

WFP's Response Inside Syria and in Neighbouring Countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq

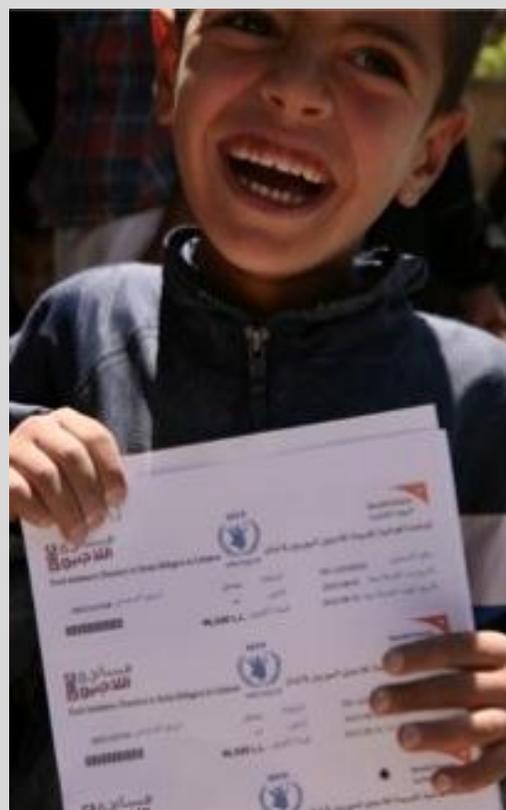
Situation Report # 13

Reporting Period: 29.July -4.August 2012



HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- **SYRIA** – Situation in Damascus, Aleppo and recently also in other governorates has been deteriorating. The UN refugee agency reported alarming figures of people fleeing their homes to safer areas as armed activities escalated in Aleppo
- Findings of the Joint Rapid Food Security Needs Assessment conducted in June 2012 reported that as many as 3 million are in need of food and other forms of livelihood support over the coming year. Out of this number, 1.5 million people need urgent and immediate food assistance in the next 3 to 6.
- The latest Budget Revision has been approved, including the increased beneficiary figure of 850,000 people until December 2012.
- **JORDAN** –WFP started distribution of vouchers in Cyber City transit center for 651 beneficiaries while distribution in urban areas will start 5 August to 22,888 registered Syrian refugees. In the transit camps in Ramtha and Al Zaatari, WFP has been distributing about 13,000 meals daily.
- **LEBANON** - WFP staff in the North started the PDM interviews in Akkar districts: 16 refugee households, who received the July food packages two weeks ago, were assessed. The beneficiaries were satisfied with the assistance, and the refugees are welcoming the voucher program which will start in mid August. Monitoring is ongoing in the Bekaa.
- The August cycle voucher distribution has started in 5 locations in Bekaa.
- **IRAQ** - The first two trucks carrying salt, sugar and rice are expected at the Turkish border with Iraq/Kurdistan on 05.08 and will enter Ibrahim Khalil Iraq border crossing at Zakho on same day. WFP's hopes to clear the trucks on 6.08. Distribution will begin immediately after all commodities are received.
- **TURKEY** – WFP's Emergency Coordinator will arrive in Turkey on the 7th of August



Syrian boy poses with his family's vouchers in a distribution point in Bekaa Valley, Lebanon
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SITUATION UPDATE

During the reporting period, the situation in the country continued to escalate. Rural Damascus, Dara'a, Homs and Deir Ezzor governorates have also been affected similarly to Damascus and Aleppo.

As a result, the number of people who moved from their homes to safer areas rose dramatically. In Damascus, a significant increase in the number of affected households has been noted. Access to and from Damascus has become more unpredictable.

According to the findings of the Joint Rapid Food Security Needs Assessment conducted in June 2012, there are 3 million people at risk of complete erosion of their means of survival. Consequently, urgent assistance with food and other forms of livelihood support over the coming year is required. Out of this number, 1.5 million people need immediate food assistance in the next 3 to 6 months, especially in areas that have seen the greatest population movement.

Findings of WFP monitoring missions confirm that life continues to be increasingly difficult for a growing proportion of the population. The number of people who have moved from their homes to other areas within Syria or across international borders continues to increase. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society

(SARC) has recently reported that several public buildings in Homs started accommodating those affected while previously such families were able to find shelter in private houses.

Situation in the country continues to escalate with a dramatic increase in the number of people forced to move from their homes to safer areas.

In Damascus, food shortages have been noted in shops. Staple commodities are still available in the city, but the price reportedly rose between 20 to 40 percent in some areas. Bread is now available in governmental bakeries only. Due to the situation in Aleppo, thousands of residents are seeking shelter in schools, mosques and public buildings. SARC and other national associations currently register about 300 families a day in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

The on-going volatility continues to pose challenges to WFP operations. There have been delays in dispatching food rations to Homs, Dara'a, Deir Ezzor and Aleppo governorates. Monitoring activities have also been curtailed by movement restrictions especially to Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Idleb, Deir Ezzor and Aleppo governorates.

WFP RESPONSE

FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME: Through its emergency operation (EMOP), WFP continues to provide food assistance to 850,000 beneficiaries in 14 Syrian governorates impacted by the current events. Despite increasing challenges, WFP remains determined to find alternatives to negotiate access into affected areas.

July food distributions commenced on 3 July and remain on-going in all governorates except in Al-Raqqa, Quneitra and Sweida, where cycles had already been concluded. As of 4 August, 578,400 beneficiaries (68 percent) had received their food entitlements.

During the July cycle, monitoring activities were conducted in some targeted areas in rural Damascus,

Al-Hasakeh, Al-Raqqa, Aleppo, Tartous, Lattakia, Sweida, and Idleb.



WFP field monitor interviewing beneficiaries in northeastern Syria

LOGISTICS ACTIVITIES – WFP continues to dispatch food to the final distribution points (FDPs) directly and/or through the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC).

Food dispatches for July cycle started on 1 July; the first convoys went to governorates where June cycle had concluded. As of 4 August, food rations for 732,125 beneficiaries have been dispatched to all targeted governorates. Dispatches are expected to conclude on 7 August 2012. Food dispatches to Aleppo governorate continue to cover the increasing needs in both Aleppo city and Rural Areas.

COORDINATION: Sectoral coordination meetings for the Logistics and Food Sectors continue to take place on a bi-weekly basis.

WFP continues to provide logistical support to other agencies. During the reporting period, WFP provided handling services and transportation of medical items to Yarmouk, Jaramana and Jobar areas in Damascus and Rural Damascus governorates on behalf of UNRWA.

RESOURCE UPDATE

The EMOP is currently valued at US\$ 103.2 million. Approximately US\$ 44.3 million has been resourced thanks to contributions received from UN CERF, USA, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, European Commission, UK, Finland, Ireland, Germany, Kuwait, France and other multilateral donors in addition to carryover from previous operations.

WFP immediately requires US\$24 million to avoid breaks in food assistance and allow for a swift response to the increasing needs.

Urgent funding is also needed to start implementing activities under the special operation, aimed at augmenting WFP's capacity in logistics, communication and security amidst the increasingly challenging environment.

Jordan

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 4 August, UNHCR has registered 39,034 Syrian nationals. The Government of Jordan reports that over 140,000 Syrians have entered the country. As the situation in Syria perseveres, large numbers of Syrians continue to cross the Jordanian borders seeking asylum mainly through the cities of Mafraq and Ramtha.

On Sunday 29 July Al Za'atari camp in the governorate of Mafraq was inaugurated and refugees residing in Bashabsheh guest house were moved to the new site. Bashabsheh was completely vacated and officially shut down the next day. All new arrivals are now directed to the Al Za'atari camp.

WFP RESPONSE

In August, WFP is targeting 35,000 beneficiaries in the communities and in the Cyber City transit camp with vouchers. WFP is also assisting Syrian nationals in another two transit camps in Ramtha and in Al Za'atari with direct food assistance.

WFP has moved from dry rations to vouchers in Cyber City and started distribution for 651 beneficiaries on 1 August.

This month's food vouchers for refugees in the communities have been printed and delivered to CPs; distribution will start on 5 August, through the implementing partners, Save the Children for Amman and Zarqa governorates, Islamic Relief Worldwide for the northern governorates and the Human Relief Foundation for the south and Cyber City transit centre.

There are 22,888 beneficiaries registered for this first distribution cycle in the communities.

During this reporting period, WFP has also provided an average of about 13,000 meals per day in the transit camps in Ramtha and Al Za'atari, reaching about 6,500 beneficiaries. In addition to hot meals, WFP is distributing welcome packages to the new arrivals at Al Za'atari camp. The welcome packages are comprised of 6 ready to eat non-perishable items, and they are prepositioned at WFP's rub hall in the Al Za'atari camp. WFP will phase out the hot meals distribution in Al Za'atari camp, and start distribution of dry rations as soon as kitchen facilities are in place. Hot meal distribution is expected to continue through Ramadan;

WFP is currently prepositioning dry food commodities

for Al Za'atari camp at the main warehouse in Amman.



Syrian woman in the Al Za'atari camp. © WFP/ Maria Anguera de Sojo

Lebanon

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 1 August, UNHCR has registered 33,664 Syrians in the country: 19,397 in the North and 13,196 in the Bekaa Valley, with the remaining 1,071 in Beirut and the Jabal area. Part of the registered caseload is awaiting receipt of their cards, which are required to obtain WFP vouchers.

UNHCR is expecting another 4 - 8,000 refugees to be pre-screened in Tripoli in the beginning of August and

requested WFP to include these new pre-screened refugees in the August food package distribution.

Events in Syria continue to affect Lebanese border villages in both the North and the Bekaa Valley. Reportedly, the Lebanese Army will increase their presence along the northern borders. WFP is monitoring the situation closely.

WFP RESPONSE

In August, WFP will target over 33,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon, 3,000 more than planned under the EMOP for this month, reflecting the new arrivals.

Currently, only registered Syrian refugees are receiving assistance from the UN and partners. The humanitarian community is looking at possible assistance to other affected populations including Lebanese returnees from Syria (536 households in the country were identified by IOM), Syrians who are not willing to register with UNHCR for security reasons, Syrians who did not yet have the chance to register with UNHCR and Syrians living in conflict border areas.

In the North, WFP is starting August voucher distribution to 13,690 individuals in the Akkar region. Distribution of family food packages will only be done in Tripoli to 6,865 beneficiaries.

July cycle food distribution started on 16 July in Akkar and it is still on-going due to delay in the procurement of WFP packages. Between 16 and 26 July, DRC, WFP and UNHCR distributed food packages and non-food items to 5,325 individuals. Distribution in Wadi-Khaled and Tripoli was postponed; the distribution for July cycle will resume on 6 August.

Through DRC, WFP will begin the voucher programme in Akkar in mid-August and in Tripoli area by September.

In the Bekaa Valley, WFP is providing assistance through value-based food vouchers to 12,864 persons during August, most of the refugee population except a small caseload of 240 households who will receive family food packages due to access constraints.

Two rounds of distributions are planned this month to accommodate delays in UNHCR registration and ensure maximum coverage of beneficiaries for a planned figure of 12,864 people. The first round of August Voucher distributions has started in 5 locations.

WVI and DRC have collected the July vouchers from participating shops and started the reconciliation exercise.

Distribution of food packages for 124 households in Qaa for the July round is still on hold because of the pipeline break. Eight hundred food parcels, previously awaiting quality inspection, have now been distributed by World Vision in West Bekaa.

In remote and conflict border areas, WFP will continue providing food parcels to about 900 UNHCR registered Syrians through Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

ASSESSMENTS DRC, Lebanese Red Cross and WFP completed the shop assessment and market

reconnaissance in the Akkar district (North Lebanon) while assessments are ongoing in the Tripoli area. WFP and DRC have already selected 25 shops in Akkar and trained the shop owners; all the contracts will be signed by the second week of August.

WFP staff in the North started the PDM interviews in Akkar districts to 16 refugee households, who received the July food packages two weeks ago. The beneficiaries were satisfied with the assistance, and are welcoming the voucher program. Monitoring continues in the Bekaa.

Additional shop assessment and selection is taking place in Bekaa Valley in view of the increasing number of registered families with UNHCR for the August round of distribution. A total of 40 shops have been selected so far. Selection for additional shops for West Bekaa and Zahle will be conducted in the coming weeks.



WFP staff talking to a beneficiary in her kitchen space during a monitoring visit. © WFP/ Maria Anguera de Sojo

Iraq

SITUATION UPDATE

UNHCR estimates that the total number of Syrian nationals taking refuge in Iraq has reached 12,000: As of 30 July, UNHCR/DDM have registered 9,053 in Kurdistan, 78% of which (7,096 refugees) are in Dohuk. In addition, UN and Iraq Red Crescent reported 3,310 Syrian Asylum Seekers (630 families) in Al Qaim, Anbar. The local authorities have provided food and the Ministry of Displacement and Migration reportedly plans to distribute to the Syrian families a cash grant of 400,000 IQD (US\$344/family). WFP has not received a formal request for assistance from Baghdad authorities for the Syrians in Anbar Governorate.

UNHCR reported increasing departures of the singles in Domiz camp returning to Syria after news that the Syrian army has left their home towns: The Directorate of Residency in Dohuk governorate has halted issuing of residency permits this week due to these departures. The issue is under review.

A UN mission comprised of WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, UNAMI met with the Governor of Ninewa on 1 August to discuss plans for a new camp in Rabeea district. The Government has requested the establishment of this camp for preparedness as no significant numbers of Syrians have settled in this area to date. However, the Governor expects large numbers should the situation in

Syria worsen. WFP informed the Governor on food voucher modalities should assistance be requested.

WFP RESPONSE

WFP is targeting an initial caseload of 5,000 Syrian nationals with the provision of direct in kind food assistance; priority will be given to those in the Domiz camp, Dohuk Governorate. This figure will be increased through a budget revision to cover 10,000 in August and up to 15,000 by December

The first two WFP trucks carrying salt, sugar and rice will arrive at the Turkish border with Iraq/Kurdistan on 5 August and are expected to enter Ibrahim Khalil Iraq border crossing at Zakho on same day. The trucks are expected to be cleared on 6 August. Distribution will begin immediately after all commodities have been received.

Assessments:

The first draft report on the Joint UN Interagency Needs Assessment of Syrian Nationals in Iraq has

been shared with UN and NGO partners for comments. It covers protection, income/expenditures, food security, health and education sectors. The final report will be available by 15 August.

A Draft Voucher feasibility assessment report was circulated to participants on 28 July for comments. Preliminary findings indicate that Erbil is conducive to voucher programme implementation to serve the Syrian nationals in the area, including those in Domiz Camp. The preferable option would be the electronic voucher modality, however, paper based voucher setup should be considered as a contingency. In addition, the Governor of Ninewa in Mosul expressed his support to food/cash voucher arrangements rather than direct food assistance during an inter-agency meeting.

Turkey

Even though the official total camp population on 4 August is 44,038, the Regional Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) informed UNHCR that with 2,000 new arrivals in the previous two days the actual number of Syrians under temporary protection in the camps has in fact reached 46,000.

The Regional Representative of the MoFA has confirmed the plan to open five additional camps to increase the overall camp capacity to 100,000.

One of the five additional camps, Akçakale-Şanlıurfa, is planned to open on 6 August, and a second camp

in Karkamış/Gaziantep should be ready in three weeks (end of August).

The preliminary results of the assessment mission finished on 27 July indicate that WFP's assistance would be most effective as a phased transition from direct food assistance to voucher assistance. In at least three locations, the camps are situated near local shops; in other locations, camp shops will need to be established. Current planning figure of WFP is 30,000 Syrian refugees.

Activities and coordination at Sub-Regional level

The USA has confirmed its donation of US\$8 million towards the Regional EMOP

Thanks to contributions from the Governments of US, Japan, Switzerland and the UN CERF, US\$11.4M has been resourced to date towards the Regional EMOP, leaving a budget shortfall of US\$16.3M.

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