



Significant funding shortfalls have meant 1.6 million people have had their food assistance reduced this year

CONSEQUENCES OF UNDERFUNDING:

Although significant efficiency gains have been achieved within the Food Security Sector through enhanced targeting, more effective verification, and ongoing adjustment of transfer modalities, serious funding shortfalls are forcing many food security activities across the region to be scaled down or cancelled.

In Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt, voucher values provided to almost 1.6 million people have been reduced by 30 per cent since January 2015.

For instance 450,000 refugees residing in Jordanian communities received just USD 18 per month (USD 21 for extremely vulnerable cases) as compared to the planned USD 28.

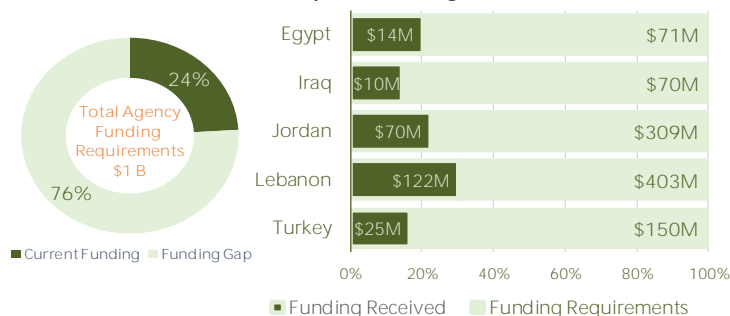
In Turkey, the Government stepped in to fill the gap created by humanitarian actors' inability to provide assistance in nine camps due to funding shortfalls. Should funding not be forthcoming, further reductions or cancellations of food assistance programmes are inevitable.

In Lebanon in July, during the Holy month of Ramadan, over 750,000 Syrian refugees and Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) will receive only 50 per cent of the full voucher value needed to ensure sufficient daily nutrition.

The provision of regular food assistance to some 1.8 million people is in jeopardy due to underfunding, and partners may be forced to focus solely on safety-net cases such as households with children under five, pregnant and lactating women, the disabled and the elderly.

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.

Food Security Sector Funding Status:



WFP/Dina El-Kassaby

Sector Response Summary:



2,358,096 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end-2015
1,800,755 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015
3,980,623 currently registered or awaiting registration



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.5 billion required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 1.062 billion received in 2015

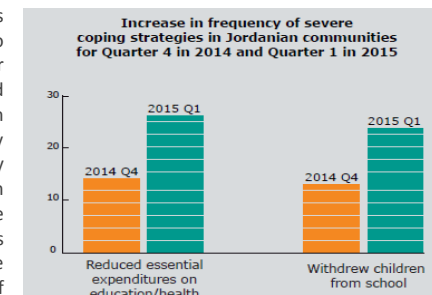


NEGATIVE COPING MECHANISMS ON THE RISE

This month, a new monitoring report found a significant deterioration in food security levels across the five refugee hosting countries over the first quarter of 2015, with 20 per cent of households reporting borderline or poor food consumption - up from 13 per cent during the same period in 2014. Furthermore, there has been a severe increase in refugees depleting their assets to meet their food needs, with a sharp increase in the percentage of households employing crisis coping strategies, up from 30 per cent in 2014 to 52 per cent in 2015.

In Lebanon, the sale of household goods increased by 50 per cent compared to the previous quarter, with one in four respondents reporting having to sell goods over the course of the previous 30 days in order to cope with food shortages. Whilst food security conditions remained stable in refugee camps across Jordan, a staggering impact has been observed among refugees in communities. Some 85 per cent of households are now food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity up from 50 per cent last year. Both refugee families in Jordan and Lebanon have reported to withdraw their children from school to prioritise their finances to meet their food needs.

In Egypt, 37 per cent of refugees said that they had been forced to reduce their number of meals per day after reductions, compared with 28 per cent in 2014, with women disproportionately affected. This is particularly significant, as pregnant women who are malnourished are more likely to both have complications during childbirth and adverse effects on the development of their child.

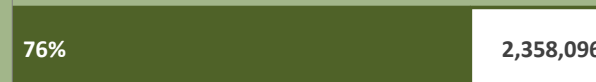


Source: WFP monitoring

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - MAY 2015

■ Progress ■ Planned Response, by end-2015

1,800,755 individuals receiving food assistance (cash, voucher or in-kind)



56,215 individuals received food & agricultural livelihoods support



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 May 2015.