

WFP's Response in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq

Situation Report # 20

Reporting Period: 16- 22 September 2012



**World Food
Programme**

Fighting Hunger Worldwide

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

JORDAN –WFP distributed a total of 394,800 hot meals (an average of 56,000 meals per day to 28,000 beneficiaries) through its implementing partners TUA, Thaghar Al Madina and Radi Shedifat in Al Za'atari camp and King Abdullah Park. In addition, WFP provided 2,106 welcome meals this week to new arrivals in Al Za'atari Camp.

LEBANON – In the North, the September distribution cycle started in Halba, continuing for two days; 1,413 refugee households received 6,550 vouchers and 39 food-kits. During the week, DRC also distributed 10 food-kits in Akkar to 50 vulnerable new comers (10 households).

In the Bekaa Valley, 17,956 beneficiaries (3871HHs) are receiving vouchers during the first round distribution. A middle of the month distribution will take place in the coming days to assist 2,717 beneficiaries newly registered with UNHCR, they will receive vouchers for half the usual monthly value. In remote areas, DRC delivered 77 food parcels to families door to door.

IRAQ – During the reporting period, WFP and Islamic Relief Iraq, working in partnership with Barzani Foundation, have distributed 112.84mt of food to 8,640 Syrians in Domiz camp.

TURKEY - WFP and the Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay) technical staff travelled to the field this week to prepare the implementation of the voucher programme by the beginning of October. The voucher programme is planned to start in Kilis camp and then in Hatay province covering an initial caseload of 20,000 people. The proposed assistance is expected to expand gradually as cooking facilities and access to shops become available in other camps.



WFP food Distribution in Homs. (C) WFP/Laure Chadraoui

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 20 September, UNHCR has registered 52,352 Syrian nationals.

As the situation in Syria persists, large numbers of Syrians continue to cross the Jordanian borders seeking asylum, mainly through the cities of Mafraq and Ramtha.

During the reporting period, Al Za'atari camp received 2,106 new arrivals, bringing the total number of people in the camp to about 31,500. The number of beneficiaries in King Abdullah Park (KAP) in Ramtha decreased during the reporting period from 1,250 to 1,200. The beneficiaries that left King Abdullah Park were either moved to Al Za'atari camp or to Cyber City to be reunited with family members.

WFP RESPONSE

In September, WFP will provide voucher assistance to 37,058 individuals.

WFP is also assisting an increasing number of Syrian nationals with hot meals in additional transit centers close to the border. In this reporting period, WFP has provided a total of 394,800 hot meals (an average of 56,400 meals per day) through its implementing partners in Al Za'atari camp in Mafraq and King Abdullah Park in Ramtha, reaching 28,200 beneficiaries. In addition, WFP provided 2,106 welcome meals to new arrivals in Al Za'atari camp.

WFP and UNHCR are working together to install kitchen facilities and to complete the registration of beneficiaries in Al Za'atari camp by the end of September. This will allow WFP to transition from hot meal distribution to dry rations, thus enabling beneficiaries to prepare their own meals and diversify their food consumption. WFP is in the process of procuring dry food commodities to be pre-positioned in Al Za'atari camp so General Food Distribution (GFD) of dry food rations can begin on 1 October. The food basket for GFD has been calibrated to the preferences of the refugees to include bread, rice, bulgur wheat, sugar, vegetable oil, lentils, and salt.

Assessments: An inter-agency general Nutrition Assessment will be conducted to look at factors that could result in malnutrition and the levels of acute malnutrition among Syrian refugees in Jordan. The Nutrition Assessment in Al Za'atari camp will begin training enumerators on 25 September; the field operations will begin on 4 October.

Nutrition and Health meetings were held in Al Za'atari camp to discuss issues impacting mothers and children under five. Concerns were raised regarding whether the hot meals and up-coming dry rations are appropriate for lactating mothers and children. The

Nutrition Survey will provide inputs for further discussion on this issue.

Monitoring: During the reporting period WFP Field Monitors made the following observations in Al Za'atari camp and KAP:

HOT MEAL DISTRIBUTIONS: on 16 September, a meeting between WFP, UNHCR, JHCO, and beneficiaries took place in Al Za'atari camp to discuss food issues. Leaders from the beneficiary community chose a representative to speak on their behalf. The beneficiary representative opened the meeting by expressing gratitude for the many services provided in the camp and proceeded to present the list of issues raised by the beneficiary community. Their main requests include that the distribution teams should wear uniforms and badges and the bread should be the main item in each meal. WFP and partners are following up with the issues raised.

VOUCHERS: The tracking of vouchers issued during the first month's cycle and a database of beneficiaries are now finalized.

Coordination: Budget revision 4 was submitted for posting at US\$39 million. This revision includes a major expansion of all activities to reach the revised beneficiary numbers. While the original planned beneficiary number for Jordan was 80,000, the revised figure for December 2012 is 250,000, an increase of more than 300 per cent over the original planning figure. This revision accommodates this massive increase in beneficiary numbers, expanding the voucher modality to assist 95,000 beneficiaries living in host communities and in-kind food support to the camp residents expected to rise to 155,000 by December 2012, as well as the programmatic and organizational structure to support this expanded intervention.

The Jordanian Government plans to open a new refugee camp in October. Currently, UNHCR is assisting

in the search for a suitable location for the new camp, preferably a location that is smaller and more manageable than Al Za'atari camp. The Jordanian

Government is also considering and assessing a potential new site for an expansion of the Cyber City transit area.

Lebanon

SITUATION UPDATE

Over 3,200 Syrian refugees registered this week with UNHCR, bringing the total number to 53,731 with an additional 22,002 awaiting registration.

A total of 17,827 Syrians (3,846 families) have been registered with UNHCR in the Bekaa Valley. There was an increase in the number of Syrians arriving at the end of August, with local charities and authorities reporting

about 2,200 new comers in the last week. This represents close to double the recent weekly average.

Following the demonstrations in protest against the "Innocence of Muslims" movie on Friday, WFP field missions in the Bekaa Valley taking place after 12 PM were cancelled.

WFP RESPONSE

WFP has assisted more than 24,000 Syrian Refugees in Lebanon so far during the September Cycle.

In the North, the September distribution cycle started in Halba where 1,413 refugee households received 6,550 vouchers and 39 food-kits. During the week, DRC also distributed 10 food-kits in Akkar to 50 vulnerable new comers (10 households). The first distribution for September cycle was supposed to start in Wadi Khaled, however a large, hostile crowd was gathered at the entrance of the distribution site, stopping the staff from entering. Other agencies have had a similar experience in the last 10 days. The distribution was cancelled for safety reasons. Agencies are now working with the local authorities to understand the situation and resolve this security issue.

In the Bekaa Valley: 17,956 beneficiaries (3871HHs) are receiving vouchers during the first round of September distribution, which is almost complete. A mid-month distribution will take place in the coming days to assist 2,717 beneficiaries newly registered by UNHCR; they will receive vouchers for half the usual monthly value before receiving their next vouchers through the regular monthly distribution. In addition, DRC delivered 77 food parcels door to door to families in remote areas.

WFP has received August reconciliation reports for WVI and DRC in both areas and verification is on-going.

Assessments: The WFP Bekaa Valley team and partners conducted separate shop assessments on stores suspected to be abusing the voucher programme, e.g. through increasing prices for the voucher holders.

Alternative stores have been identified in all the areas assessed.

Data collection started for the joint UNICEF/WFP Nutrition survey in Lebanon. The survey is implemented by ACF under the supervision of the Regional Nutrition Officers from UNICEF and WFP. Data collection is complete for the Bekaa Valley and has started in the North. Teams will have to reschedule their mission to Wadi Khaled, the only missing cluster, following last week's tensions.

Monitoring: WFP staff in the North is conducting close monitoring visits on the 24 selected shops receiving the vouchers in Akkar. Warning letters will be sent to five shops for programme abuse identified from monitoring missions, such as overpricing or exchanging vouchers for cash. The contract with one shop will be terminated due to their cashing of vouchers on a large scale. The Bekaa Valley team has also conducted monitoring visits to 13 stores, four households and four distribution exercises. During this week, revised M&E templates for the market monitoring as well as shop and household interviews have been finalized following the feedback from Bekaa and North WFP field staff in order to have harmonized tools. Two Excel databases for data entry of prices and households interviews, and help with data analysis have been prepared.

Suspect counterfeit vouchers found in the Bekaa Valley turned out to be WFP vouchers distributed in the North. Never the less, WFP Lebanon is looking to include better water mark technology to strengthen preventative measures against counterfeiting.

Coordination: The WFP Emergency Coordinator met with DFID and USAID representatives in Lebanon to update on WFP activities including the new requirements following the revision of the RRP and the subsequent budget revision of the Regional EMOP.

Both donors confirmed their commitment to WFP operation and possible further contributions. They both requested that WFP shares the BR4 documents at local level when approved, so they can use it to advocate with their capitals.

Iraq

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 21 September, UNHCR reported 29,441 refugees in Iraq. The majority of them are in Kurdistan: 19,800 in Dohuk Governorate, 4,026 in Erbil Governorate and 843 in Sulimaniyah Governorate. The rest, 4,772 are in Al Qaim and Al Waleed. Following the commencement of food distributions in the camp in

early September, most of the refugees living in host communities have moved into the tents.

After an appeal from the UN, the Government of Iraq has reopened the Al Qaim border from 18 September, mainly allowing women and children below the age of 15 to enter.

WFP RESPONSE

WFP Iraq has received budget proposals from Save the Children, Islamic Relief Worldwide/Iraq and is expecting proposals from ACTED and Qandil for the October implementation of the voucher programme in Kurdistan Region. The partner selection will be finalized on 25 September and a Field Level Agreement will be prepared and signed before the end of the week. WFP plans to reach 10,000 Syrian refugees in Kurdistan Region, mainly those hosted outside the Domiz camp. In addition, 10,000 refugees registered in Domiz camp will receive in kind food in October.

WFP is targeting a total of 40,000 refugees in Kurdistan Region by December 2012. As of 22 September, WFP and Islamic Relief Iraq working in partnership with Barzani Foundation have

distributed 112.84 mt of food to 8,640 Syrian refugees in Domiz camp. WFP is in the process of procuring a two month ration of 362 mt of food comprised of fortified wheat flour, rice, vegetable oil, sugar lentils and salt to feed 10,000- 15,000 in Al Qaim (October – November). WFP Iraq urgently needs the arrival of the second shipment of 162 mt from Turkey before 6 October to avoid a break in pipeline for October distributions. HQ Procurement is working on the supplier contracts.

Another procurement of 162 mt of food is under process to cover 10,000 Syrian refugees in Al Qaim camp starting in October. Bureaucratic obstacles are expected to cause delays in the arrival of the two consignments before October.

Turkey

SITUATION UPDATE

According to the Government of Turkey there are 83,260 Syrians registered and accommodated in Turkish camps, including those temporarily placed in schools as of 20 September,

According to the Regional Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, despite the admission of those people waiting across the borders of Kilis and Hatay in groups, the numbers across the border

from Kilis increased to approximately 8,000 people and some 4,000 are also across the border from Hatay. Reportedly, the border is open and humanitarian assistance (food, water, medical assistance) is provided at the zero point of the border.

Currently there are 11 camps including five in Hatay, two in Gaziantep, two in Şanlıurfa, one in

Kahramanmaraş and one container city in Kilis. An additional three camps (Osmaniye, Gaziantep/Nizip and Adiyaman), each with a capacity of 10,000, are planned to open by the end of September. When all camps are complete, Turkey will have the capacity to host 130,000 people.

WFP RESPONSE

The WFP office in Ankara has a team of five international support staff and three national staff members; identification and recruitment of additional national staff was ongoing this week. A second recruitment round for national staff will begin by the end of September.

Three WFP staff and the Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay) technical staff travelled to the field this week to meet with the local government and prepare the implementation of the voucher programme by the beginning of October. The voucher programme is planned to start in Kilis camp and then in Hatay province covering an initial caseload of 20,000 people.

This figure is likely to be reconsidered in BR #4 based on the revised interagency appeal expected to be consolidated in September.

Assessments: the final report of the voucher feasibility study recommends a phased transition from direct food assistance to a market based approach with food vouchers in camps where people have or will have cooking facilities and access to shops. The proposed assistance is expected to be

The Government and the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) continue to distribute relief items including food to the vulnerable people in the villages across the border.

expanded as cooking facilities and access to shop is ensured.

Coordination: WFP met with the representatives of the Economic and Agricultural Affairs of the US Embassy in Ankara in order to prepare for the visit in Turkey of the pre-DART (Disaster Assessment and Response Team) between 24 September and 2 October. The team will be headed by Robert Thayer, Team Leader for Asia and Near East, Office of Food For Peace. WFP shared the outcomes of the recent joint Turkish Red Crescent/WFP mission to Kilis and information relating to the planned implementation of the programme. WFP also shared information on its logistics preparedness for strengthening the supply chain for its emergency operation in Syria. The US Embassy representatives reiterated USAID’s strong support to the WFP programme as an entry point for the UN in Turkey and their willingness to assist WFP Turkey country office in obtaining additional data on food movements between Syria and to better understanding food security challenges in the region.

Resource Mobilization

Budget revision number 3 of the Regional Refugee Emergency Operation which incorporates the caseload in Turkey in the operation was endorsed by the Project Review Committee pending some changes; the updated documents have now been submitted for final approval.

The fourth revision of the budget is now being drafted, which will incorporate increased refugee numbers in the neighbouring countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey in line with the revised interagency appeal due to be launched in Geneva on 1 October.

DONOR	CONFIRMED US\$
USA	14,700,000
Japan	3,315,488
ECHO	3,676,471
Switzerland	198,346
CANADA	1,494,024
UN CERF	2,904,292
UN SRAC	1,070,000
UK	4,709,576
SRAC (SWE)	1,219,800
Total confirmed	33,287,997
REG EMOP 200433 Cost	34,355,910
SHORTFALL	1,067,913

WFP operated in Jordan and Lebanon since April and May respectively under two Immediate Response Emergency Operations. These operations were fully funded by Japan with a contribution of USD 2,684,512, bringing the overall contribution of Japan to WFP Regional Refugee Operations to USD6 million.

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