

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

Situation Report #3

Reporting Period: 21- 27 May 2012



World Food
Programme

Fighting Hunger Worldwide

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- **In Jordan**, WFP has provided family food packages to 12,615 of the targeted 25,000 Syrian refugees living in local communities through its partners the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) and the Jordanian Red Crescent (JRC).
- **In Lebanon**, WFP, UNHCR and General Bashir, Secretary General of the Lebanese High Relief Committee (HRC), held a meeting to discuss the strategy for food assistance in the north over the coming months. HRC agreed to switch to vouchers for the whole northern area starting from 1 July 2012, for an initial trial period of 3 months. WFP and HRC will continue to work closely in implementing this project.
- **In Iraq**, during a Food Working Group meeting, the Department of Displacement and Migration reiterated that the dry food rations supplied by Barzani Charity Foundation to refugees are sufficient only until mid-June. WFP will begin supplying food to the camp in July and in the meantime is working with local authorities to ensure there is no gap in June.
- The early release for the regional emergency operation (REG EMOP) has been approved. Planning figures for the number of targeted refugees have been modified to reflect the latest agreement with UNHCR, OCHA and other UN agencies: the REG EMOP will target 67,000 beneficiaries in July in Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq increasing to 120,000 in December.

Jordan

BENEFICIARIES

- UNHCR has now registered 19,883 Syrian refugees and an additional 2,500 are awaiting registration, bringing the total to 22,383 as of 24 May 2012. Local organizations have also identified 35,000 individuals in need of assistance.

ACTIVITIES

- To date, WFP has distributed family food packages to 12,615 of the targeted 25,000 Syrian refugees living in local communities through its partners JHCO and JRC. WFP continues to distribute weekly family food assistance to 350 beneficiaries equipped with cooking facilities in the transit center of Cyber City, while proceeding with the phase out of hot meal delivery in this location.
- WFP has distributed more than 30,315 hot meals in transit centers since the start of the program in 19 April 2012, averaging 750 meals per day and reaching a maximum of 900 beneficiaries per day.
- Daily monitoring by WFP staff is ongoing in all facilities and communities receiving WFP's assistance.
- The assessment of retailer and supply chain capacity in areas with Syrian refugees is in progress.

COORDINATION

- A food sector meeting was held on 21 May 2012, with the main objective of developing a “Who is doing What and Where (3W)” matrix, and to discuss ways to improve the response and to avoid duplication in registration and hence, assistance. Twelve partners, including UNHCR and WFP, participated in the meeting. Partners updated each other on their activities and discussed how to proceed with harmonization. WFP is intending to map the information on food assistance gathered from the partners.

Lebanon

SECURITY

- As a result of clashes and armed incidents in the North of Lebanon and Beirut, WFP staff movements were limited in the North during the reporting period and in the Bekaa Valley on Monday 21 May 2012.

BENEFICIARIES

- UNHCR reports that 26,373 Syrians are being assisted throughout the country, a similar figure to that of the last reporting period; 15,873 of these refugees are already registered with UNHCR with an additional 3,000 in Tripoli and 7,500 in Bekaa Valley pending registration though are receiving assistance from UNHCR and partners.
- Registration in the north was disrupted by the incidents in Tripoli and planned to resume on Monday 28 May 2012, security permitting.
- UNHCR continued registration in Bekaa Valley during this reporting period with 1,893 people registered as of 25 May 2012; registration is now complete in Aarsal. In Saadnayel, registration started late due to the recent security deterioration in Beirut and is still ongoing. The process in this area is slow as many refugees have expressed reluctance to register with UNHCR. UNHCR, local leaders and authorities have now developed a common approach to encourage registration. Despite these constraints, the registration process is still expected to be completed in Bekaa Valley by the end of June, with 7,500 total projected registrations. UNHCR will setup a continuous registration mechanism for new arrivals once this process is complete.

ACTIVITIES

- WFP, UNHCR and General Bashir, Secretary-General of the Lebanese High Relief Committee (HRC), held a meeting to discuss the strategy for food assistance in the North over the coming months. After updating the HRC on the progress in providing food parcels for half the caseload in the North, WFP explained the voucher modality of assistance and its implementation in the Bekaa Valley. HRC requested WFP to provide food for all refugees and agreed to switch to vouchers for the whole northern area starting 1 July, for an initial trial period of 3 months. WFP and HRC will work closely together on the implementation of this project.
- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) will implement the voucher programme on behalf of WFP in the north and has requested that a third party does the monitoring to ensure transparency. WFP has identified Action Contre la Faim (ACF) as a potential partner to fulfill this role. Discussions to finalize this arrangement remain ongoing.
- WFP has procured 1,300 family food kits for the Northern Lebanon as part of its commitment for the month of June. The food parcels, packed in family rations by the supplier, will be delivered to the DRC warehouse on 7 June 2012. DRC will start distribution immediately after.
- DRC will begin voucher distribution during the first week of June in Aarsal (Bekaa Valley) with their distribution of hygiene kits. The results of the shop assessment in Aarsal indicate that there are an adequate number of retailers willing to participate in the programme. DRC is currently finalizing the selection of the shops and signing agreements with them.

- Due to the low registration rates in Saadnayel in the Bekaa Valley, as a result of the ongoing tensions in the community (see “beneficiaries”), WFP and UNHCR have agreed that UNHCR will deliver a last round of in-kind assistance to this area. Saadnayel will join the voucher programme for the July round.

Turkey

- There was a slight increase in the number of arrivals in Turkey according to UNHCR, with the refugee population reaching 22,778 on 21 May 2012.
- As of 21 May, the total camp population in Turkey reached 22,778 Syrian refugees. The population trend in Turkish refugee camps to date is nine percent lower this month in comparison to June (24,780). The Government of Turkey continues to provide assistance to those Syrians registered in their camps.

Iraq

BENEFICIARIES

- As of 24 May, 4,038 Syrian nationals of Kurdish origin have been registered with UNHCR [3,215 of them are in Duhok, 125 in Suleimaniyah and 698 in Erbil governorates] and 243 are awaiting registration.
- On 23 May, WFP met with single male refugees in Domiz camp. The majority of respondents conveyed that they are seeking temporary jobs.

COORDINATION

- On 23 May, WFP met with the Department of Displacement and Migration (DDM) in Dohuk to discuss plans for assistance. DDM expressed readiness to implement food distribution to Syrian refugees using their current capacity as well as its willingness to work with reliable International NGOs such as Qandil (Swedish) and Islamic Relief (UK) to implement a food voucher programme. They stated that such modality is well appreciated.
- DDM has notified members of the Governorate Emergency Cell (GEC) under the chairmanship of Dohuk Governor of their plan to discontinue the provision of hot meals for singles and to accommodate them in four person tents. DDM will then provide dry food items supplied by the Barzani Charity Foundation. DDM also urged humanitarian agencies to increase their efforts to assist the Syrian new arrivals especially those who have moved in camps.
 During a Food Working Group meeting, DDM reiterated that the dry food rations supplied by Barzani Charity Foundation to refugees are sufficient only until mid-June and warned that other partner/s will have to fill the gap. WFP is putting in place plans to support refugees under the regional EMOP starting in July and has requested the local authorities to provide assistance in June to cover the gap until WFP assistance comes on line.

Activities and coordination at Sub-Regional level

COORDINATION

- WFP Regional Refugee Emergency Coordinator met with the UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator, UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator, UNHCR Representatives from the region as well as other UN agencies involved in the regional response plan for Syrian refugees in Beirut to agree on beneficiary numbers and planning for the next six months.
- An agreement was reached on the refugee planning figures for July to December 2012 in order to ensure a harmonized response across agencies operationally. The figures are based not only on projections of continued refugee outflows, which continue to be relatively slow, but also on the increasing numbers of Syrians already in neighboring countries that are now seeking registration in order to access assistance, as

their assets and savings are depleted following their prolonged stay outside Syria. The planned beneficiary numbers agreed are a regional total of 67,000 in July, increasing to 120,000 in December.

- The Regional Response Plan for the countries affected by the current events in Syria was also discussed. An updated Regional Response Plan is under preparation using these planning figures and will be released by 28 June.
- Contingency planning for the region was also discussed; UNHCR and OCHA have set up a date of mid-July to have this plan in place. WFP outlined their sense of urgency and the consequent prioritization of contingency planning and noted that WFP plans are already in place.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- The Government of Japan has confirmed a donation of US\$ 3,000,000 for WFP assistance to Syrian in neighbouring countries; these funds will cover the entirety of the IR-EMOPs (US\$1,200,000 for Jordan and US\$1,500,000 for Lebanon) with a rollover of US\$ 300,000 towards the Regional EMOP.

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