



More than USD 45 million has been injected into local economies through food voucher or e-card redemption during 2014

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

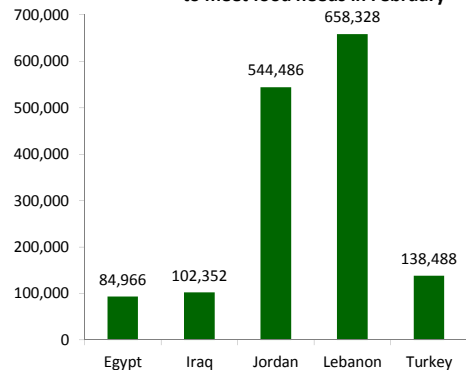
Syrian refugees continued to **arrive in large numbers** to neighbouring countries during the month. In Lebanon, food sector members responded efficiently to the influx in Aarsal in early February using contingency stocks, while in Jordan a peak of 800 refugees a day were arriving in late February and so the daily distribution of bread at Za'atari camp was increased by half a tonne.

In Turkey, the **e-Food Card** Programme was expanded to an additional camp, increasing the number of beneficiaries by 20,000 to 140,000 people per month. In Iraq, a Request for Quotation was launched to select retail shops to operate inside Domiz camp as part of the food voucher programme. In Damietta, Egypt, a second supermarket branch has been made available to reduce crowding and travel distances for people using the food voucher system.

Overall, food assistance is now reaching more than 1.5 million people in the five RRP6 response countries through a mix of e-cards, vouchers, and in-kind distributions.

Monitoring the **nutrition status** of the refugee population is vital to measure the effectiveness of food sector interventions and as an indicator of the overall health of communities. Of the countries reporting on acceptable food consumption scores among Syrian households in February, Jordan (which launched a moderate acute malnutrition treatment programme in Za'atari camp this month) reported more than 90 per cent were acceptable, Egypt reported 85 per cent and Lebanon reported 75 per cent.

Individuals receiving in-kind, cash or voucher assistance to meet food needs in February



REFUGEE POPULATION IN THE REGION:

2,508,402

Current Refugee Population

4,100,000

Expected Refugee Population by end-2014

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The majority of Syrian refugees rely on humanitarian food assistance as their primary source of food. Without external support, the level of vulnerability of Syrian refugees would likely increase, particularly affecting vulnerable groups such as female-headed households, children, the elderly, sick and the disabled.

In Lebanon and Egypt, 70 per cent of refugees are food insecure. The results of the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) in Lebanon show that half of a household's expenditure was spent on food. In Iraq, large numbers of Syrian refugees, in both camp and non-camp settings, cite food as their top priority need. In Jordan, food expenditure by refugee families constitutes more than a third of their budgets. In Turkey, all families living in refugee camps rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their daily food needs.

Across the region, refugee households report resorting to spending their savings, taking their children out of school to work, and relying on credit and selling household assets to meet their food needs. Incidents of child malnutrition, though not significantly prevalent, have been identified inside Syria and in nearly every refugee-hosting country in the region. The amount and nutritional value of the food available to refugees is critical to prevent the occurrence of malnutrition.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS:

1,528,620 individuals receiving in-kind, cash or voucher assistance to meet food needs

1,528,620

Planned Response, by end-2014

2,589,320

21,726 children reached with micronutrient supplements/supplementation, including school feeding programmes

21,726

67,520

0 individuals receiving agricultural livelihoods support

0

100,000

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Planned response based on full funding of RRP6 for an expected population of 4.1 million Syrian refugees in the region by end-2014. There are currently 2.5 million refugees in the region and the overall RRP6 appeal is 14% funded.