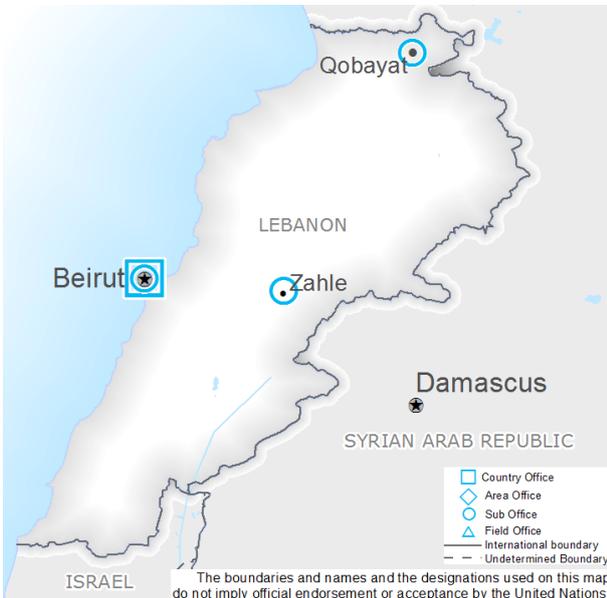




World Food Programme

Lebanon: Syria Crisis Response



For WFP's dynamic OpsFEED map, see:
<http://cdn.wfp.org/syriainfo/>

Numbers

June: 789,728 people reached with US\$19 e-cards

July: 788,916 e-cards loaded with US\$13.5

Since 2013, WFP has directly injected over **US\$490 million** directly into the Lebanese economy through the e-card programme.

WFP shortfall: US\$124 million (July-December)

Food security sector shortfall: US\$403 million (June-December)

Highlights

- In June, WFP assisted 789,728 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees with e-cards loaded with US\$19. In July, WFP is loading 788,916 e-cards with US\$13.5: a reduced value due to massive funding constraints.
- The preliminary results of the 2015 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) in Lebanon show a continued deterioration of the food security situation of refugees across Lebanon.

Context and WFP Response

- UNHCR has registered over 1.1 million Syrians in Lebanon, representing the world's highest per capita concentration of refugees compared to its population. It is an influx that is placing significant strain on existing resources and host communities.
- As the Syria crisis continues, WFP - the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger - is increasingly relied upon to provide life-saving assistance to an extraordinary number of refugees. However, massive regional funding gaps meant tough decisions were made to prioritise less assistance to the neediest refugee households. With sustained constraints, WFP will be unable to meet the basic food needs of those refugees.
- In Lebanon, WFP provides assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria with e-cards. E-cards are the principle assistance modality as local markets are capable of providing sufficient food. Beneficiaries use the e-cards like a debit card in over 400 WFP-contracted shops around Lebanon. Significantly, e-cards allow beneficiaries to choose preferred foods and to meet their individual consumption needs. Since 2013, WFP has injected over US\$490 million directly into the Lebanese economy.
- WFP provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Affairs through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP). Through it, vulnerable Lebanese receive US\$30 per person per month.
- The preliminary results of the 2015 multi-sectoral *Vulnerability Assessment of Refugees (VASyR)* in Lebanon show a continued deterioration of the food security situation across Lebanon compared to 2014. Specifically:

- ◇ 70 percent of households are below the poverty line (US\$3.84/person/day), an increase from 50 percent;
- ◇ 50 percent of households are below the survival expenditure basket*, an increase from 29 percent;
- ◇ 67 percent of households are applying severe and crisis coping strategies, an increase from 28 percent;
- ◇ 7 percent of households are food secure, a decrease from 25 percent; and
- ◇ 24 percent of households are moderately food insecure, an increase from 12 percent.

* The minimum culturally-adjusted items to cover the survival needs of one household for one month

WFP Assistance

- Limited funding since January meant that WFP was forced to reduce its assistance by 30 percent from US\$27 per person to US\$19. That unfortunate reality ran alongside WFP’s validation and targeting exercises, reducing the overall caseload and ensuring that the limited assistance was channelled to the most vulnerable households.
- In June, WFP reached 99 percent of its plan, assisting 789,728 beneficiaries with e-cards loaded with US\$19. WFP also assisted 20,480 Palestinian refugees with US\$19 through UNRWA’s ATM cards.
- In July, WFP is loading 788,916 e-cards with US\$13.5. The value has reduced from June as a result of severe funding constraints.

Food Security Sector

- WFP and the Food Security Sector working group, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs, initiated a contingency planning task force to assess gaps and identify possible available stocks which could serve as complementary assistance to planned assistance during Ramadan. However, the exercise found that very few stocks were available. Whilst some small gaps will be filled, significant gaps remained and continued beyond Ramadan.

Partnerships

- WFP works closely with the Government of Lebanon and has a key relationship with the Ministry of Social Affairs. WFP is planning to further develop partnerships with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Education. Maintaining and building on these partnerships is key to WFP’s long-term planning as it looks at diversifying interventions.
- For its e-card activities, WFP works with seven non-governmental partners in Lebanon: Action Contre La Faim, Danish Refugee Council, InterSOS, Mercy Corps, Première Urgence—Aide Médicale Internationale, Save the Children and World Vision.

Resourcing Update

- WFP is facing a massive 81 percent funding shortfall over the next six months. An additional US\$124 million is urgently required.
- WFP Lebanon’s biggest donors are: Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Norway, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, the United Nations Central Emergency Relief Fund and the United States of America, along with multilaterals and other private donors.

Impact of Limited Funds

- WFP is aware that reduced assistance means that the most vulnerable beneficiaries adopt negative coping strategies. Beneficiaries already reported that the reduction from US\$27 to US\$19 forced them to reduce the size and frequency of meals as well as increase debts and borrowing to pay for food. An alarming number of beneficiaries also stated that if reductions are maintained beyond mid-2015, they will adopt increasingly severe strategies including begging, withdrawing children from school and placing them in employment, seeking additional employment with longer hours, often involving high risk activities and turning to criminality.
- As WFP reluctantly prepares to reduce the e-card value again in July from US\$19 to US\$13.5, it expects to see a continuation of those negative coping strategies as well as refugees beginning to adopt irreversible strategies.

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WFP Lebanon						
	Project duration	July - December requirements (in US\$)	July - December shortfall (US\$)	July - December shortfall (%)	People assisted with e-cards	
					Reached (June)	Loaded (July)
EMOP 200433	Jul 2012 - Dec 2015	152 million	124 million	81%	789 728	788 916

The next report will be available in August

For further information, see: <http://cdn.wfp.org/syriainfo/lebanon.html>