In Numbers

595,074 Syrian refugees were assisted in March with USD 27 each
1.1 million registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon

Highlights

• In March, WFP assisted 595,074 Syrian refugees with USD 27; the full intended ration. Approximately 52 percent of beneficiaries are female and 48 percent are male.
• WFP launched a one year school meals programme for 10,000 Lebanese and Syrian pupils.

Situation Update

• UNHCR registered around 1.1 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon. It is the world’s largest concentration of refugees compared to its population. The influx is placing significant strain on Lebanese resources and communities.
• As the Syrian 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 vulnerable refugees.
• The 2015 multi-sectoral Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) in Lebanon shows a continued deterioration of the food security situation among refugees across the country compared to 2014. Specifically:
  ◊ 70 percent of households are below the poverty line (USD 3.84/person/day);
  ◊ 52 percent of households are below the survival minimum expenditure basket (the minimum food required to meet 2,100 kilocalories);
  ◊ 61 percent of households are applying emergency and crisis coping strategies;
  ◊ 11 percent of households are food insecure; and
  ◊ 23 percent of households are moderately food insecure.

WFP Response

• In Lebanon, WFP provides assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria through e-cards and cash transfers. E-cards are the principle modality of assistance as local markets are capable of providing sufficient food. Additionally, the e-cards allow beneficiaries to buy the food they need when they need it.
• WFP provides assistance to the Ministry of Social Affairs through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP). Under the programme, 27,000 vulnerable Lebanese receive USD 30 per month using WFP’s e-card platform.
Since the launch of the OneCard platform in January 2015, a number of humanitarian partners in Lebanon have been using WFP e-card platform for cash based assistance while WFP manages entitlement loading and data. So far, Lebanon Cash Consortium, UNHCR, World Vision and UNICEF have joined the platform in addition to NPTP.

Since 2013, WFP has injected USD 598 million directly into the Lebanese economy through the OneCard.

WFP is developing a new regional intervention strategy that will address resilience, safety nets, and national capacity building while continuing the provision of food assistance to the most vulnerable crisis-affected people. In line with that, WFP is developing a project with FAO for resilience building of the Syria crisis-affected people.

WFP launched the Strategic Review of the Food and Nutrition Security in Lebanon. Led by ESCWA this exercise will support the efforts of the Lebanese government and partners to accelerate the progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, “End hunger”.

Food Assistance
In March, WFP assisted 595,074 Syrian refugees with USD 27. Using donations that followed the February "Supporting Syria and the Region Conference," WFP was able to increase the ration to USD 27, the fully intended entitlement. However, assistance remains limited to five persons in a household, meaning that the maximum a household can receive is USD 135 in a month.

WFP also assisted 20,000 Palestinian refugees through UNRWA’s ATM card programme.

The first school meal distribution took place on 07 March. Through the programme, WFP is distributing snacks to 10,000 Lebanese and Syrian pupils in 13 primary schools selected from the most vulnerable communities. The programme aims to increase student enrolment and retention rates.

Food Security Sector
In 2016, sector priorities have been established to:

◊ Provide direct and critical food assistance to ensure improved food availability through in-kind food assistance and improved food access through cash-based transfers for food;

◊ Improve agricultural livelihoods by increasing production capacity of vulnerable small-scale farmers and by increasing employment opportunities in the food and agriculture sector;

◊ Improve nutrition practices and households’ dietary diversity; and

◊ Strengthen food security information systems and coordination mechanisms.

Partnerships
WFP works closely with the Lebanese government and has key relationships with the Ministry of Social Affairs. WFP is also strengthening partnerships with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. Maintaining and building upon these relationships is key to WFP’s long-term planning as it looks at diversifying interventions.

For its e-card activities, WFP works with eight non-governmental organisations: Action Contre La Faim, Danish Refugee Council, InterSOS, Mercy Corps, Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale, Save the Children, SHEILD and World Vision.

Resourcing Update
WFP Lebanon’s biggest donors since 2012 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.

Contacts
External relations: Edward Johnson <edward.johnson@wfp.org> +961 76320761
External relations: Seonghee Choi <seonghee.choi@wfp.org> +961 76320586
Food Security Sector: Elena Rovaris <elena.rovaris@wfp.org> +961 76320649

WFP Lebanon’s Operation (part of EMOP 200433)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total 2016 Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Total Received (in USD)</th>
<th>6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>People Reached (in March) (Syrian and Palestinian refugees)</th>
<th>Female (approx)</th>
<th>Male (approx)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EMOP 200433 (01/07/2012—31/12/2016)</td>
<td>237 764 742</td>
<td>57 494 035</td>
<td>59 000 000</td>
<td>615 074</td>
<td>319 838</td>
<td>295 236</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>