

HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP food reaches northern rural Aleppo for the first time in ten months
- In Syria, April dispatches of general food rations 7.3% lower than in March
- New truck-sealing regime in Syria slows May food dispatches
- Data collection for vulnerability assessment of Syrian refugees in Lebanon about to begin
- Food distributions gather pace at newly opened Azraq camp in Jordan
- Food e-card cost-sharing arrangement with government extended in Turkey
- UNHCR / WFP food security assessment proceeds in Iraq



WFP/Laure Chadraoui



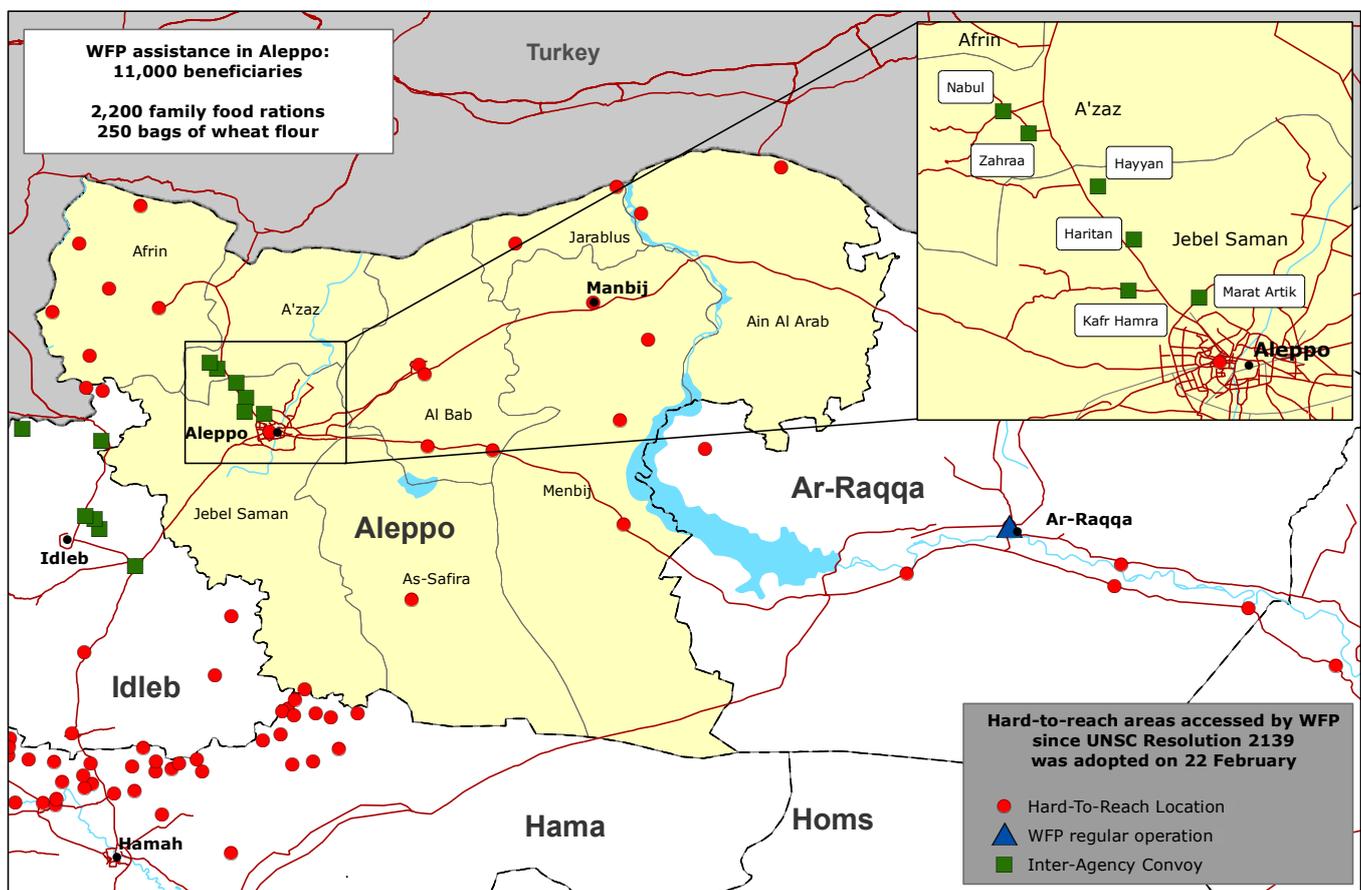
SYRIA

UN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE REACHES RURAL ALEPPO FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE JULY 2013

A UN inter-agency mission, led by the WFP Country Director, delivered 2,200 family food rations and critical humanitarian supplies in support of 11,000 people in six besieged or hard-to-reach villages in rural northern Aleppo on 8 and 9 May. These included the opposition-held villages of Kafr Hamra, Maaret Elartiq, Hariten and Hayyan, and the two aligned villages of Nobbol and Zahra, under siege for more than a year.

While the mission observed extensive damage to infrastructure and buildings caused by continuous bombardment, there were no signs of acute food shortages. It was evident that the main pre-war sources of livelihood, industry and agriculture, had been significantly affected by the conflict, leading to widespread poverty. Small-scale farming and livestock herding continued, while markets were stocked with food, fuel and other essential items, many of them products of informal trade with Turkey. While their prices were higher than pre-crisis levels, they were similar to those prevailing elsewhere in the country. The nutrition situation was not alarming and adequate primary health care services were available. In Nobbol and Zahra, 25 functioning schools enabled children to continue learning, albeit at the risk of constant shelling. In the four opposition-held villages, however, the education system had completely collapsed, with many children found to be labouring in light industrial workshops and farming, while some boys were observed carrying weapons and manning checkpoints, raising further protection concerns.

Inter-agency convoy to rural Aleppo – 8-9 May 2014



NEW TRUCK-SEALING REGIME SLOWS MAY FOOD DISPATCHES

WFP food dispatches under the May cycle are occurring at a significantly slower pace than in previous months owing to the government's application of a new mechanism: the sealing of trucks carrying humanitarian supplies at departure points. While the ostensible intention is to facilitate safe passage, the new procedure has been causing major delays in deliveries to target locations. As of 10 May, WFP had only been able to dispatch food rations to assist 742,000 people in 10 of the 14 Syrian governorates, 17 percent of the plan, compared to 35 percent at the same time in April.

VERY LIMITED ACCESS TO NORTHEAST DURING APRIL CYCLE

April cycle dispatches concluded with over 775,282 family food rations dispatched for 3.87 million people across Syria, 91 percent of the number planned. While WFP was able to meet its targets in most governorates, severe access constraints continued to disrupt access to the north-east.

While in late February and March improved security conditions had allowed WFP to partially resume deliveries to Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, a deterioration in April forced a new halt to humanitarian deliveries to the two governorates. As a result, no assistance reached Ar-Raqqa, while only a small quantity of food entered Deir-ez-Zor, enough for less than 10 percent of the targeted population.

Similarly, Al-Hasakeh received none of its allocations for the April cycle. However, as part of the May cycle, the dispatch of 10,000 family rations is underway.

WFP Food Assistance - Beneficiary Numbers

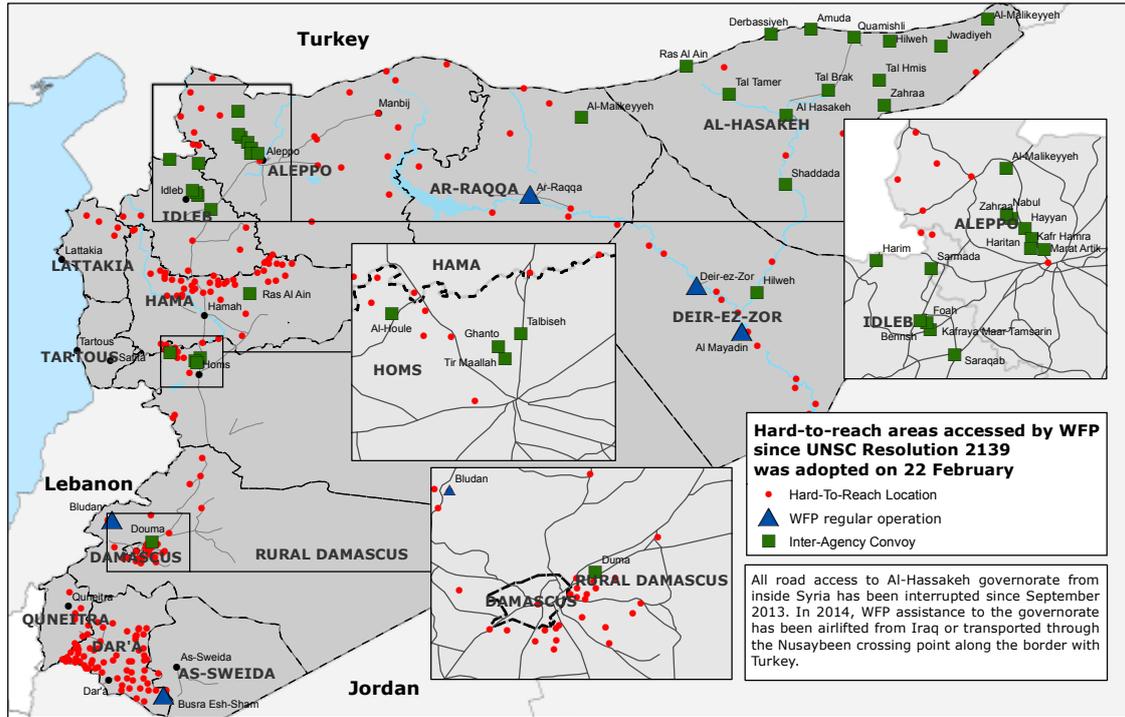
	Planned	Dispatched	Distributed
MARCH CYCLE			
General Food Rations	4,250,000	4,104,055	4,105,120
Wheat Flour	1,504,000	1,112,400	868,200
Supplementary Feeding Programme	240,000	50,296	76494
APRIL CYCLE			
General Food Rations	4,250,000	3,804,410	Ongoing
Wheat Flour	1,504,000	838,600	Ongoing
Supplementary Feeding Programme	240,000	115,511*	Ongoing
MAY CYCLE			
General Food Rations	4,250,000	Ongoing	Ongoing
Wheat Flour	1,504,000	Ongoing	Ongoing
Supplementary Feeding Programme	240,000	Ongoing	Ongoing

*3-month ration

WFP PARTNERS REPORT WORSENING HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS IN DEIR-EZ-ZOR

With insecurity significantly impeding assistance to Deir-ez-Zor, WFP partners on the ground reported growing humanitarian needs and called for ceasefires so as to allow urgently needed deliveries. Over 30,000 people reportedly fled eastern rural Deir-ez-Zor where heavy fighting has raged during the past month. Most moved out of the villages of Al-Shehel, Al-Bserah, Al-Sabhaa, Jaded Akedat, Jaded Bkarah, Al-Tabiyah, Mazloun, Khasham, Al-Housainiyah, Htalah, Gharibet Al Souar, Tayeeb Al-Fah and Al Hrejiyah and sought refuge in the safer areas of Al-Mayadeen, Mouhasan, Al-Boulel, Sa'alo, Al-Zabari, Boukres, Al Taybah and Theeban. An estimated 7,000 people were displaced to Al-Mayadeen city alone during the last two weeks.

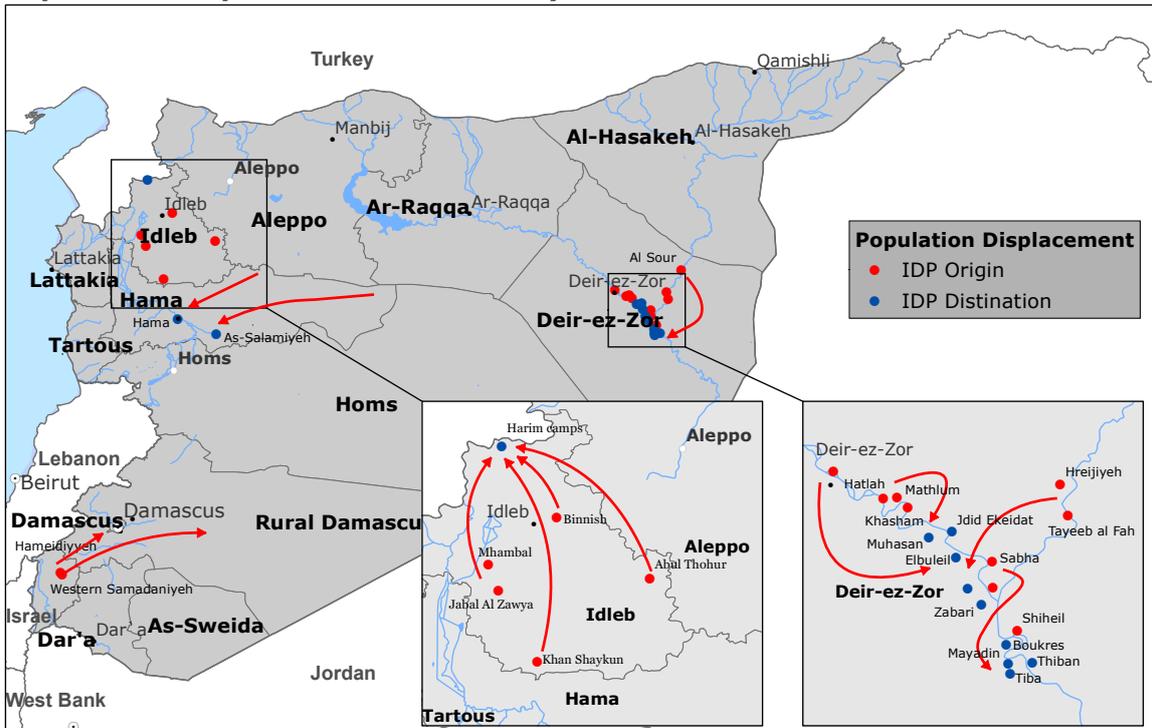
Humanitarian access to hard-to-reach areas - 10 May 2014



WFP REALLOCATES ASSISTANCE AS VIOLENCE FUELS DISPLACEMENT

Ongoing military operations caused large-scale population displacement over the past few weeks, particularly in Quneitra, Hama and Idleb. Heavy fighting in northern and eastern Hama resulted in WFP partners registering 2,000 newly displaced people in Salamiyeh and 7,000 in Hama city over the reporting period. Similarly, in Idleb, SARC and cooperating partners registered and assisted 80,000 newly displaced as escalating clashes in the villages of Khan Sheikhoun, Mhambli, Jabal Al Zawya, Binish and Abu Thour fuelled additional displacements to Idleb city and Harim camps in the north of the governorate. WFP is responding to the increased humanitarian needs by allocating additional assistance to areas hosting large numbers of IDP families.

Population Displacement 01 - 15 May



MARKETS AND PRICES

Widespread volatility in commodity prices continued to be observed in rural Aleppo and northern rural Ar-Raqqa, where markets have been severely disrupted by spiralling insecurity and outbreaks of heavy fighting along key supply routes. Bread prices, in particular, registered steep rises over the reporting period in these areas, where the provision of government subsidies is weak. In Al-Hasakeh on the other hand, stable or decreasing prices were observed following increased trade with neighbouring countries. Finally, central and southern governorates recorded stable but highly inflated prices for all basic goods, with the most elevated prices observed in Dar'a.

LEBANON

OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Refugees registered and awaiting registration:

1,059,908*

Reached in April: 715,998

(675,793 vouchers; 40,205 parcels)

Plan for May: 797,682**

(735,632 vouchers; 62,050 parcels)

* UNHCR registration figures

**Operational planning figures are based on UNHCR manifest where WFP targets approximately 70% of the caseload.

Reconciliation of figures ongoing.

Planning for the 2014 inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) is currently underway, with data collection set to commence on 26 May. As follow-up to the 2013 assessment, the 2014 iteration of the VASyR will allow agencies to examine the coping strategies of refugees while tracking and assessing their level of vulnerability. Given that the number of refugees has more than doubled since last year's VASyR, the effects of the refugee influx on vulnerability will be particularly considered. WFP is in the process of developing agreements with 11 partners that are to be responsible for the data collection. The 2014 VASyR will involve both existing WFP cooperating partners as well as new partners,

allowing for a more collaborative and participatory process.

EVOLVING NEEDS AND WFP OPERATIONS

WFP reached over 715,000 beneficiaries in April, 94 percent of them through e-cards, injecting over US\$20 million in markets. Overall, WFP reached 93 percent of its operational plan for the month, which was based on the number of existing beneficiaries, arrival trends as well as potential influxes (which can lead, at times, to a slight overestimation of figures). Some of the remaining seven percent represent beneficiaries who did not attend distribution or did not redeem their e-cards.

WFP and UNRWA are finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the provision of food assistance to Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS). During the reporting period, WFP continued to provide technical assistance for UNRWA reporting on monitoring and evaluation indicators related to food assistance. The two agencies will fundraise collectively for food assistance to PRS in Lebanon and will work together to implement and monitor the effectiveness of the intervention, which will most likely commence in late summer.



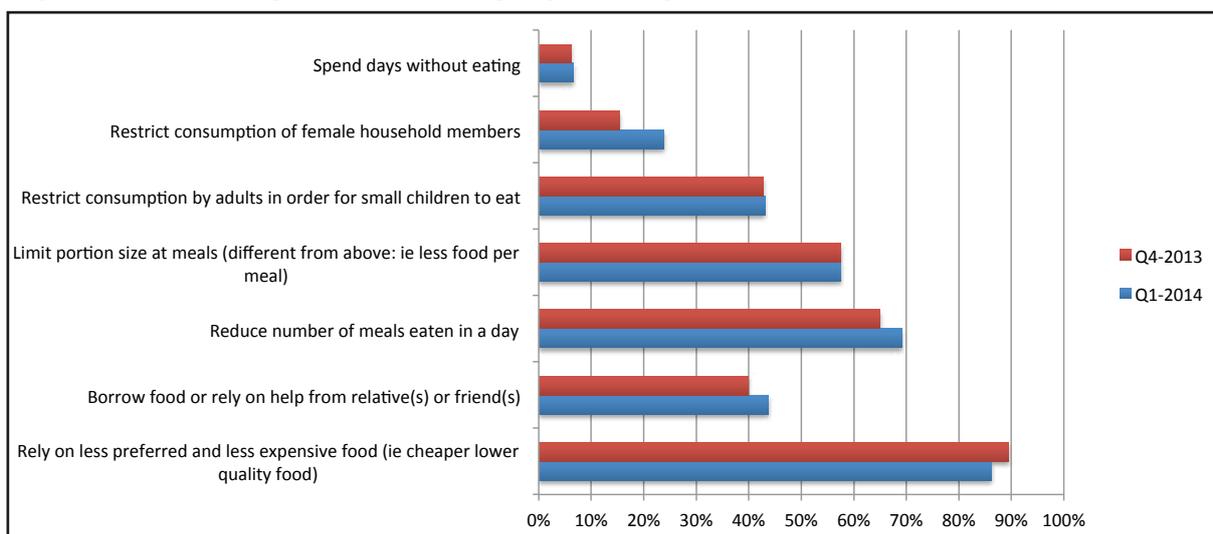
WFP/Lebanon

MONITORING & EVALUATION

Increased reliance on consumption-based coping strategies

Using statistically significant data obtained through household-level post-distribution monitoring of Syrian refugees during the first quarter of 2014, an increased reliance on consumption-based coping strategies was witnessed. As Figure 1 illustrates, beneficiaries reduced the number of daily meals consumed and/or borrowed from/relied on help from relatives or friends. Additionally, the number of households reporting a reduction in food consumption by female members to allow for other family members to eat also increased compared to the last quarter of 2013. The use of negative coping strategies is likely a result of high levels of economic vulnerability including lack of employment opportunities. WFP is currently conducting further analysis of contributing factors.

Figure 1: Consumption-based coping strategies



JORDAN

OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Registered refugees: 593,346*

Reached in April: 533,363

In Camps: 88,848

Refugees in communities: 444,515

Plan for May:** 560,706

In camps: 97,170

Refugees in communities: 463,536

* UNHCR registration figures

** Planned figures are based on UNHCR manifest which is subject to some inflation due to incomplete departure information and other variables. UNHCR is currently working to address this through the ongoing reregistration process

Reconciliation of figures ongoing.

Azraq camp officially opened on 30 April, with refugees having started to enter the camp two days earlier. The main challenges WFP has faced thus far are the difficult environmental conditions and a population group that is not used to living in the desert. By 14 May, WFP had reached 3,190 of the 4,641 individuals on the UNHCR manifest with welcome vouchers valued at JOD 10 (US\$14) each. Some refugees had left the camp, which explains the difference between the WFP beneficiary and UNHCR manifest figures. Every new arrival receives two welcome vouchers for a two-week period as well as a one week dry food basket, complementary food (including chick peas, tuna, kidney beans and tea), bread and dates. Thereafter, beneficiaries are incorporated into the regular two-week voucher distribution cycle, similar to voucher distribution in Al Za'atri camp and receive the voucher value, bread and dates only.

Refugees in six Jordanian governorates now using e-cards

WFP has completed its transition from paper vouchers to e-cards in six Jordanian governorates (Ajloun, Al Balqa, Al Karak, At Tafilah, Ma'an, Jarash), as well as in Ramtha district in Irbid, and in Bayader Wadi Al Seer and Tabrbour districts of Amman. Distribution of e-cards is ongoing in Mafrq and Zarqa governorates and Jabal Al Hussein district in Amman. WFP plans to complete the country-wide transition by the end of July. Additional staff, through UNOPS, have been contracted in order to reduce delays in the re-verification of beneficiaries at e-card distribution sites. Once the transition is complete, e-cards will negate the need for large-scale distributions and the cards will be loaded automatically each month by WFP's partner bank, Jordan Ahli Bank.



WFP/Dina Elkassaby

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Al Za'atri beneficiaries express preference for e-card over paper voucher

When asked for suggestions to improve the paper voucher programme in Al Za'atri camp, beneficiaries, aware that e-cards being are distributed in communities, asked that WFP do the same in Al Za'atri camp, allowing them to shop as often as they wish while negating the need to attend distributions every two weeks. WFP will be piloting the e-card programme for 200 families in Al Za'atri camp in the near future. Beneficiaries also asked that bread be incorporated into the voucher value as soon as possible, given that some prefer more and others less bread than the amount currently provided.

TURKEY

OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Registered refugees: 742,816*

Reached in April: 143,000

Plan for May: 200,000 people in camps

* Emergency and Disaster Management Presidency of Turkey (AFAD) registration numbers

Reconciliation of figures ongoing.

EVOLVING NEEDS AND WFP OPERATIONS

By 1 May 2014, the e-card cost-sharing agreement with the Turkish Government had been extended to all 16 WFP/Turkish Red Crescent (TRC)-supported camps. Under the new regime, WFP provides 60 Turkish liras (TL) per person per month. The government's disaster management agency, AFAD, provides 20TL for food and an additional 5TL for the purchase of non-food items.

During the reporting period, the new cost-sharing arrangement was applied in two more camps, Kilis Elbeyli and Malatya Beydagi, increasing the overall beneficiary caseload by 30,700 to some 175,000; thus covering 18 camps out of the 22 camps hosting Syrian refugees in the country. A further extension was envisaged by mid-May to the 25,000-strong Akçakale camp to bring the total programme caseload to over 200,000, or 90% of the total camp population (excluding the ex-militant camp—Apaydin).

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

WFP and TRC field staff conducted training programmes for stakeholders at Elbeyli and Malatya camps from 30 April to 3 May. WFP and TRC staff were on hand in camps following the introduction of the revised cost-sharing regime to provide guidance to beneficiaries on the changes.

Initial monitoring feedback from Kilis Elbeyli camp, however, is challenging. It indicates that market prices are not clearly labelled in shops and that various commodities (yogurt, salt, infant formula) are only available in very large-sized packets, thus constraining the way beneficiaries spend their food entitlement. These issues were raised with both camp management and shop owners.

TRC analysis from Altinozu Boynuyogun camp confirmed that it would cost beneficiaries less to bake their own bread than to buy it; a family of five persons could spend up to 150TL per month on purchased bread alone. WFP and TRC continue to work with camp management to find solutions to this issue. A positive development in Islahiye camp is the establishment of large communal ovens to be used by beneficiaries, free of charge. This system is estimated to save the government approximately 250,000TL per month on electricity bills. Similar initiatives are planned for Osmaniye and Adana camps.

Camp shopkeepers are instructed by WFP/TRC field staff to keep commodity prices within an established range – based on the average price of each commodity in all contracted camp shops and shops in city centres near the camp. Noncompliant shops risk termination of their contract. During the reporting period, monitoring by field staff resulted in significant price decreases in Kahramanmaras, Nizip and Oncupinar camps.

IRAQ

OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Registered refugees: 223,113*
Reached in April: 107,004
Plan for May:** 106,000

* UNHCR registration figures

**Operational planning figures are based on UNHCR manifest Reconciliation of figures ongoing.

The UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) to gauge the food security and nutritional needs of both camp and non-camp refugees began on 27 April. Field visits as well as interviews with key informants and government counterparts in Erbil have been completed while similar activities in Suleimaniyah are underway. Data collection in the Kurdistan Region should be completed by the end of May. Given security concerns, data collection and analysis in Al Qa'im town and Al Obady camp in Anbar governorate will commence following the finalization of the current JAM exercise in Kurdistan. Data collected through the JAM, as well as results from the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) conducted last month by ACTED-REACH, will provide WFP with an updated indication of the overall food security situation of Syrian refugees in both camp and non-camp settings, in addition to their priority food needs. Whereas the JAM focuses on the food security situation of refugees in camps and host communities, the MSNA focused on several sectors, including food security, in non-camp settings only. The results of both assessments should also highlight how food assistance programming can be adjusted to better meet the food security needs of Syrian refugees in Iraq.

Food assistance to Syrian refugees in 10 camps across Iraq continued during the reporting period, as planned and without delays. The distribution of individual food parcels as part of the May cycle took place in Al Obady, Akre, Bajet Qandela, Gawilan and Arbat camps, and is to take place in the remaining camps during the coming two weeks. Voucher distribution also commenced in Domiz camp, where WFP and its partner, Islamic Relief Worldwide – Iraq, provide refugees with monthly food vouchers redeemable at three participating shops. The monthly entitlement per beneficiary remains the equivalent of US\$31.

The Syrian-Iraqi border at Peshkabour is now closed on both sides, prohibiting the movement of families waiting to enter and exit Syria. WFP continues to plan for possible refugee surges, procuring more food parcels to ensure contingency stocks in the event of any sudden increase in needs.

INTERMEDIARIES BECOMES A WFP PARTNER IN IRAQ

During the reporting period WFP signed a cooperating partnership agreement with the Italy-based NGO, INTERMEDIARIES. WFP now has three partners for distributions to some 107,000 beneficiaries.

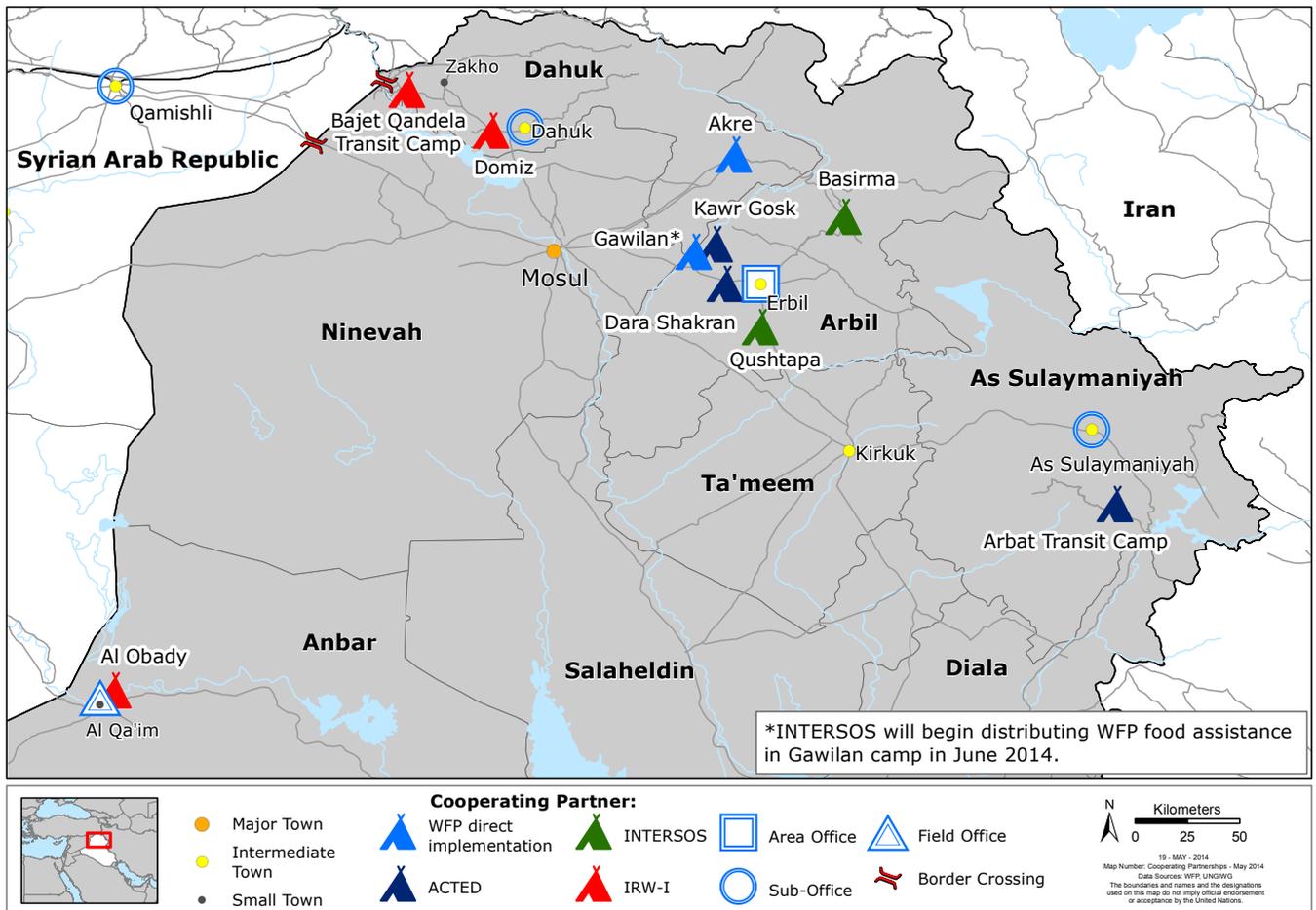
INTERMEDIARIES, an international non-profit, humanitarian aid organization working to provide immediate assistance, protection and durable solutions to populations affected by humanitarian crises. Since 2011, INTERMEDIARIES has been involved in providing assistance to Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan and has proven expertise in effectively strengthening community structures in camp, urban and rural settings. In 2013, INTERMEDIARIES began partnering with WFP in Lebanon, distributing e-cards to vulnerable conflict-affected registered Syrian refugees, while monitoring households and partner shops in the Bekaa Valley.

INTERMEDIARIES will distribute food assistance in Basirma and Qushtapa camps, while ACTED will distribute food assistance in Dara Shakran, Kawr Gosk and Arbat camps. As of June, INTERMEDIARIES will also commence distributing food in Gawilan camp.

WFP cooperating partners

<i>Governorate</i>	<i>Camp</i>	<i>Current Cooperating Partners</i>
Anbar	Al Obady Camp	Islamic Relief Worldwide – Iraq
Dohuk	Akre Camp	Direct implementation by WFP
	Bajet Qandela Transit Camp	Direct implementation by WFP, distribution of A29s by DMC (the government body responsible for Syrian refugees in Dohuk governorate)
	Domiz Camp	Islamic Relief Worldwide – Iraq with its partner, Barzani Charity Foundation (a local NGO)
	Gawilan Camp	Direct implementation by WFP, INTERMEDIARIES as of June 2014
Erbil	Basirma Camp	INTERMEDIARIES
	Dara Shakran Camp	ACTED
	Kawr Gosk Camp	ACTED
	Qushtapa Camp	INTERMEDIARIES
Suleimaniyah	Arbat Transit Camp	ACTED

WFP cooperating partnerships - May 2014



WFP WORKS TO TRANSITION IN-KIND FOOD ASSISTANCE TO VOUCHERS

Identifying viable retailers and establishing voucher distribution sites are necessary steps towards implementing effective voucher programmes across Syrian refugee camps in Iraq. As a result, WFP recently concluded a Request for Proposals for retailers in Dara Shakran, Kawr Gosk and Gawilan camps. Potential retailers in Dara Shaskan and Kawr Gosk, two of the most populous camps, have been identified. WFP and its cooperating partner in Dara Shaskan, ACTED, have also recently completed the construction of a voucher distribution site in Dara Shaskan. WFP plans to transition all camps (excluding transit camps) in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to voucher assistance by the last quarter 2014.



OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Registered refugees: 137,123*

Reached in April: 96,290

Plan for May: 114,000**

* UNHCR registration figures

**Operational planning figures are based on UNHCR and UNRWA manifest

Reconciliation of figures ongoing.

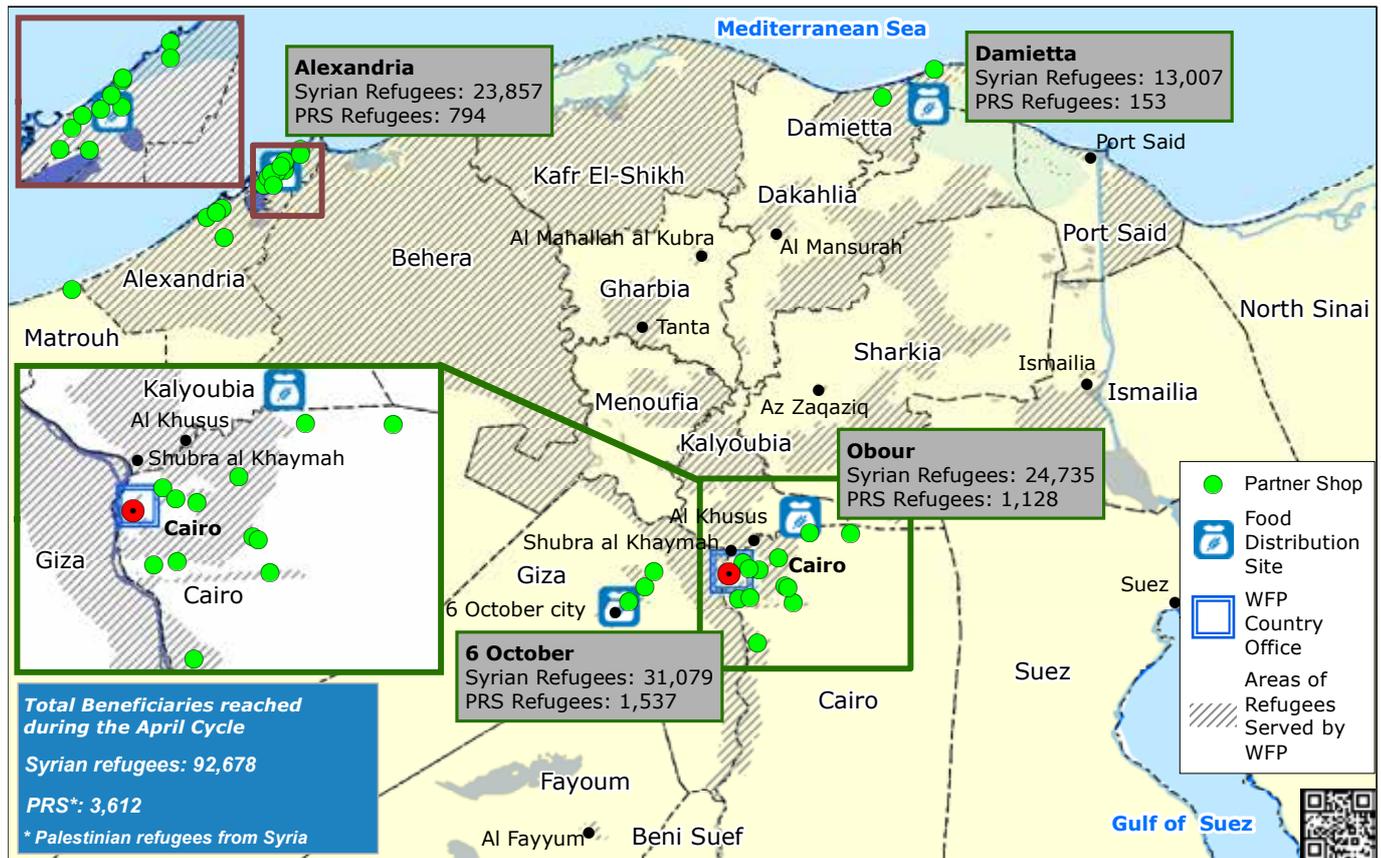
EVOLVING NEEDS AND WFP OPERATIONS

The number of registered refugees has been largely stable since the end of 2013, albeit with a slight increase. As of 12 May, there were 137,123 Syrians registered with UNHCR and during the reporting period just over 300 new refugees were registered. According to UNHCR this increase is primarily caused by unregistered cases that had previously arrived in

Egypt rather than new arrivals. Many of the newly registered refugees are deemed to be now seeking assistance because, having been in Egypt for some time, they have depleted their own resources.

During the April distribution cycle, WFP reached more than 96,000 Syrian refugees, including over 3,600 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) through its food voucher assistance. In April alone, WFP injected over US\$ 2.8 million into the local economy through vouchers. In greater Cairo the majority of beneficiaries had their e-vouchers automatically uploaded, while paper vouchers were still used for newly registered beneficiaries. In the rest of the country WFP is continuing to assist people via paper vouchers, ahead of the planned switch to the OneCard modality. Beneficiaries can redeem their vouchers (both paper and e-cards) in 34 shops in greater Cairo, Damietta, Alexandria and Matrouh. The shops are located close to beneficiary concentrations as well as WFP distribution points.

Beneficiaries reached and shop locations April 2014



May distributions are due to start on 17 May, and set to be completed before the scheduled president elections of May 26-27. The cycle is targeting up to 114,000 Syrian refugees, including 4,000 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS).

WFP recently received a number of requests for food assistance in Tanta city, a large settlement approximately 100km north of Cairo. A rapid assessment conducted on 14 April found some 410 vulnerable households (1200 people) living in the area, and is planning to include these refugees in the May distribution cycle. During the reporting period, WFP opened a new distribution site in Tanta city and also identified a refugee committee to assist during distributions.

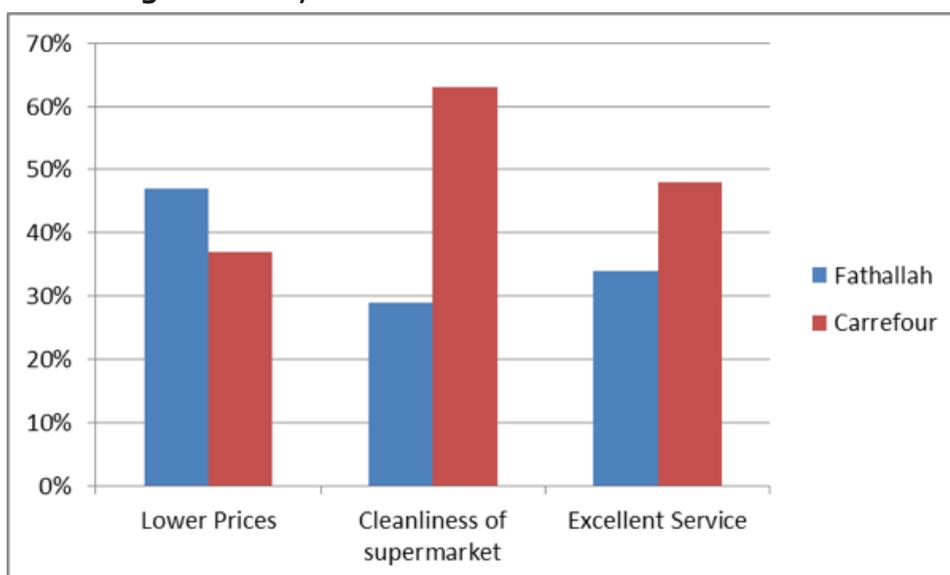
WFP changed its distribution location in Damietta as the old site had become too small and overcrowded, and therefore a security risk. The new distribution site is bigger, to the satisfaction of both beneficiaries and distribution staff.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In line with the new e-voucher modality as well as the new supermarket change - to Carrefour - in greater Cairo, WFP conducted additional monitoring activities during the reporting period whose results indicate that beneficiaries generally appreciate the new modality. They especially appreciate the fact that the e-voucher is uploaded remotely so they no longer have to attend monthly distributions. Initial results on the supermarket change indicate that WFP’s messaging on it was clear as most respondents (88 percent) knew about the upcoming change. Results also show that the average distance from residence to supermarket decreased by 22.8 km, reducing the average travel time by 48 minutes. This is due to the fact that Fathallah supermarket, the previously used outlet, had just one branch in greater Cairo while Carrefour has 13. This obviously cuts travel costs, by an average of LE 20, or US \$2.8 per household.

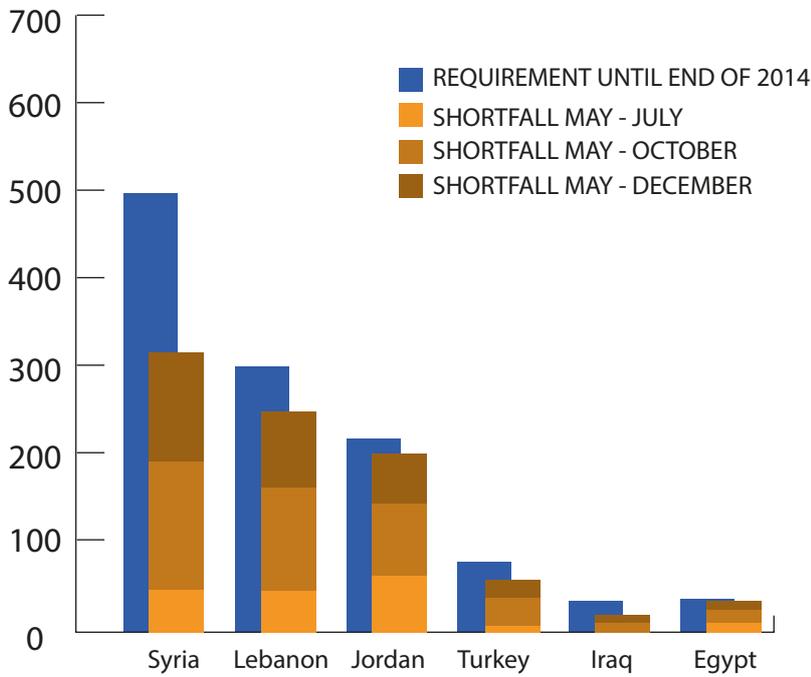
Monitoring data also shows that beneficiaries found prices in Fathallah to be lower than in Carrefour (47 percent against 37 percent). However, the new supermarket is seen as cleaner compared to the old one (63 percent against 29 percent) and has better service (45 percent against 34 percent). See figure 1, below.

Figure 1: Percent of respondents who rated the supermarkets according to Prices, Cleanliness & Service



FUNDING AND SHORTFALLS

Funding requirements and shortfalls

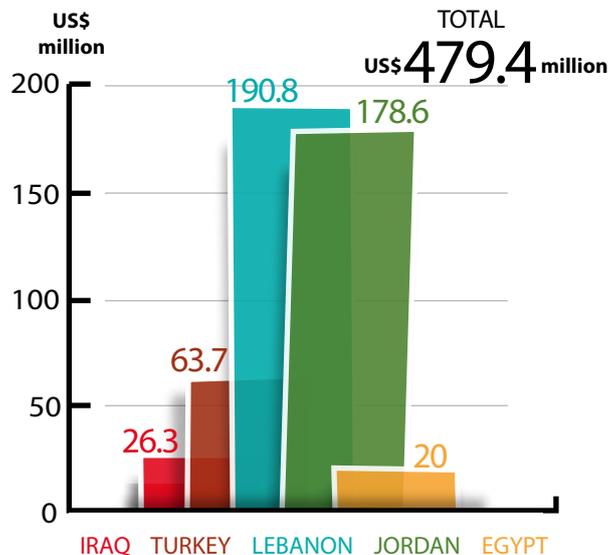


WFP currently needs US\$178 million to fund its operations in support of 4.25 million people in Syria and 2.42 million people in the neighbouring countries for the next three months (May – July 2014).

Of this, US\$48 million is required to support operations in Syria, while US\$130 is required for operations in the region. A total of US\$890 million is still required to support operations until the end of the year.

REGIONAL OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

Total money injected into local economies since start of operations Until April 2014



WFP is grateful for the critical support provided by multilateral donors in response to the Syria crisis, as well as that of Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, , Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, the United States and private donors.



Donors are represented in alphabetical order.

For further information contact:
syriacrisis.info@wfp.org

Gerald Bourke
 Operational Information Management
 Mobile: +962 (0) 798693094
 E-Mail: gerald.bourke@wfp.org

Louise Gentzel
 Senior Information Officer
 Mobile: +962 (0) 799551562
 E-Mail: louise.gentzel@wfp.org