

# WFP's Response Inside Syria and in Neighbouring Countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq

**Situation Report # 14**

Reporting Period: 5- 12 August 2012



**World Food Programme**

*Fighting Hunger Worldwide*

## HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- **SYRIA** – Conditions in Syria are becoming increasingly challenging. Staff have been deployed to Jordan and Lebanon to analyze alternative food supply lines for food transportation to Syria given the intermittent closure of the Turkey border to commercial traffic.
- The July dispatch cycle concluded during the reporting period and distributions were completed in most targeted governorates. WFP started dispatches for the August cycle on 9 August.
- **JORDAN** – Distribution of vouchers for 22,888 beneficiaries is on-going, meanwhile, those beneficiaries that have received their vouchers are already using them to obtain food of their choice in the stores. In the transit camps in Ramtha and Al Zaatari, WFP has been distributing about 12,000 meals daily in the reporting period.
- **LEBANON** – July cycle distributions are almost complete. The first voucher distributions for the August cycle started in six locations in Bekaa Valley. WFP staff in Bekaa Valley conducted interviews in 40 household and 31 shops for their voucher post distribution monitoring exercise in July. Findings indicate that in general the beneficiaries are satisfied with the voucher programme, using the vouchers to buy a good variety of food commodities.
- **IRAQ** - Six trucks carrying 143 mt of assorted food commodities have entered Iraq as of 12 August while one truck carrying 24 mt is still on the Turkish side of the border. WFP is following up with customs and preventive health authorities in Erbil to release the commodities for distribution after Ramadan
- **TURKEY** – WFP's proposed assistance in Turkey, initially to cover the needs of some 30,000 people with value-based food vouchers, is expected to expand as cooking facilities and access to shops is ensured.



Image of Al Za'atari camp and Syrian girls in the Camp © WFP/ Maria Anguera de Sojo

## SITUATION UPDATE

During the reporting period, situation in the country continued to be tense with Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dara'a, Idlib, Homs, Hama, Tartous, Lattakia and Deir Ezzor governorates being affected. Situation in Aleppo remains very volatile and unstable.

As a result, there has been a recent dramatic increase in the number of people leaving their homes in search of safety with a number of them seeking shelter in schools across the country. Solutions will need to be found before the new school term starts in mid-September 2012.

The on-going volatility continues to pose challenges to WFP operations as well. There has been indication of

unavailability of trucks due to the situation and related restriction of movement on some roads. In addition, frequent diesel scarcity has been reported in Tartous governorate. However, both Tartous and Lattakia Ports are operational.

Food Procurement is currently limited to international and regional markets as local procurement has been put on hold due to the deteriorating situation in Syria.

***WFP continues to exert all efforts to reach those in need of food assistance amidst increasing challenges on the ground.***

## WFP RESPONSE

**FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME:** Through its emergency operation (EMOP), WFP continues to provide food assistance to 850,000 beneficiaries in 14 Syrian governorates that have been directly or indirectly impacted by the current events.

Despite increasing challenges, WFP remains determined to find alternatives to negotiate access into affected areas.

July food distributions commenced on 3 July and concluded in all 14 targeted governorates except for Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, and Deir Ezzor. As of 11 August, 715,075 beneficiaries received their July food entitlements.

During the July cycle, monitoring activities were conducted in some targeted areas in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Al-Hasakeh, Al-Raqqa, Aleppo, Tartous, Lattakia, and Idlib.

During the August cycle, WFP food basket will vary depending on the availability of food, pre-packaged rations and cooking gas.

**LOGISTICS ACTIVITIES** – WFP continues to dispatch food to the final distribution points (FDPs) directly and/or through the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC).

Food dispatches for July cycle concluded on 9 August; 164,975 food rations for 824,875 beneficiaries had been dispatched to all targeted governorates.

Food dispatches for the August cycle commenced on 10 August and the first convoys arrived in Dara'a and Damascus governorates.

Food dispatches to Aleppo governorate continue to cover the increasing needs in both Aleppo city and Rural Areas.

**COORDINATION:** Sectoral coordination meetings for the Logistics and Food Sectors continue to take place on a bi-weekly basis.

WFP continues to provide logistical support to other agencies. During the reporting period, WFP provided handling services and transportation of over 40.5 mt of hygiene and recreation kits, food, household equipment and clothes on behalf of UNICEF, UNRWA and UNFPA.

## RESOURCE UPDATE

The EMOP is currently valued at US\$ 103.2 million.

Over US\$ 44.3 million has been resourced thanks to contributions received from UN CERF, USA, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, European Commission, UK, Finland, Ireland, Germany, Kuwait, France and other multilateral donors in addition to carryover from previous operations.

**WFP immediately requires US\$24 million to avoid breaks in food assistance and allow for a swift response to the increasing needs.**

**Urgent funding is also needed to start implementing activities under the special operation, aimed at augmenting WFP's capacity in logistics, communication and security amidst the increasingly challenging environment.**

## Jordan

### SITUATION UPDATE

As of 11 August, UNHCR has registered 41,939 Syrian nationals while the Government of Jordan reports that over 142,000 Syrians have entered the country. As the situation in Syria persists, large numbers of Syrians continue to cross the Jordanian borders seeking asylum, mainly through the cities of Mafraq and Ramtha.

Bailing for refugees is restricted in all transit centers, resulting in a further increase in the numbers of refugees requiring daily food assistance.

Syrian refugees crossing the borders illegally are being transferred directly to the Zaatari camp.

### WFP RESPONSE

In August, WFP is targeting 22,888 registered refugees in the communities and in the Cyber City transit camp with vouchers. WFP is also assisting Syrian nationals in transit camps close to the border with hot meals.

The implementation of the voucher programme has been divided into 3 geographical areas, each covered by one WFP partner: Islamic Relief Worldwide will cover 10,580 beneficiaries in Irbid, Mafraq and Jerash; Human Relief Foundation (HRF) will cover 2,710 beneficiaries in Ajloun, Balqa, Madaba, Karak, Tafila, Ma'an, Aqaba, and Cyber City transit center (near Ramtha); Save the Children will cover 9,598 beneficiaries in Amman and Zarqa:

In Cyber City transit center, distribution of vouchers started on 1 August and is planned to finish on 13 August. Islamic Relief, HRF and Save the Children started the distribution of vouchers on 5 August and plan to finish by 17 August.

Beneficiaries started redeeming their vouchers in retail stores on 2 August in Cyber City transit center and 9 August in all other governorates.

Field Level Agreements (FLAs) covering until end September will be signed with each cooperating

partner by 13 August. All contracts with the retailers involved in the programme have been finalized.

During this reporting period, WFP has provided an average of more than 12,000 meals per day (6,000 Iftar and 6,000 Suhur) through its implementing partner Tkiyet Um Ali (TUA) in transit camps in Ramtha and Al Za'atari, reaching more than 6,000 beneficiaries daily.

WFP will phase out hot meals distribution in Al Za'atari camp and start distribution of dry rations as soon as kitchen facilities are in place, after Ramadan. WFP is currently prepositioning dry food commodities for Al Za'atari camp at the main warehouse in Amman.

In addition to hot meals, WFP is distributing welcome packages to new arrivals who come to Al Za'atari camp mostly in the middle of the night, requiring a 24/7 WFP staff presence. The welcome packages are comprised of six ready to eat non-perishable items which are prepositioned at WFP's rub hall in the Al Za'atari camp.

During this period, WFP also purchased and distributed 350 contingency meals to refugees that fled the transit camps but returned later.

A notable number of high profile stake holders have visited the camp of Al Za'atari during the reporting period, receiving wide media coverage. WFP was

present in all the visits and briefed the visitors on the assistance WFP provides in the camp. Visitors included HRH Prince Rashed, president of board of trustees at JHCO, HRH Princess Haya of Jordan, founder and chairperson of Tkiyet Um Ali, HRH Princess Basma bint Ali, the Jordanian Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and of

Planning, representatives of the UEA and over ten Ambassadors or Embassy representatives, including the USA as well as the Ambassador of the UK in Jordan, who during the visit, announced a fourfold increase of their contribution to assisting refugees in the country.

## Lebanon

### SITUATION UPDATE

As of 8 August, UNHCR has registered 35,141 Syrians in the country: 19,918 in the North and 14,121 in the Bekaa Valley, with the remaining 1,063 in Beirut and the Jabal area. An additional estimated 1,000 are yet to be registered in Tripoli and surrounding areas. UNHCR is expecting another 4 - 8,000 refugees to be pre-screened in Tripoli in August and requested WFP to include these new pre-screened refugees in the August food package distribution.

### WFP RESPONSE

In August, WFP targets over 33,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon:

**In the North,** WFP is starting August voucher distribution to 13,690 individuals in the Akkar region. Distribution of family food packages will only be done in Tripoli to 6,865 beneficiaries.

July cycle food distribution started on 16 July and is still ongoing due to a delay in food procurement that postponed the distribution in Wadi-Khaled and Tripoli; distributions resumed on 6 August.

Between 16 and 26 July, DRC, WFP and UNHCR distributed food packages and non-food items to 5,325 individuals (1,065 households) in Bireh and Halba, Akkar province.

Through Danish Refugee Council DRC, WFP will begin the voucher programme in Tripoli area by September.

**In the Bekaa Valley,** WFP is providing assistance through value-based food vouchers to 12,864 persons during August, most of the refugee population except a small caseload of 211 households who will receive family food packages due to access constraints.

Two rounds of distributions are planned this month 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 distributions has started in six locations.

Events in Syria continue to affect Lebanese border villages both in the North and the Bekaa Valley. Lebanese Army presence has been increased along the northern border to control tensions. However, there is sporadic shelling from Syria along the Lebanese side of the border almost every night. WFP is monitoring the situation closely.

WVI and DRC have collected the July vouchers from participating shops and started the reconciliation and shop payment exercise.

Eight hundred food parcels have been distributed by World Vision in West Bekaa, while distribution of food packages for 124 households in Qaa for the July round is ongoing.

### ASSESSMENTS

**North:** Shops assessments are on-going in the Tripoli area for the voucher programme. The 25 selected shops in Akkar districts signed their contract with DRC and are now ready to start the programme.

**Bekaa Valley:** The original selection of 43 shops is completed but assessment and selection of additional shops are taking place given the increasing number of families registered with UNHCR for the August round of voucher distribution. Shop assessment in West Bekaa and Zahle will be conducted in the coming weeks; selection will be finalised once UNHCR provides registration figures.

### MONITORING

**North:** WFP staff started PDM interviews in Akkar province, interviewing 16 refugee households that received the July food packages two weeks ago. The beneficiaries were satisfied with the assistance, 50% of the monthly food (on average) was found in the

kitchens, which correlates with the distribution cycle, and the refugees appreciated the voucher programme.

**Bekaa Valley:** In July WFP staff in Bekaa Valley conducted 40 HHS interviews (PDM) and 31 shop monitoring visits. In general the beneficiaries are satisfied with the voucher system however some misuse of voucher has been reported the need for

beneficiaries to cover other urgent needs such as cooking gas, NFIS and hygiene products.

WFP will continue monitoring, building a more comprehensive picture of voucher utilisation and addressing the issues raised. WFP has also shared the information with UNHCR and the organisations are working together to see how the NFI assistance can meet some of the non-food needs raised by beneficiaries.



WFP staff discussing with the owner of retail store engaged in the voucher programme during a monitoring visit. Image of the produce sold at the store, available to Syrian refugees through their vouchers. Bekaa Valley, Lebanon. © WFP/ Maria Anguera de Sojo

## Iraq

### SITUATION UPDATE

UNHCR has registered 9,773 people in Kurdistan Region and 4,038 in Al Qaim, making total of 13,811 Iraq wide.

As of 10 August UNHCR/Department for Displaced and Migration (DDM) have registered 9,773 in Kurdistan, 78.6 percent of which (7,678 refugees) are in Dohuk.

The Directorate of Residency in Dohuk governorate has stopped issuing residency permits this week due to departures of the singles from Domiz camp to Syria. The issue is under review.

The Government has started clearing the land for construction of the camp at Ksak, Talafar district of

Ninewa, which will be built by UNHCR and the Iraqi Red Crescent to accommodate 1,000 refugees (200 families). The camp is planned for potential Syrian nationals whereas Iraqi returnees from Syria will be accommodated in school buildings.

UNHCR and the office of the Governor in Dohuk have agreed on a site for the second camp adjacent to Domiz to accommodate about 5,000 Syrians which meets the necessary requirements. UNHCR indicated that construction of the new camp will start as soon as the work in Domiz is completed.

### WFP RESPONSE

WFP is targeting an initial caseload of 5,000 Syrian nationals with the provision of direct in-kind food assistance; priority will be given to those in the Domiz camp, Dohuk governorate. Budget Revision 2

increased planned beneficiary numbers in Iraq's Kurdistan Region to 15,000 by December.

WFP Food distributions are planned after the Ramadan since DDM distributed food rations covering the Ramadan period.

Six trucks carrying 143 mt of assorted food commodities have entered Iraq as of 12 August while one truck carrying 24 mt is still on the Turkish side of the border. The shipment has been delayed due to lengthy inspection process in Turkey by Bureau VERITAS.

A Tripartite Agreement between UNHCR, WFP and Islamic Relief Worldwide-Iraq to distribute food to Syrian nationals, including the 3,000 people in Domiz camp and to those living with host communities, from mid-August is finalized and ready for signature.

#### **Assessments:**

The final report of the Joint UN Interagency Needs Assessment of Syrian Nationals in Iraq has been cleared by WFP and is awaiting validation by the Kurdistan Region Government counterpart. Preliminary findings of this assessment indicate that Erbil is conducive to voucher programme implementation to serve the Syrian nationals in the area, including those in Domiz Camp.

WFP will prepare an implementation/operation plan to define roles and responsibilities of WFP and its partners in the voucher implementation in Iraq based on the final voucher assessment report, conducted by WFP Iraqi Country Office.



WFP unloading a truck in Erbil, Northern Iraq.

## Turkey

### SITUATION UPDATE

With the escalation of the humanitarian situation in Aleppo and the increasing number of new arrivals, the composition of the Syrian population under temporary protection is also evolving. According to authorities in Kilis the total population in Turkey already exceeds 55,000. Reportedly, 1,000 of these

#### **WFP RESPONSE**

WFP Turkey Emergency Coordinator arrived in Ankara on 7 August. Identification of additional international staff to support WFP operations is ongoing; the prompt deployment of food voucher specialists is a priority to WFP in order to support the Government's efforts in assisting the Syrian people that have found refuge in Turkey. WFP is working on recruiting bilingual national staff and setting up its office in Ankara.

The proposed assistance, to cover initially the needs of some 30,000 people through value based food voucher programme, is expected to be expanded as cooking facilities and access to shop is ensured.

**Assesments:** The forthcoming final report of the voucher feasibility study proposes a phased transition

new arrivals were referred to Islahiye camp in Gaziantep and about 2,500 people were temporarily placed in boarding schools (1,500 in Kahramanmaras and 1,000 in Kilis). The Government of Turkey has indicated it is opening several new sites to host Syrians with a capacity of up to 100,000 people.

from direct food assistance to a market based approach with food vouchers in camps where people have or will have cooking facilities and access to shops.

**Coordination:** During the meetings between WFP Emergency Coordinator and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives of the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) the national authorities have expressed their willingness to support WFP's initiative to strengthen its procurement hub within Turkey for its food assistance and humanitarian interventions in the region and worldwide.

## Resource Mobilization

WFP is drafting Budget Revision 3, which will include a case load of 30,000 refugees in Turkey with an approximate cost of US\$8.3 million bringing the total cost of the EMOP to about US\$36 million (Not included in table)

Another budget revision is planned which will incorporate the additional caseloads of refugees in the neighbouring countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey and will be based on the revised appeal expected in September.

DONOR	CONFIRMED US\$
USA	8,000,000
Japan	315,488
Switzerland	198,346
UN CERF	2,904,292
UK	4,709,576
Total confirmed	16,127,702
EMOP 200433 Cost	27,728,035
<b>SHORTFALL</b>	<b>11,600,333</b>

**Thanks to contributions from the governments of USA, Japan, Switzerland, UK and the UN CERF, US\$16.1M has been resourced to date towards the Regional EMOP, leaving a budget shortfall of US\$11.6M.**

For further information contact:

Ms. Abeer Etefa, Sr. Regional Public Information Officer

+20 1066634352

[Abeer.Etefa@wfp.org](mailto:Abeer.Etefa@wfp.org)

