

WFP's Response in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq

Situation Report # 23

Reporting Period: 7 - 13 October 2012



World Food Programme

Fighting Hunger Worldwide

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

JORDAN – WFP has increased its target figure for the next cycle food voucher assistance in Jordan to 41,000 refugees living in urban areas and in the Cyber City transit centre; so far more than 23,000 have been reached. During the reporting period, WFP delivered two hot meals per day to an average of 30,321 beneficiaries in Al Za'atri Camp and King Abdullah Park and about 2,835 welcome meals to new arrivals in Al Za'atri camp. WFP has also started distribution of dry food rations to families in Al Za'atri camp and has so far reached 18,187 beneficiaries; WFP is targeting 28,556 beneficiaries in the October cycle for in-kind food. To date, UNHCR has installed 94 kitchens in the camp.

LEBANON – WFP has started the October cycle distribution of food vouchers to 65,000 refugees in the Bekaa Valley and the North. The distribution of food parcels will continue for newcomers in both areas through the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). During the reporting period, food parcel and voucher distributions took place in Saadnayel, Zahle and Qaab Elias in Central Bekaa and in Aarsal, Al Ain, Fakhia for North Bekaa; distribution in Wadi Khaled was completed.

IRAQ – In September, WFP reached 10,212 Syrian refugees in Domiz camp with 133.3 mt of food. The October distribution cycle will commence immediately after the arrival of 162 mt of food commodities which have been procured from Turkey. The commodities are expected to arrive in late-October.

TURKEY – On 14 October, WFP and Kizilay (Turkish Red Crescent) launched the the Electronic Food Card programme in Kilis. WFP and Kizilay will assist around 13,000 Syrians in Kilis and will expand to Hatay over the coming weeks to cover more than 25,000 people. Initial reactions indicate that beneficiaries are thoroughly satisfied with the programme so far. The programme caseload is expected to expand as cooking facilities and access to shops become available in other camps.



Figure 1- Syrian woman holding an electronic food card in Turkey. Figure 2 - WFP Regional Director Daly Belgamsi signing the Field Level Agreement with Kizilay (Turkish Red Crescent).

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 11 October, UNHCR has registered 57,379 Syrian nationals in Jordan.

During the reporting period, Al Za'atri camp received 2,835 new arrivals, bringing the total number of Syrians in the camp to approximately 40,800.

The number of beneficiaries in King Abdullah Park (KAP), in Ramtha, decreased from 1,050 to 1,000 with

WFP RESPONSE

In October, WFP plans to assist 41,000 Syrian refugees through its voucher programme. WFP's voucher programme cooperating partners Islamic Relief Worldwide, Save the Children and Human Relief Foundation are distributing vouchers to beneficiaries for the first October cycle and have reached over 23,000 beneficiaries thus far; distribution is ongoing.

WFP continues to provide assistance to Syrians through hot meals at transit centers close to the border. During the reporting period, WFP provided a total of 424,200 hot meals (an average of 60,642 meals per day) through its cooperating partners in Al Za'atri camp in Mafraq and King Abdullah Park in Ramtha, reaching a daily average of 30,621 beneficiaries. In addition, WFP provided 2,835 welcome meals to new arrivals in Al Za'atri camp, a 78% increase from the last reporting period.

WFP continues to deliver meals daily to patients hospitalised at the French and Moroccan health clinics in Al Za'atri camp.

WFP launched dry food distributions in Al Za'atri camp on 2 October in preparation for the phase over to in-kind food assistance. By 10 October, WFP distributed dry rations to 18,187 beneficiaries (4,393 households) through the new food distribution point in Al Za'atri camp. Distributions were orderly and beneficiaries noted their appreciation for the quick processing time and the amenities provided such as water and seating in the waiting hall.

WFP plans to assist 28,556 individuals (8,075 families) during the first cycle. Once the cycle is completed, a full analysis of the case load will be conducted. The WFP two-week rations consist of: bulgur wheat, lentils, pasta, rice, sugar and vegetable oil. WFP has sufficient stock for the second cycle of dry ration distribution in Al Za'atri camp due to begin 16 October. More commodities are in the process of delivery and will be

some refugees bailed out and others moving to Al Za'atri camp to be reunited with family members.

UNHCR has started a verification exercise to determine accurate figures for the number of beneficiaries in Al Za'atri camp.

repackaged from 18 October onward for the third cycle.

As of 13 October, UNHCR reports that it has opened 94 communal kitchens in Al Za'atri camp. The kitchen facilities will allow beneficiaries to prepare their own meals and diversify their food consumption.

Assessments: The inter-agency General Nutrition Survey to assess the levels of acute malnutrition among Syrian refugees in Jordan and factors that could result in malnutrition has reached the halfway point. Assessments in host communities are ongoing and training for the Al Za'atri section of the assessment will start 15 October. All data collection will be completed before the Eid holiday.

UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP and WHO are holding discussions about initiating a Nutrition Surveillance System and possible nutrition interventions over the coming months.

Monitoring: From 9-11 October, WFP conducted an in-depth monitoring exercise throughout Al Za'atri camp, gathering information regarding the dry food distribution, cooking modalities, coping strategies, and food preferences with particular interest in feedback from women. Fifteen focus groups were held with women-only and mixed groups.

During this reporting period, WFP field monitors visited and monitored 12 shops, 13 distribution sites including 21 beneficiary surveys and interviewed 40 beneficiaries using the post-distribution monitoring tool. Field monitors also logged 45 calls through the voucher hotline mostly pertaining to clarification issues for new arrivals and allowed commodities.

Coordination: A joint distribution centre is currently being planned between WFP and UNHCR for verification of new arrivals and distribution of non-food items and dry rations all in one welcome package.

The joint WFP-UNHCR Cash and Protection study which plans to look at the implications of cash and voucher assistance to Syrian refugees in Jordan is currently underway. The study will be based on focus groups

including key informants and beneficiaries from UNHCR's cash and WFP's voucher assistance modalities. A presentation of results will follow the completion of the study.

Lebanon

SITUATION UPDATE

To date, 64,836 Syrian refugees are registered with UNHCR in Lebanon; an additional 29,000 are awaiting registration bringing the total number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon to around 94,000. UNHCR has set up a registration centre in Arsal where it has already registered over 2,000 refugees this week. Next week,

registration will continue in Arsal before moving to Qaa the following week.

Following the joint effort of WFP, UNHCR, High Relief Commission (HRC) and local authorities, tensions in Wadi Khaled have eased and the distribution of vouchers and non-food items resumed last week and was completed this week.

WFP RESPONSE

In the North, between 8-9 October, food and non-food item distributions under the September cycle took place in Wadi Khaled area; local authorities were present and the distribution went smoothly. During these two days, 770 individuals received 58 food parcels and 416 food-vouchers; many refugees managed to reach the other distribution sites of Halba, Bire and even Tripoli during the previous weeks. This was the last distribution for this cycle.

September cycle distributions in the North are now completed. Between 19 September and 9 October, 27,082 (5,824 HH) registered Syrian individuals were assisted in Akkar and Tripoli; among them, 23,527 individuals (4,984 HH) received 23,527 food-vouchers, and 3,555 individuals (840 HH) received 840 food-parcels because of late registration or database problem cases.

Between 10-12 October, WFP and DRC started collecting the redeemed food-vouchers for September cycle in Akkar and Tripoli. Simultaneously, WFP conducted shop monitoring visits in these shops and detected no major problems.

In the Bekaa Valley, in September, WFP assisted 17,590 beneficiaries (3,794 HH) with full-value food-vouchers and an additional 2,566 beneficiaries (589 HH) with half-value mid-month food-vouchers (the half value vouchers are distributed to catch up with registration by UNHCR and avoid a month-gap in assistance for the beneficiaries). WFP Bekaa Valley handed over to its partners a total of 24,873 printed vouchers (for 5,441 HH) for the first round of the October cycle. So far, WFP cooperating partners have

distributed vouchers in Saadnayel, Zahle and Qaab Elias in Central Bekaa (WV) and in Arsal, Al Ain, Fakhia for North Bekaa (DRC). Next week distribution will be finalised in the remaining areas.

Assessments: Eight new shops have been added in North Bekaa (four in Baalbek and four in Britel) following a selection exercise conducted by a joint team composed by WFP and DRC staff. To ensure competition and increased beneficiary choice, additional shops need to be added in Arsal once the registration is completed there and the number of newly registered refugees is confirmed by UNHCR.

Shop evaluations regarding voucher misuse have been completed and warning letters are being sent to the violators.

Preliminary partner assessment and information gathering has been conducted with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Save the Children and Action Contre la Faim (ACF) for potential partnership with the upcoming voucher programme in the South.

FITTEST Dubai completed the assessment of the telecommunication network in the North and the Bekaa Valley. The mission was coordinated with UNDSS, UNHCR and UNRWA and the report and recommendations will be released later this month.

Monitoring: Following the regional Monitoring and Evaluation workshop in Amman, the Qobayat and Zahle sub-offices harmonized the distribution checklists and post-distribution monitoring questionnaires for shops. During the reporting period, the Bekaa Valley team conducted 21 shop visits (post-distribution monitoring and price monitoring) and visited 5 distribution centres.

Highlights from the previous week's monitoring are the following:

>Households (HHs) have reported that their primary needs include: medicines for children, shelter, house insulation and isolation, gas and clothes for winter. Some HHs are paying between \$100-300 for monthly rental fees and others are living in tents and paying annual fees of around \$330. HHs report that hygiene kits received are not sufficient and lack essential items.

>HHs prefer voucher assistance over food parcels because of the ability to choose from among a variety of food.

>Some shopkeepers continue to violate the voucher rules; WFP and partners will issue warning letters to such shops and monitor them closely.

Coordination: The WFP Emergency Coordinator (EC) sent the first draft of a Basic Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Lebanon to the office of the Prime Minister. This Basic Agreement is meant to officially re-establish WFP's presence in the country.

On 11 October, WFP attended a coordination meeting to discuss the assistance to Lebanese returnees. The Government's High Relief Commission (HRC) confirmed that it is taking the lead on assistance to Lebanese returnees and that it started gathering data in collaboration with the municipalities. Following this meeting, IOM, WFP and HRC met to discuss the course of action and agreed to prepare a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) defining the roles and responsibilities of each organisation. The official database will be owned by HRC and maintained with support from IOM. A technical meeting will be held next week to discuss the first draft of the MoU.

WFP's EC and the UNHCR Representative in Lebanon organized their first joint field visit to demonstrate the strong collaboration between the two organizations and the will to work together to overcome challenges. They met with the Arsal municipality, visited the registration centre, assisted in the distribution of vouchers and NFIs and discussed winterization issues with some beneficiaries. The next planned joint field

visit will take place in Wadi Khaled in three weeks; similar visits are planned with the UNICEF representative.

WFP recently issued a Vacancy Announcement for additional Field Monitor Assistants. Given the large number of applicants, and given similar recruitment ongoing in UNICEF, it was agreed between the two agencies that WFP will take UNICEF's needs into account during the screening and share eligible profiles. Terms and conditions were agreed upon to harmonize between the two agencies and avoid competition.

The EC attended the WFP Regional meeting in Amman where operational issues were discussed and decisions were made on the strategy for 2013.

A meeting headed by UNHCR was held at the Caritas office in Ghaziyeh, South Lebanon, to discuss modalities of support to Syrian refugees in the South. The estimated figure of Syrian refugees in South Lebanon is 13,000 at present. However this number needs to be confirmed through the upcoming registration process in the South, planned to start on 22 October at Gaziye (central registration). UNHCR in partnership with Caritas is already assisting registered refugees with food and NFIs. Other NGOs are currently providing assistance in the form of protection, education and food. UNHCR and WFP will discuss expansion of the voucher system to the South. Refugee families of Palestinian origin are being registered by UNRWA.

UNHCR has established a Cash Transfer Programming Working Group to coordinate different programmes using this modality, harmonize tools and approaches and plan for an expansion of such projects in 2013 in the context of the potential protracted crisis. The first meeting was held on 11 October.

Bekaa HoSO together with DRC visited local authorities in Baalbek and Aarsal to discuss the programme progress and challenges and to share the actions that will be taken against misbehaving shops.

Iraq

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 12 October, UNHCR reported that there are 36,036 registered refugees in Iraq. The majority are in Kurdistan Governorates: 25,191 in Dohuk, 5,164 in Erbil and 1,508 in Suleimaniyah. The remaining, 7,173

Syrian refugees are in Al Qaim in Anbar Governorate. With current UNHCR estimates of 177 Syrian arrivals per day, Kurdistan Region alone is expected to exceed

40,000 refugees by December unless the situation in Syria improves.

UNHCR reports that some 13,000 refugees currently reside in Domiz camp, while others move between the camp and host communities due to a lack of formal shelter facilities.

Food prices during the first week of October in Dahuk indicate relatively stable market prices for cereals,

sugar, salt and meat; however there has been a 10-12% increase in the price of pulses and vegetable oil. WFP plans to conduct regular price monitoring in Erbil and Suleimaniyah. Trade between the Kurdistan Region of Iraq with Turkey and Iran is operating normally, with many trucks carrying goods including various food items.

WFP RESPONSE

In September, WFP and Islamic Relief Worldwide Iraq (IR), working in partnership with Barzani Foundation, distributed 133.3 mt of food to 10,212 Syrian refugees in Domiz camp.

The commencement of the October distribution cycle is postponed due to the delay in the arrival of 162 mt of food commodities procured from Turkey. WFP is expecting the commodities to arrive from Turkey in October. DDM is providing emergency rations in the camp until the shipment arrives and WFP can resume food distributions. WFP's IPs are prepared for the next in-kind food distributions as soon as the commodities are received in Domiz camp.

The procurement of 362 mt of food commodities for a two month ration (October-November) for 10-15,000 refugees in Al Qaim is in process. The rations will be comprised of fortified wheat flour, rice, vegetable oil, sugar, lentils and salt.

A separate procurement of 162 mt of food from Jordan is ongoing to cover the urgent needs of 10,000 Syrian refugees in Al Qaim camp. The delivery is expected to arrive in early November. A further Procurement has started for additional food rations for November and December to assist up to 20,000 refugees expected in Al Qaim by the end of the year

During the reporting period, WFP participated in several coordination meetings in Domiz camp including sub-working groups on education and health and the regular UNHCR-led camp coordination meeting for the month of October. The meetings discussed camp construction and relocation plans, coordination of assistance to refugees, additional needs in light of winterization and improved camp infrastructure and food assistance. The UNHCR Public Health Officer recommended increasing kilocalories for refugees during the winter; WFP has suggested that this recommendation be formalized for review through WFP's budget revision process.

WFP, together with members of the UN joint mission to Al-Qaim, presented the mission report at the meeting of the newly formed Syria Emergency Coordination Committee on 10 October. Chaired by the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM), this first meeting was attended by all UN agencies involved in the response to the Syrian emergency and all NGOs and cooperating partners working in Al-Qaim. This committee will meet on a bi-weekly basis. Preparation for the establishment of a third camp, winterization, food, border and entry issues and certificates for the refugees for ease of movement and the services in the camps were discussed.

Turkey

SITUATION UPDATE

According to official Government figures as of 5 October, there are 96,397 Syrians accommodated in Turkish camps including those temporarily staying in schools, and hospitals. According to unofficial estimates by UNHCR, as of 11 October there are approximately 99,500 in camps.

Reportedly, there are more than 10,000 Syrians across the border of Kilis and Hatay with over 200-300 new arrivals admitted by the Government of Turkey every day. Reports indicate that the border is open and humanitarian assistance (food, water,

hygiene facilities and medical assistance) is provided at the zero point of the border.

Currently there are 14 camps including five in Hatay, two in Gaziantep, two in Şanlıurfa, one in Kahramanmaraş, one in Adiyaman, one in Osmaniye,

one in Nizip and one container city in Kilis. Three more camps are being constructed. When all planned camps are complete, Turkey will have the capacity to host 130,000 people.

WFP RESPONSE

WFP and Kizilay (Turkish Red Crescent) officially launched the Electronic Food Card Programme. Two launch events took place and both were well covered by local media: a signing event and press conference took place in Ankara on 13 October and a press conference and card distribution ceremony took place in Kilis camp on 14 October.

The launch events were attended by WFP Regional Director (RD) and WFP Regional Refugee Emergency Coordinator (RREC). High level representatives from the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), and MoFA also attended. WFP is receiving strong support from all levels of the Government with the Local Governor and Sub Governor responsible for Kilis participating in the launch event at Kilis camp.

Assessments: The voucher feasibility study recommended a phased transition 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. WFP in partnership with Kizilay is now using an Electronic Food Card as a voucher. So far Electronic Food Cards have been distributed in Kilis camp, covering around 13,000 people.

WFP is now preparing to launch the programme in Hatay. A WFP and Kizilay mission to Hatay planned to start 19 October will be accompanied by the Coordinating Governor of the region. The launch of the programme in Hatay will increase the overall case load to around 25,000.

Based on the Government's request to increase further the assistance in Turkey, WFP is now planning to reach 40,000 beneficiaries by the end of 2012; this is an increase from the original planning figure of 30,000. WFP will undertake joint planning with the Government to determine where expansion should occur next.



WFP Regional Director Daly Belgasmi, Regional Refugee Emergency Coordinator Edward Kallon, together with Jean Yves Lequime Emergency Coordinator in Turkey and his team hold the Turkish Red Crescent-WFP food e-card model.



Christina Hobbs of WFP, alongside colleagues from the Turkish Red Crescent, hand out the Electronic Food Cards.

Coordination: AFAD has requested that WFP Turkey expand its operations to cover all camps. This will require cooking facilities to be made available in all camps; WFP will explore the potential for collaborating with UNHCR to support the Government with this task.

The RD invited the President and Director General of Kizilay to attend the NGO consultation at WFP Headquarters that will be held in late-November.

Regional Coordination and Resource Mobilization

Budget revision number 3 of the Regional Refugee Emergency Operation was approved by the Executive Director and General Director of FAO on 2 October. This budget revision incorporates the caseload in Turkey.

A fourth budget revision is currently being processed to increase beneficiary numbers and consequent project requirements in line with the recently launched update to the Refugee Response Plan (RRP3). This budget revision increased the overall budget for the EMOP to US\$68 million, after which the operation will be about 50% funded. The second Project Review Committee (PRC) meeting is scheduled for 19 October.

The Regional Bureau Heads of Unit (RB HoU), Emergency Coordinator and Amman Cell met in Amman from 7-9 October. At the meeting, Country Offices (COs), the RB, the Amman Cell and HQ developed a strategic plan for the operation beyond 2012, updated the joint work plan for RB, Amman and the COs until the end of the year and agreed upon standard operating procedures, internal controls, structure and communication flow to ensure that standardised and harmonised systems are in place.

As an immediate follow up to the RB HoU meeting, the Regional Cell engaged in discussions with HQ and

the COs to organize a WFP Syria and Regional Contingency Planning meeting in Amman from 22-23 October with the RB, COs, HQ (ODEP – Emergency Preparedness and Response branch) and Regional Cell involvement.

WFP's Regional Food Security Coordination Expert submitted his mission report from his mission to Lebanon. While the food security sector is in a period where food actors are few, coordination is perceived as adequate in terms of geographic and caseload spread. This could potentially change in the future, as ad-hoc food donations may occur again, as experienced during Ramadan. He therefore recommended establishing a Food Sector Technical Group in Beirut and a Food Sector Coordination Group in the Bekaa Valley and in the North to look at coordination issues that are more complex than coordinating WFP food and voucher support.

The Syrian Refugee Operation page is now on the WFP global website. It can be accessed at: <https://www.wfp.org/stories/wfp-responds-syrian-refugee-crisis>.

The Amman cell is developing a modular poster on the food basket, which will also include some donor visibility to be adapted in each country.

Resource update (based on requirements for Budget Revision 4, still under approval):

EMOP	Requirements (US\$)	Resourced (US\$)	Shortfalls (US\$)	Percent Shortfall
TOTAL	62,691,409	32,090,436	30,600,973	49%

USA, Japan, ECHO, Switzerland, Canada, UN CERF, SRAC (USA), UK, SRAC (SWE) have contributed to the EMOP

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