

Over 1.7 million individuals receiving food assistance

HIGHLIGHTS:

In Turkey, the Food Security Sector reached almost 306,000 beneficiaries during April, thereby meeting 88 per cent of its planned target. This total includes 154,600 beneficiaries reached in camps and 151,400 beneficiaries reached off-camps. The value of the entitlement for off-camp assisted people has been increased from TL 50 to TL 62 (USD 18 to USD 22.5) per month per person, representing the full value of the referential food basket in Turkey.

In Lebanon, 691,640 persons were reached with food assistance through various modalities (such as vouchers/cash/in-kind), while around 800 farmers (of which 8% women) were trained across Lebanon on surveillance and management of plant diseases.

In Jordan, the situation at the border crossing points remains critical, with the estimated population reaching over 50,000 people. During the month of April, 35,410 beneficiaries at the north-eastern border were reached through ready-to-eat food parcels, bread distribution, and fresh fruits and vegetables. 3RP partners have also rolled out the iris-scan payment system in Azraq camp, reaching nearly 3,000 households.

In Iraq, a total of 45,900 Syrian refugees received assistance in the month of April. Assessments of newly arrived refugees, and of families in camps who were not previously assessed, have also been completed everywhere except for Duhok. Once data collection is completed, partners will proceed with the analysis in order to identify vulnerable families eligible for food assistance.

In Egypt, distributions for the month of April targeted 66,000 beneficiaries, including more than 2,900 Palestinian refugees from Syria and 63,100 Syrian refugees. An inter-agency vulnerability assessment also began in Egypt on 26 April. The Egyptian Vulnerability Assessment for Refugees (EVAR), aims to enhance targeting and support planning of food security interventions for partners in 2016 and beyond.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The majority of Syrian refugees in the five countries in the region rely on critical humanitarian food assistance as their primary source of food. Even with the support provided, evidence from assessments and monitoring reveals a startling deterioration in refugees' food security throughout 2015.

In Jordan, 14 per cent of refugees were food secure compared to 53 per cent in 2015. In Lebanon, moderate food insecurity has doubled since last year, affecting one quarter of refugee households, while the percentage of food secure households has decreased sharply from 25 per cent to 11 per cent.

In Turkey, evidence from a vulnerability assessment found that 16 per cent of refugees not living in Government camps had school-aged children involved in income generation to complement food needs. While the most commonly reported livelihood coping strategy was buying food on credit (40 per cent), other strategies included spend savings (20 per cent) and reducing non-essential non-food expenditures such as health and education (28 per cent). In Egypt, monitoring indicated that 37 per cent of respondents in mid-2015 had already exhausted all their savings.



Haloume, a refugee from Aleppo province in Syria, takes cauliflower from a grocer's van at an informal settlement near Zahle in Lebanon. © UNHCR/Sam Tarling

Sector Response Summary:



3,078,500 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end of 2016
1,783,860 assisted in 2016



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,687,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2016
4,807,600 currently registered



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.55 billion required in 2016
USD 997 million received in 2016



TACKLING NUTRITION CONCERNS THROUGH MICRO-GARDENS IN LEBANON

In the context of prevailing restrictions in access to land by the Syrian refugees and the rising deterioration of the household dietary diversity of the Syrian refugees, the Food Security sector in Lebanon developed an innovative approach to tackle an increasing concern on nutrition.

FAO, with the support of the Emergency Response Fund (ERF), is currently piloting a micro-garden project in Lebanon, using different off-soil planting techniques.

The project, initiated in March, targets 150 households by providing the women with different off-soil planting structures, seeds and tools to produce their own vegetables along with trainings on good nutritional and agricultural practices.

The project aims at increasing vulnerable households' access to diversified foods, hence improving their nutritional intake and promoting their dietary diversity. The activities are currently being piloted in three governorates (Bekaa, North and Akkar), targeting both the Syrian refugee and vulnerable Lebanese households.



Field monitoring visit in Deir Aamar, Tripoli, Lebanon. © FAO.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - APRIL 2016

■ Progress ■ Planned Response, by end-2016

1,783,864 individuals receiving food assistance (cash, voucher or in-kind)

78%

2,284,875

2,099 Individuals receiving food & agricultural livelihoods support

2%

123,247

These dashboards reflect the achievements of the more than 200 partners, including governments, UN Agencies, and NGOs, involved in the 3RP response in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Progress and targets may change in line with data revisions. All data on this Dashboard is current as at 30 April 2016. The first indicator progress refers to the highest number of monthly beneficiaries reached this year, while the second indicator is cumulative since the beginning of the year.