

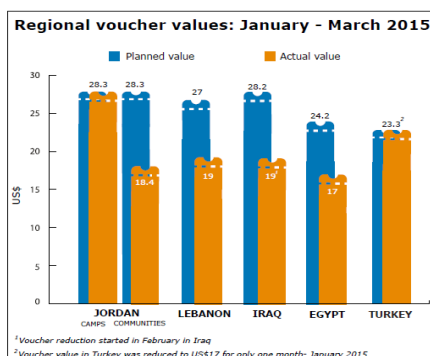
Food assistance values reduced by an average of 30 per cent across the region in the first three months of 2015

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Despite the continued generosity of donors, funding shortfalls have forced reductions in the level of assistance given to Syrian refugees throughout the region over the past months, lowering the value of their food entitlement by an average of 30 per cent since the beginning of the year.

Assistance to refugees in Lebanon and Egypt was reduced from January onwards, and in Iraq from February onwards. In Jordan, refugees residing in camps have continued to receive assistance as planned, while those living in host communities saw their reduced - owing to greater access to economic opportunities outside of camp settings.

Meanwhile, in Turkey, the voucher value was lowered during the month of January only, reinstating the original amount the following month. However, funding shortages accelerated the transfer of assistance from WFP to the Turkish Government - originally planned as a gradual process - for some 66,000 refugees in nine camps at the end of February.



* Source: WFP Data.

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. There is evidence of refugee households resorting to spending their savings, taking their children out of school to work, relying on credit, selling household assets, and reducing food intake. Pre-assistance baseline assessments of newly-arrived refugees and continuous post-distribution monitoring have indicated that the food assistance provided by 3RP Partners helps to stabilize and improve refugees' food consumption frequency and dietary diversity.

Simultaneous assessments in Jordan and Lebanon in communities hosting Syrian refugees show that the rural population is the least resilient to inflation and the emerging threats of environmental degradation, land and water scarcity, and climate change. There is need to build the resilience of poor smallholder farmers to the shocks and stresses that can affect their livelihood and food security. Action is needed now to help mitigate the adverse impacts of the crisis that threaten to undermine development gains in Syria neighbouring countries.

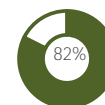


Food voucher distribution in Egypt. WFP

Sector Response Summary:



2,358,096 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end-2015
1,942,953 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015
3,966,702 currently registered or awaiting registration



Food Security Sector Funding Status:



USD 1 billion required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 146 million received in 2015



FOOD SECURITY SECTOR SUPPORTING VULNERABLE HOST COMMUNITIES

As the impact on host communities continues to grow, Food Security Partners are introducing or expanding programmes that help host communities affected by the Syrian crisis to recover from shocks.

In Jordan, a 29-month programme was set up in December 2013 to assist 160,000 vulnerable Jordanians, living in Amman, Irbid and Mafraq – the governorates that host the highest numbers of refugees within the country. By offering food in exchange for the development of skills or to help build assets that will be of benefit to the community as a whole, the programme will support longer-term food security for those affected by the crisis as well as strengthen social cohesion between refugee and host communities. In the first three months of 2015, almost 50,000 people were reached through such activities, providing some 441 mega tonnes of food and injecting over USD 804,045 into the local economy.

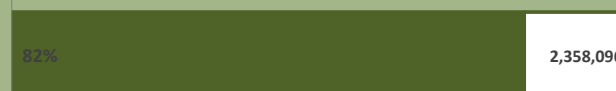
In Lebanon, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and as part of the National Poverty Targeting Programme, WFP will in 2015 expand its current provision of technical support to direct support of vulnerable host communities through e-cards. Expecting to start in the second half of 2015, this aims to offer support to 27,000 vulnerable Lebanese.

Also in Lebanon, technical trainings of 500 farmers in handling of materials and equipment to carry out poultry activities are ongoing across the country. Farm field school groups received all necessary material to build 25 chicken houses in Akkar, Baalbek-Hermel, Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, Nabatiye and South governorates during March, each to be used by 20 farmers in the same region to practice poultry farming. In addition, the yearly livestock vaccination campaign that was initiated in mid-February is still ongoing across Lebanon with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture. Overall, more than 171,500 animals (including cattle and small ruminants) were vaccinated by the end of March.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - MARCH 2015

■ Progress ■ Planned Response, by end-2015

1,942,953 individuals receiving food assistance (cash, voucher or in-kind)



143 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 March 2015.