

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

Situation Report # 26

Reporting Period: 28 October-3 November 2012



**World Food
Programme**

Fighting Hunger Worldwide

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

JORDAN - WFP has completed the September-October cycle of voucher assistance to 37,350 Syrian refugees living in urban communities and Cyber City transit centre; November cycle distributions are planned to start by the end of next week. WFP has also started the first cycle November distribution of dry food rations to refugees in Al Za'atri camp on 2 November. WFP continues to provide welcome meals to new arrivals in Al Za'atri camp and to patients hospitalized at the French and Moroccan health clinics in the camp.

LEBANON - WFP plans to assist 85,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon in November. During the reporting period, WFP completed the October cycle distribution of food and non-food items in the North in Wadi Khaled, Tripoli and Bire, reaching some 10,500 people in this area. WFP will begin November cycle distribution of vouchers in the Bekka Valley on 5 November in Majdal Anjar, Saadnayel, Zahle, Al Ain, Fekhia and Britel.

IRAQ - Following the arrival of food commodities in Iraq, WFP is conducting October cycle distributions to Syrian refugees in Domiz camp. As of 3 November, WFP has distributed 83 mt of mixed food commodities to 8,272 people. Food distributions in Al Qaim will start in mid-November.

TURKEY - Through the Electronic Food Card Programme, WFP and Kizilay are assisting around 13,000 Syrians in Kilis. WFP is now preparing to launch the programme in Hatay to cover the needs of more than 25,000 people. During the ongoing joint planning mission in Hatay, WFP and Kizilay in coordination with the Turkish authorities have selected shops, butchers and bakeries. The distribution of cards to beneficiaries in Hatay is scheduled to start on 15 November.



Voucher beneficiary in Bekaa Valley, Lebanon © WFP/ Maria Anguera de Sojo

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 1 November, UNHCR has registered 60,630 Syrians in Jordan with 31,324 awaiting registration appointments. The Jordanian military is proceeding quickly with the construction of a new Syrian refugee camp in Marjeeb Al Fahood, near Zarqa. WFP programme and logistics staff have visited the site, spoken with government officials and contributed to the UN feedback provided by UNHCR. This model camp

includes lessons learned from Al Za'atri camp with pre-fabricated cabins, schools, kitchens, storage and shops in the compound. The ground will be sealed gravel and there will be communal water, electricity and an entertainment centre, as well as humanitarian storage and offices. Planned capacity is currently for 5,500 people with a dedicated compound for single men. The camp is scheduled to open by mid-December.

WFP RESPONSE

On 2 November, WFP began the first cycle November general food distribution in Al Za'atri camp and reached family sizes 8-17 as of 3 November. In addition, cooperating partner Save the Children continues to distribute welcome meals on a daily basis to patients hospitalized at the French and Moroccan health clinics in Al Za'atri camp. On 31 October, WFP phased out from daily tent by tent bread distribution to distribution from the food distribution point; each beneficiary receives a ration of four pieces of bread per day.

WFP continues to distribute welcome meals and bread in King Abdullah Park until markets are established and a voucher programme can be implemented; this week, WFP assisted 950 beneficiaries in KAP. In Cyber City transit centre, WFP reached 444 beneficiaries with vouchers during the month of October.

The type of rice in the dry rations provided in Al Za'atri camp has been changed to better suit beneficiaries' preferences and is currently being distributed in the first cycle of November dry ration distribution. WFP currently has enough stock for the second cycle of November dry ration distribution in Al Za'atri camp at the present rate of arrivals.

Assessments: The General Nutrition Survey in Al Za'atri camp will begin 4 November with plans to conclude the data collection phase by 10 November. Partners have arranged a time to meet with the women's refugee community leaders to discuss the communication strategy for the survey.

Monitoring: A newly developed monthly monitoring plan was implemented this week to improve the quality of data collection and distribution monitoring activities in Al Za'atri camp.

Observations from distribution and post-distribution monitoring in Al Za'atri camp include:

- Refugees are pleased with the change from a long grain to shorter 'Egyptian' style rice this cycle.
- Beneficiaries prefer WFP's new distribution method to pack the oil and dry rations separately, and then distribute both at the food distribution point, preventing contamination from leakages.

Coordination: An inter-agency mission to the new camp in Marjeeb Al Fahood with UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP took place on 31 October. The site work is 75% complete, lighting is being installed, schools are built and the first cabins have been delivered.

On 29 October, the Secretary General of International Trade Union Confederation, visited Al Za'atri camp accompanied by a team including the General Secretary of Education, their Campaigns and Communications Officer, and their in-house magazine *Equal Times* Reporter. The visit started at the registration centre with a briefing by UNHCR and WFP on current operations in the camp. The Secretary General thanked the Government for its tolerance and hospitality while showing strong support for the UN agencies providing assistance to Syrian refugees.

WFP is organizing and communicating with partners and the Government of Jordan regarding the Executive Director's visit to Amman and Al Za'atri camp next week.

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 2 November, 79,356 Syrian refugees are registered with UNHCR in Lebanon; an additional 30,739 have been in contact with UNHCR to be registered. This brings the total number of refugees to 110,095. UNHCR set up a registration centre in Qaa to cover refugees in Masharia al Qaa and Hermel who are

awaiting registration. Next week, a mobile registration team will go to Wadi Khaled to register refugees still awaiting registration there.

The overall security situation has been calm during the reporting period, except for some demonstrations in Beirut that created traffic jams.

WFP RESPONSE

WFP has assisted over 64,800 beneficiaries in the October cycle so far, distributions are ongoing.

North: On 29 October, the food and non-food items (NFI) distribution was completed in Wadi Khaled area. This distribution took place in a new site provided by local authorities near Akroum. Few beneficiaries showed up because most of them had already received their entitlements in other locations in Wadi Khaled the previous week. Around 1,320 people received 897 food vouchers and 63 food parcels.

Between 30 and 31 October, food and non-food items distribution took place in Tripoli to complete last week's distribution, which was interrupted due to high insecurity. Around 6,000 individuals received 3,400 food vouchers and 340 food parcels.

On 1 November, food and NFIs distribution took place in Bire. Around 3,200 individuals received 3,200 food vouchers. No food parcels were distributed because the remaining ones in the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) warehouse in Qobayat will be used as contingency stock and for the Newcomers Programme (ECHO project). Instead of food parcels, the problem cases and newly registered refugees received manually made and signed vouchers delivered by the WFP Programme Assistant. The October cycle distribution will be completed 6 November in Halba.

On 1 November, WFP completed the second and last round of collection of redeemed food-vouchers for September cycle.

During the month of October, DRC distributed 204 WFP food parcels to vulnerable Syrian newcomers in Akkar (ECHO project), compared to 102 in September.

Bekaa Valley: In October, WFP assisted 25,205 beneficiaries with full-value food vouchers and 4,775 half-value mid-month food vouchers.

WFP has received the distribution list for the first November cycle, scheduled to start on 5 November.

Food parcels are being provided through the Newcomer Programme implemented by DRC; 144 newcomer families in September and in 71 in October were assisted with food parcels through the programme. The Newcomer Programme targets families that recently arrived in Lebanon (less than one month) and are not yet registered with UNHCR. WFP, through its cooperating partner DRC, provides food assistance based on a household vulnerability assessment.

World Vision (WV) September reconciliation verification has taken place with the remote support of the WFP Regional Bureau IT Officer. The number of redeemed vouchers has been reconciled, however an issue regarding missing beneficiary signatures is being investigated by WFP.

DRC September reconciliation verification is finalised and the final DRC report should be available on 5 November.

Assessments: An Assessment Capacity Projects secondment (composed of three NGOs) is working from UNHCR on consolidating all assessment data collected from the beginning of the operation by partners and agencies. That compilation will be critical to inform programming in early 2013 under the planned extension of the operation.

Monitoring: In the North, in the Tripoli area in particular, WFP visited all of the partner shops around the distribution sites to ensure that the programme regulations are being followed. In addition, security strategies were employed in Tripoli to identify individuals or partner-shops that might be trespassing those regulations.

Refresher training sessions have been organized by DRC and WV with the support of WFP for all shops participating in the programme in the Bekaa Valley.

The October household (HH) Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) continued for the October round in several localities in the Bekaa Valley covering 32 HHs.

Highlights from the previous week's monitoring in Arsal include:

- The distribution in Arsal was well organized, managed and controlled.
- 12 HH visits in Arsal were conducted for the October first round of distribution: 100% of the HH PDM respondents were women and 25% of them are also the head of the households. All of the households interviewed are sharing their accommodation with other Syrian families.
- The food items that are purchased most frequently using the vouchers are: oil, beans, cereals, bread, canned food and vegetables.
- The main constraints on HHs are rental fees, medicines and winter needs including fuel for heating, clothing, blankets and carpets.
- Some HHs reported that they have received cash assistance for Eid through the mayor from Islamic charities and Saudi private donors.
- 42% of the HHs used part of the vouchers to cover urgent needs: 20% exchanged the vouchers with cash, 40% with soaps and 40% with house detergents.
- 50% of the HHs interviews had to sell assets to purchase extra food and to pay rent; 83% of the HHs have debts; out of those with debts, 50% have debts with shops, 40% with family and 10% with neighbours.

Coordination: The WFP Emergency Coordinator (EC) and the Bekaa Valley HoSO continued to prepare for

the Executive Director's visit; Coordination with Government entities and Sister Agencies is ongoing.

On 29 October, WFP held a meeting with DRC to discuss: amendment of the field level agreement budget regarding the increase in voucher numbers to support the increasing caseload until the end of the year; collaboration between WFP and DRC concerning the assistance of Lebanese returnees in the area where DRC is operational; integration of the Ministry of Social Affairs' Social Development Centres in the implementing activities; adoption of the half-voucher approach for the newly registered refugees in the North in order to harmonize with the operation in the Bekaa Valley.

On 31 October, WFP met with IOM and the Higher Relief Committee (HRC) to discuss the different clauses of the MOU governing the collaboration between the three parties.

On 2 November, WFP attended the UNHCR-led inter-agency meeting. The main challenges for this period were winterization, registration in the new areas of assistance, access and security. The next meeting will be held on 9 November with Ministry of Social Affairs and HRC.

The EC continued consultations with potential partners for the programme in the South. In addition to Terre des Hommes (TDH) Italy and Save the Children, the EC met with Première Urgence and ACF. All potential partners will submit a short concept of operation for potential partnership in the South next week.

Iraq

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 31 October, UNHCR reported that there are 45,849 registered refugees in Iraq. The majority are in Kurdistan Region governorates. UNHCR reports that some 15,000 refugees currently reside in Domiz camp, while others move between the camp and host communities due to a lack of formal shelter facilities.

WFP, humanitarian partners and local authorities are concerned about the lack of adequate resources to meet the needs of the increasing number of refugees in Northern Iraq. The Department of Displacement and Migration (DDM) has discontinued its assistance, expecting WFP and UNHCR to step up. There is an increased demand to combine in-kind food with

voucher assistance until markets have the capacity to meet the increased demand of refugees in Northern Iraq.

Food prices have remained relatively stable in October; however, there has been an increase of 10-12% in the price of pulses and vegetable oil. Regular market price monitoring in the Al-Qaim area will start after the hiring process of an Al-Qaim based Programme Assistant is completed in early-November.

WFP RESPONSE

Following the arrival of food commodities, WFP initiated October cycle distributions on 22 October to Syrian refugees in Domiz. So far, WFP has reached 8,272 Syrian refugees in Domiz with 83 mt of direct food assistance. The ration is comprised of: rice, sugar, lentils, vegetable oil and salt.

Food distribution in Al-Qaim is expected to start after the second week of November.

WFP and cooperating partner Islamic Relief facilitate food distributions for women in Domiz camp. The women and their children are accommodated in a shaded area built by UNHCR while waiting for their entitlements. WFP and UNHCR give priority to women during food distributions and registration. UNHCR-hired guards provide security during the distributions and provision of other services in the camp and the singles amongst the refugees are assisted separately from the families.

Due to high commodity prices, WFP received 138 mt of food in the second consignment of food commodities instead of 162 mt that were originally planned.

Due to expected shortfall created by the increasing number of refugees, WFP Iraq has requested the Regional Bureau Resource Unit to help secure advance funding to procure food for 15,000 Syrians in Domiz camp in the month of December. Meanwhile, WFP Iraq has the capacity to provide vouchers for one month to 10,000 additional refugees living mainly in the host communities. There is an urgent need to prepare for the needs of the increasing number of refugees in the coming months.

Food parcels for refugees in Al Qaim are expected to arrive in Iraq by the end of November.

Coordination: UNHCR has confirmed in a recent coordination meeting that a full-fledged winterization plan is being implemented for the two camps in Al-Qaim. This includes replacement of all existing tents with more wind and cold resistant tents and the provision of additional quilts and blankets, cooking stoves, heaters, kerosene and other necessities for each family.

Turkey

SITUATION UPDATE

According to official Government figures as of 2 November, there are 110,649 Syrians accommodated in 14 camps established in seven provinces as well as those undertaking medical treatments in hospitals. This represents about a 17% increase during the month of October. Since the beginning of the crisis in April 2011, more than 155,000 Syrians have been admitted and registered in Turkey and about 45,000 have returned to Syria.

Although the total number of Syrians accommodated in camps has exceeded 100,000, there is no change in Turkey's "open border policy."

According to the authorities, the second camp in Akçakale has already started to admit new arrivals and two more camps are under construction in Gazinatep (Nizip -2) and Şanlıurfa (Harran), both are being built as container sites.

Local Government officials have informed the UN that there are more than 10,000 Syrians at the borders of Hatay and Kilis provinces, however not all are willing to cross into Turkey because of the humanitarian assistance provided by Kizilay at the zero point of the border and also because some prefer to remain at the border area as they feel safer there.

Recent discussions with the Government of Turkey indicated a possible increase of 10,000 beneficiaries in Turkey by the end of 2012; this would be an increase from the current planning figure of 30,000. WFP is undertaking joint planning with the Government to determine where expansion could occur next.

WFP RESPONSE

Through the Electronic Food Card Programme, WFP and Kizilay are assisting around 13,000 Syrians in Kilis and will expand to Hatay over the coming weeks to cover more than 25,000 people. The distribution of cards to beneficiaries in Hatay is scheduled to start on 15 November.

To date, WFP and Kizilay have distributed 1,987 cards to cover the needs of 12,215 beneficiaries in Kilis camp. Cards were distributed to one household member per container; 74% of the cards were issued to women (1,141 cards).

The Head of the Response Division at AFAD made a request for WFP and Kizilay to expand the programme to cover all of the camps in Turkey.

WFP is working to establish a presence in Gaziantep city to oversee operations in Kilis and Hatay. WFP is currently searching for office space in this city which meets UNDSS security requirements. National staff candidates have been shortlisted to work in Gaziantep and Hatay.

Assessments: During the ongoing joint WFP-Kizilay planning mission to Hatay, WFP Programme staff

planned for the implementation of the programme in the region. In Hatay, WFP staff visited markets in Yayladagi and Altinozu and met with the Sub-Governors in both Cities. In Yaykladagi, the camp manager accompanied the WFP-Kizilay team to visit the markets and to select retailers that have the capacity and are willing to participate in the programme: four shops and four butchers were selected. In Altinozu, the team was accompanied by the representative of the Sub-Governor: seven shops, four butchers and one bakery were selected. The selection of retailers who would be interested to install shops in Altinozu Boynuyogun camp will be done next week with the support of the Sub-Governor.

Coordination: During this period, WFP met with a mission from the Swiss Embassy and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and another one of ECHO. In both occasions, WFP provided an overview of the programme and highlighted expected funding needs in 2013.

Regional Coordination and Resource Mobilization

The Regional Cell, Regional Bureau and Country Offices (CO) have coordinated preparations for WFP Executive Director's visit to Lebanon and Jordan on 6-9 November.

Contingency planning: Following the contingency planning workshop in Amman 22-23 October, WFP assembled a team in Amman to develop a Corporate Readiness Exercise (CRX), aimed at strengthening operational support for the region in accordance with the new WFP Emergency Response Activation Protocol.

WFP Regional Refugee Emergency Coordinator (RREC) met with UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator on 3 November. Amongst the outcomes of the meeting was the postponement to March 2013 of the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) of Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq. In the interim, WFP and UNHCR will continue to work on monitoring systems to collect data on vulnerability to food insecurity among refugees and nutrition among children under five to inform programming decisions.

WFP and UNHCR are now focussing on updating the RRP for the first six months of 2013.

WFP is closing the information gap for urban refugees in Jordan in a number of ways. WFP will distribute 12,000 refugee information leaflets and 30 posters produced by UNHCR in parallel to the voucher distributions to refugees living in urban areas. These posters and leaflets include important information for urban refugees on how and where to access different kinds of support and how to renew their registration as well as helplines and details of places and dates for UNHCR helpdesks in northern governorates of Jordan. WFP is training International Relief and Development (IRD) outreach workers in the voucher programme so that they can explain to refugees during home visits how to join the voucher programme. WFP is providing information and assisting UPP and UNESCO in developing messages and providing experts for radio programmes based in Irbid. The first programme will be broadcast live on 14 November.

WFP is in discussion with REACH, an IMPACT initiative on geo-referencing of urban refugees in Jordan. A pilot project in Mafrqa has been completed, mapping the locations and essential information for all refugees in the city. In Iraq a similar process is underway in Erbil and Baghdad. This mapping will allow a better overview of refugee locations and allow more specific targeting of in-depth sectoral assessments. UNHCR is planning to

fund the extension of this project to cover Amman and all northern governorates. It is planned that all countries in the Syrian refugee response will be mapped in the future. WFP will meet with UNHCR next week to discuss how the two organizations can cooperate on the UNHCR-led inter-agency Participatory Assessment in Jordan (outside of the camps) and how to cooperate better on database management.

Resource update -Budget Revision 4-				
Country	Requirements (US\$)	Resourced (US\$)	Shortfalls (US\$)	Percent Shortfall
Jordan	33,833,855	15,405,266	18,428,589	54%
Lebanon	16,765,670	7,875,329	8,890,341	53%
Iraq	4,928,479	3,812,463	1,116,016	23%
Turkey	7,163,402	6,763,184	400,219	6%
EMOP total	62,691,406	33,856,242	28,835,164	46%

USA, Japan, ECHO, Switzerland, Canada, Sweden, UN CERF, SRAC (USA), UK, Saudi Arabia and Sweden have contributed to the EMOP

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