



June 2015

Impacts of e-card ration reductions on Syrian refugees in Lebanon

69%
reduced the
number of
meals eaten
each day

58%
limited their
meal sizes

77%
bought food
on credit or
borrowed
money to buy
extra food

13% of
families
withdrew
children from
school

4% relied
on children to
generate
additional
incomes

BACKGROUND

Since January, limited funding meant that WFP was forced to reduce the amount provided to refugees in Lebanon from US\$27 to US\$19 through its e-card programme. Below are the key results of the 2015 quarter one post-distribution monitoring exercise. They reflect the immediate impact that the reduction had on 732 beneficiary families across the country.

KEY FINDINGS

Most families stated that their food consumption patterns changed with 69 percent saying that they reduced the number of meals eaten each day and 58 percent limited their portion sizes.

Families that reported being unable to meet their food needs cited various negative coping strategies that they were forced to employ. Some 77 percent of people reported buying food on credit or borrowing money to be able to buy food.

Furthermore, families explained a variety of additional negative coping mechanisms that were used as a means to be able to meet their minimum food requirements. They include 13 percent of families withdrawing children from school and 4 percent relying on children to generate additional incomes.

HOW DO FAMILIES EXPECT TO COPE OVER THE COMING MONTHS?

Through focus group discussions, WFP also collected anecdotal evidence from beneficiaries on how they would cope if reductions were sustained beyond mid-2015. Multiple worrying concerns were voiced:

1. Relocating within Lebanon,
2. Increasing debts and borrowing from neighbours and family,
3. Seeking additional employment opportunities with longer hours, often involving high-risk activities,
4. Begging,
5. Turning to criminality.

HOW WERE RELATIONSHIPS OUTSIDE THE FAMILY AFFECTED BY RATION REDUCTIONS?

All groups voiced concerns that the already tense relations with – and burdens placed upon – host communities would deteriorate if they were forced to turn to criminal activities, start begging and borrow more, permanently damaging their reputations in Lebanon.

Beneficiaries cited concerns about their accommodation and relations with landlords as many were unable to pay rent and expect to be evicted if they cannot maintain

For further information, see: <http://cdn.wfp.org/syriainfo/lebanon.html>
Or contact: edward.johnson@wfp.org

