, meaning that multiple agencies can use the data to estimate household vulnerability to food and cash assistance. Some 6,000 household visits are conducted monthly across Lebanon during 2015 as part of WFP's targeting programme. The **data** collected is uploaded to an *open data kit* – a mobile collection tool which feeds data into a common server and platform on a daily basis, namely UNHCR's Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS) which key humanitarian agencies are able to access, allowing the community to optimise available resources and reduce the risk of duplicating efforts.

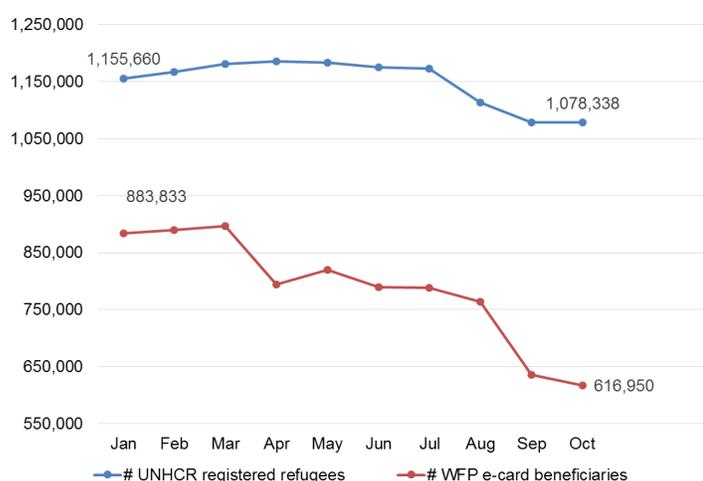
ANALYSING DATA

Eligibility for food assistance is based on **multi-sectorial criteria** mentioned above. Each household is assigned scores reflecting levels of vulnerability for each criteria. Those sector-specific vulnerability scores are then combined into one **global vulnerability score** which contains four categories of vulnerability: severe, moderate, mid and low. With this multi-sectorial approach, a comprehensive picture of each household can be ascertained. The criteria were agreed upon with sector working groups and/or co-leads in 2013. In **2015**, the 2013 threshold was adjusted to identify the **most vulnerable households** within the two highest categories of global vulnerability: moderate and severe. This year - unlike in 2013 - WFP assistance is no longer available to moderately economically vulnerable households within the moderate or low global vulnerability scores, nor for those moderately vulnerable households which are not economically vulnerable. By maintaining assistance however for the severely economically vulnerable households, WFP is still assisting those with the highest likelihood of falling into that category due to economic difficulties.

APPLYING DATA

Multi-functional teams - made up of representatives from WFP and partners responsible for data collection - review the analysis and vulnerability scores. Teams request further clarification and recommend additional data collection when gaps are noticed as well as providing recommendations to further improve the quality of data collection. The teams also focus on households close to thresholds of inclusion to reduce exclusion and inclusion errors. **The final endorsement of results lies with the multi-functional teams.** **Communicating** eligibility to households is done by SMS. Messages are sent before the last e-card top-up, for example households that will stop receiving assistance in July will be told before they receive their June top up early in the month. The message contains a hotline number which can be used for many purposes: to seek clarifications, to request support, or to appeal against a decision.

WFP beneficiaries vs UNHCR registered refugees



Note: this information is correct as of 15 October 2015.

	# registered refugees	# WFP e-card beneficiaries
Jan	1 155 660	883 833
Feb	1 167 521	889 306
Mar	1 181 030	896 791
Apr	1 185 241	793 945
May	1 183 327	819 433
Jun	1 174 690	789 728
Jul	1 172 753	788 436
Aug	1 112 941	763 705
Sep	1 078 338	635 482
Oct	1 078 338	616 950

How does WFP use the household data?

With the information gathered from household visits, WFP is able to ensure that its finite resources are provided to the households with the most significant food consumption gaps, or those that are marginally able to meet food needs with irreversible coping strategies, or those at the highest risk of falling into this situation.

As of October 2015, 87,669 household visits have been completed by WFP, UNHCR and cooperating partners. Out of the household visits conducted, the majority of the households were found to be within the high and severe vulnerability categories. WFP has subsequently removed 28,599 households (104,596 individuals) following the assessments which determined them as not being among the most vulnerable categories. They no longer receive WFP food assistance.

Results of household visits	
Vulnerability category	Percentage
Low	7.9%
Mild	8.9%
Moderate	16.1%
High	48.7%
Severe	18.4%

What is WFP doing to expedite targeting?

Considering the extensive information now collected on Syrian refugee households, WFP and humanitarian partners are in a solid position to develop a new mechanism to expedite the identification of the most vulnerable households. Following consultations with UNHCR and cooperating partners, WFP contracted the American University of Beirut to develop a targeting formula which will be used to quickly classify households within vulnerability categories without having to conduct a household visit. It is possible to develop a desk formula at this juncture due to the level of data available from the 2015 VASyR, the 87,000 household questionnaires and UNHCR's database. Prior to 2015, there was limited data available to accurately develop a desk formula which would be based on food security indicators and a minimal margin of error.

The formula will determine the key indicators that directly correlate with food insecurity, which can be easily identified. The approach will reduce the margin of error due to the level of information available. The desk formula can also be utilised as a means of pre-identified vulnerable households for other humanitarian actors, in particular partners providing multi-purpose cash assistance. WFP aims to have the desk formula developed by the end of December enabling it to be used to identify the 2016 caseload. The classification of households will allow WFP to consider a tiered approach of assistance, providing different levels of assistance based on vulnerability.

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