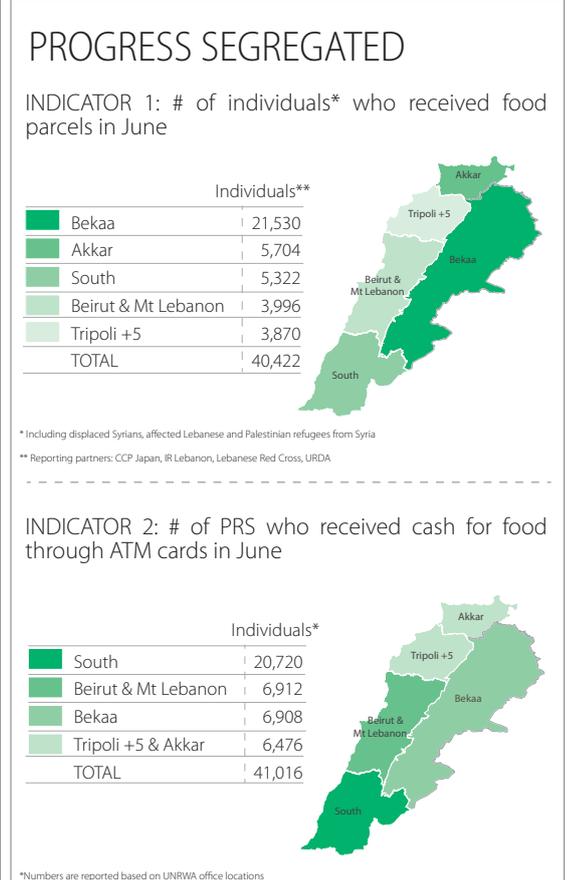
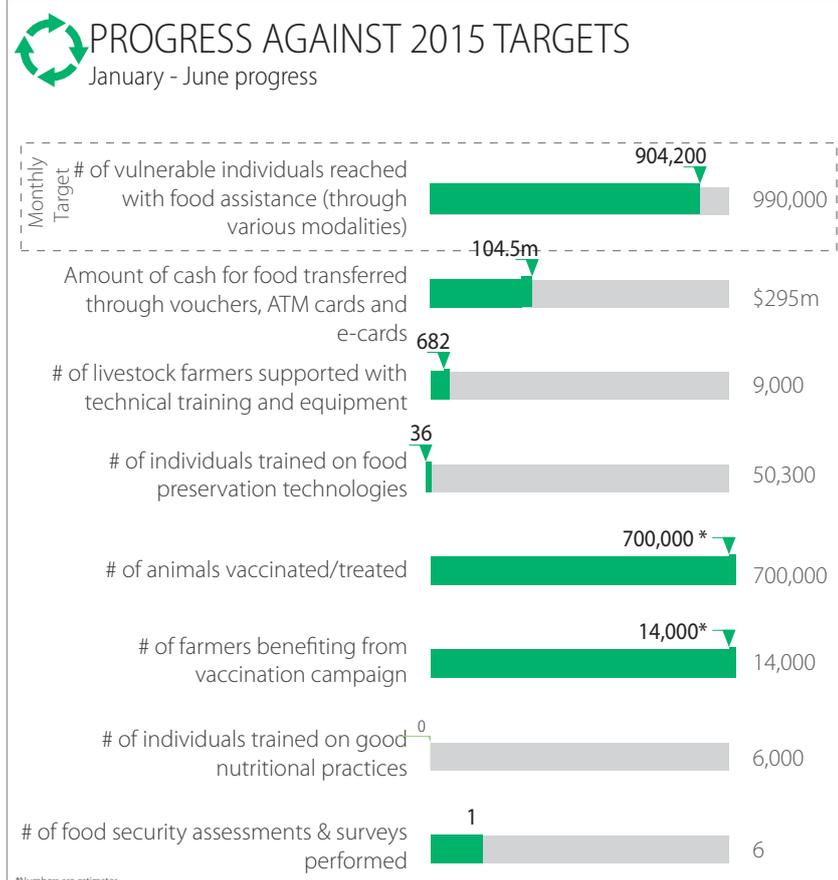
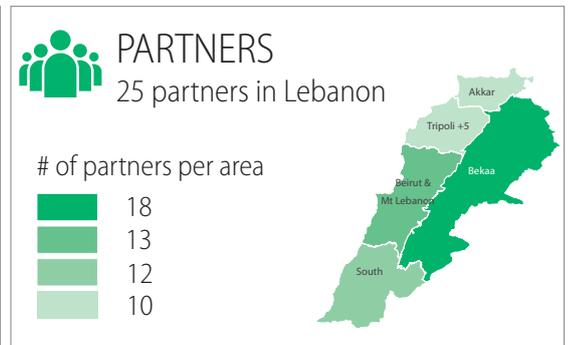
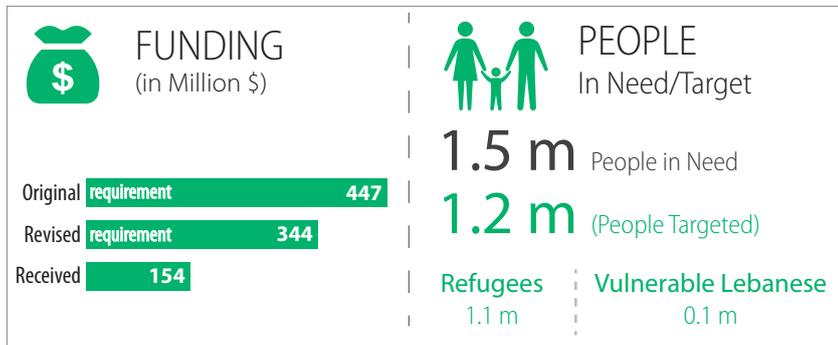


HIGHLIGHTS

- Limited funding forced food assistance activities to be scaled down.
- Due to funding shortfalls, refugees are facing a further reduction of the e-card value from US\$19 to US\$ 13.5 for July.
- The impact of the reduction of assistance was captured by WFP and its partners during April focus group discussions with families reporting various negative coping strategies such as begging, borrowing cash and child labour.
- WFP with UNICEF, UNHCR and partners completed the collection of data for the 2015 VASyR in June and preliminary results indicate a clear deterioration of the food security situation of Syrian refugees: households applying severe and crisis coping strategies have increased from 28% to 67% whilst the number of food secure households have decreased from 25% to 7%.
- Following the e-card validation and the targeting exercise, 153,682 persons no longer receive food assistance.
- As part of the sector's objective in enhancing effective coordination, FAO and MoA, in partnership with REACH published the Food Security and Livelihoods assessment on Lebanese host communities. Based on the assessment results, 89% of Lebanese have an acceptable food consumption score and 5% rely heavily on coping strategies.
- While 39% of Lebanon's population can be considered to have agriculture as a source of livelihoods, very limited funds have been allocated to promote food availability.





Situation analysis and change in context

During the first half of 2015, limited funding forced food assistance activities to be scaled down while the needs remain the same or are worsening according to preliminary VASyR 2015 findings. From January to June, WFP had to reduce the voucher value distributed to targeted Syrian refugees from US\$27 to US\$19. Due to funding shortfalls, WFP is facing a further reduction of the e-card value from US\$19 to US\$ 13.5 for July. The food security sector is engaged in contingency planning efforts to work to fill gaps where possible. The impact of the reduction of assistance was captured by WFP and its partners during April focus group discussions, families reported various negative coping strategies, including reducing the number of daily meals, limiting meal sizes, buying food on credit, withdrawing children from school or relying on children to generate additional incomes. Without adequate funding, these negative coping strategies will become worse.

At the end of April, WFP concluded an e-card validation exercise for households that received their e-cards before end of October, 2014 as a mechanism for responsible programming. This resulted in 139,229 households (703,774 individuals) successfully validating their e-cards and 8,816 households (34,841 individuals) remaining with a pending status, the majority of whom are located in Aarsal. The household targeting exercise of displaced Syrians undertaken by WFP, UNHCR and the Lebanese Cash Consortium will continue throughout 2015 to identify families that are food insecure and those most at risk of food insecurity. As a result of this exercise, by the end of June, WFP will have removed 50,291 individuals through the ongoing process. Following the e-card validation and the targeting exercise, 153,682 persons no longer receive food assistance.

It is becoming more difficult for Syrian labors to obtain work permits in Lebanon due to the strict implementation of the government procedures related to foreign labor force. In order to be allowed to enter the country Syrian labors are now required to obtain from their potential employers certified legal and financial guarantees, which many employers are reluctant to provide especially small-scale employers such as farmers and SMEs. Furthermore, agriculture activities contributing to improving food security are restricted to Lebanese, resulting in the inability of displaced populations to grow their own food. Agriculture is suffering from insufficient funds to improve food security in the long term therefore there is a need to shift to mid-term to long-term activities to promote food availability, utilization, safety and sustainable food production.

Progress to date

The food security sector strategy focuses on responding to the Syria crisis in Lebanon through directing activities towards the four food security pillars.

During the first half of 2015, the sector provided food assistance (outcome 1) to 994,000 at most (March) Syrian refugees, affected Lebanese, Palestine refugees from Syria and Lebanese Returnees, reaching some 930,000 Syrian refugees with e-card assistance (distribution figure), 48,500 Syrian refugees with food parcels (22.5% through WFP partners and the rest through local and international NGOs) and 6,800 with food vouchers, 5,200 affected Lebanese with food parcels, and 43,500 Palestine refugees from Syria with cash. WFP is providing technical support to the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) for managing the NPTP cards via the WFP platform. In May, WFP contributed US\$1 million to NPTP for food assistance to 27,209 vulnerable Lebanese, through UN CERF funding whereas UNHCR supported the programme in January and February. WFP has negotiated the NPTP agreement with the Government of Lebanon, which was finalized in June, allowing for the release of World Bank funds to cover food assistance for vulnerable Lebanese for four months. The Food security sector has provided capacity building for NPTP/MoSA staff with WFP having trained 176 MoSA staff members on distribution, monitoring and evaluation.

Aiming at promoting food availability and supporting sustainable agricultural production (outcome 2), the food security sector supported more than 700 farmers with equipment and material and trainings on different topics mainly to enhance small scale family farming production. Only 7% of the target set has been achieved to date. The sector has received additional funds under this outcome, which is expected to assist in reaching 20% of the target. The yearly vaccination campaign reaching 700,000 animals (estimated) benefiting 14,000 farmers (estimated) was initiated in mid-February and was successfully completed in June, achieving one of the main outputs of controlling trans-boundary animal diseases.

As for promoting utilization of diversified and quality foods (outcome 3), the sector is falling behind in achieving its targets, mainly due to lack of funding. A change in the progress is expected during the third quarter with expected new funding to be allocated



targeting expansion of community kitchen activities (distribution of diversified quality cooked meals) aiming at improving nutrition related practices and creation of gardens aiming at improving food diversity for landless households.