



World Food Programme

REGIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATION 200433 Food assistance to Syrian populations in Lebanon

Requirement: US\$8,577,336 Resourced: US\$4,676,507 Shortfall: US\$3,900,829

Background

As a result of the ongoing conflict in Syria, a large number of Syrians have crossed the border and sought refuge in Lebanon since May 2011. Initially, hundreds of families sought protection in northern Lebanon; over time, families also started to settle in the Bekaa Valley and in the cities of Tripoli, Beirut and Saida. As of 16 August, there are some 37,541 Syrians being assisted by the Government of Lebanon, the UN and NGOs. Syrian citizens continue to cross the border every day.

According to UNHCR, over 75% of those being assisted are women and children. Many live with host families who themselves struggle to make ends meet. Among the most pressing needs are food and basic non-food items, shelter, medical care and psychosocial support.

WFP in Lebanon

WFP did not have an office in Lebanon at the onset of the emergency, but capitalizing on the experience of the 2006 operation in this country, WFP was able to set up offices quickly. WFP currently has an office in Beirut, a sub-office in Zahle (Bekaa Valley) and a sub-office in Qobayat (north Lebanon).

The Government of Lebanon officially requested support from WFP in May; the Lebanese High Relief Commission (HRC), UNHCR, local organizations and private citizens had been assisting the Syrians up to that point and continue to do so. WFP began delivering food support in June. In the North, WFP took over assistance to half of HRC's caseload of 15,000 refugees. In the

Bekaa Valley, voucher assistance – initially to some 1,550 refugees – also started in June.

WFP first operated in Lebanon under an Immediate Response EMOP and will continue to provide support in Lebanon through December under the Regional EMOP.

Thanks to contributions from the governments of USA, Japan, UK, the UN CERF and ECHO US\$4.6M has been resourced to date towards the Regional EMOP, leaving a budget shortfall of US\$3.9M.



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Achievements:

In August, WFP is targeting nearly 33,000 Syrian refugees, and will gradually increase to target at least 40,000 by December.

In the North: In Akkar and Tripoli area, 14,510 Syrian individuals received WFP food packages and NHCR NFIs during the July cycle. An additional 1,980 individuals received Muslim Aid food packages and UNHCR NFIs in Wadi Khaled.

The first vouchers distribution in Akkar region has started, targeting 13,690 individuals during the August cycle. Some vouchers were immediately redeemed in the surrounding stores. WFP will also provide family food packages to 6,865 beneficiaries in Tripoli during this cycle. The voucher programme will begin in Tripoli area by September.

In the Bekaa Valley, Two rounds of distributions are planned to take place in August to accommodate delays in UNHCR registration and ensure maximum coverage of beneficiaries for a planned figure of 12,864 people. The first round of August Voucher distribution is finalized in 6 locations; the second round will take place the third week of August for about 2,300 refugees in Central Bekaa plus the 133 refugees already registered in Zahle. In remote and conflict-affected border areas, WFP continues to provide food parcels.

Challenges

Security: Continued insecurity of some border areas present a

number of challenges including humanitarian access for outreach workers and refugees' security. Some political tensions and security incidents have also taken place in voucher distribution points.

UNHCR Registration: WFP's voucher system depends on UNHCR registration to ensure proper follow up and monitoring of recipients and use of the assistance. WFP has opted to provide food packages to those refugees not fully registered and will integrate these households into the voucher assistance following UNHCR registration.

As registration in the North will take some time to be finalized, WFP is looking into implementing voucher assistance temporarily using UNHCR's pre-screening database.

Way Forward

The planning figure under the revised RRP is 27,000 refugees increasing to 40,000 in December. UNHCR reports that an additional 10,000 Syrian have requested to be registered.

At the request of HRC and UNHCR and in collaboration with IOM and CPs, WFP is working on a strategy to start food assistance to the Lebanese returnees, currently less than a thousand families. These returnees should be integrated into the project document under budget revision four and then included in the September distribution cycle.

