



World Food Programme

WFP Syria Regional Situation Report

December 2018



In Numbers

5.6 million registered Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries

56,047 self-organized refugee returns to Syria in 2018

USD 4.0 billion injected into local economies of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey through WFP's cash-based transfers, local food procurement, and other expenditures since 2012

2.9 million Syrian refugees and host community members assisted

December 2018



| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) 2018-2019 | Overall: USD 4.4 billion |
| | WFP share: USD 1.5 billion |
| WFP Net Funding Requirements (February - July 2019) | |
| Regional | USD 322.6 million |
| Egypt | USD 3.5 million |
| Iraq | USD 2.9 million |
| Jordan | USD 56.4 million |
| Lebanon | USD 32.3 million |
| Turkey | USD 227.5 million |

Highlights

- In December, WFP reached more than 2.9 million refugees from Syria and host community members across Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey through various food assistance programmes (in-kind and cash) under the Country Strategic Plans (CSPs) in Egypt and Lebanon, and Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plans (TICSPs) in the other three countries. Overall, WFP reached an estimated 3.3 million people in 2018.

Situation Updates

Iraq

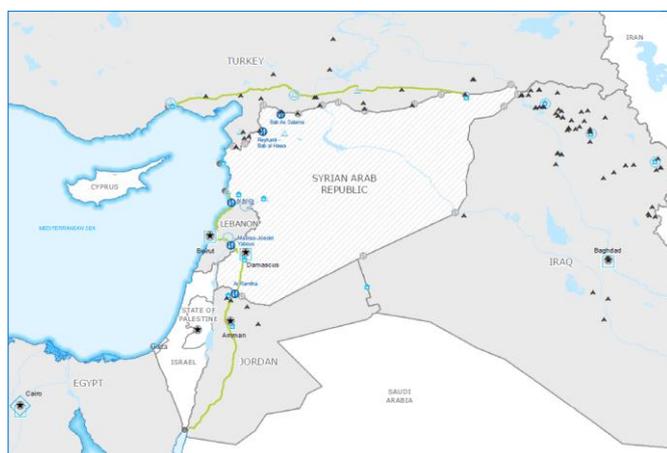
- Tensions persist in Iraq's parliament between the Islah and Bina blocs. In Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi's cabinet, two education and migration ministers were confirmed, two months after the prime minister's appointment. The Minister of Education subsequently resigned due to links to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS). Education, defence, interior and justice ministerial posts remain unfilled. The continuing deadlock over appointing a full cabinet hinders the country's recovery and progress after years of war.

Lebanon

- Government formation remains postponed. An uptick in the number of demonstrations by civilian groups on poor living conditions in Lebanon were observed in December. As groups gathered to demonstrate in front of the Ministry of Oil and Industry, and in front of the Ministry of Labour in Beirut, violence broke out. Lebanese Security Forces intervened to disperse the demonstrators and restore calm. More demonstrations are anticipated amid the continued political stalemate.

Turkey

- The Turkish Statistical Institute announced that the consumer price index in Turkey slipped 0.40 percent in December from 21.62 percent in November 2018. However, consumer prices had still increased by 20.30 percent year-on-year. Over the past five years, annual inflation hit its lowest level in April 2013, reaching 6.13 percent, and its highest level in October, 2018, with 25.24 percent.



Syria Crisis: WFP Operational Overview

Photo: Children of families assisted by WFP e-food voucher in Adana Sariçam camp. WFP/Nazire Uzen



Food and Nutrition Assistance

Egypt

- WFP Egypt supported a total of 81,445 refugees from Syria with cash-based transfers (CBTs) through general food assistance (GFA), Food Assistance for Training (FFT), and nutrition support to pregnant and lactating women. Each beneficiary received a monthly voucher assistance of EGP 400 (USD 22).
- In December, WFP Egypt continued the provision of livelihood trainings on hair styling and makeup for 12 participants (benefitting a total of 60 beneficiaries). The training sessions were provided by Z Academy. Each participant received CBT assistance equivalent to EGP 2,000 upon completion of the course cycle (ranging from 1 to 6 months, depending on the type of course), conditional to 80 percent attendance of the designated courses.

Iraq

- WFP Iraq supported 39,601 Syrian refugees in camps located in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) with CBTs through GFA and FFT. The transfer value amounts to IQD 22,000 (USD 19) per month, and it is disbursed through electronic vouchers or unrestricted cash transfers using WFP's SCOPE platform.
- In December, 380 people participated (benefitting 1,900 beneficiaries) in the activities under the Tech for Food project implemented in Sulaymaniyah, Dohuk, Erbil and Ninewa governorates. The project targets Syrian refugees, but also displaced Iraqis and host communities. The participants receive training on advanced digital skills, such as graphic design/Adobe Photoshop, social media marketing, programming, front end design (web/app design) and data analysis.

Jordan

- WFP Jordan supported a total of 490,324 Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians with in-kind food and CBTs through GFA and resilience activities. Through WFP's tiered approach, the extremely vulnerable Syrian refugees in host communities were assisted through e-cards with a value of JOD 23 (USD 32), while vulnerable refugees received e-cards with a value of JOD 15 (USD 21).
- WFP continued its work with the Government of Jordan and the World Bank for the provision of technical assistance to the National Aid Fund (NAF)'s Reform Plan under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Development. WFP piloted the disbursement of NAF entitlements through mobile money for 500 Jordanians in Azraq town. A specific call centre was established to respond to inquiries on the mobile money pilot.
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in Azraq town. A specific call centre was established to respond to inquiries on the mobile money pilot. In coordination with iMMAP, a baseline study of the mobile money pilot in Azraq was conducted with 262 vulnerable Jordanian households in December. A follow-up study is planned in early 2019. The study will assess the effects of the shift in modality (from cash distribution at post offices) on beneficiary households with a focus on access and accessibility to assistance.

Lebanon

- WFP Lebanon assisted a total of 751,937 Syrian and Palestinian refugees from Syria, as well as vulnerable Lebanese with CBTs through various activities in December. WFP continued to implement multiple delivery mechanisms such as food-restricted e-cards, cash-for-food e-cards, and multi-purpose cash for basic needs.
- Preliminary results from the latest Food Security Outcome Monitoring showed that the percentage of households receiving cash-for-food e-cards showed an increase in their food consumption score while households receiving multipurpose cash for essential needs e-cards (multi-purpose cash) and food e-cards showed a decrease in their food consumption score. The final report will be released in January 2019.

Turkey

- WFP Turkey reached 1.6 million people through CBTs. Of this, 1.5 million vulnerable refugees across Turkey received the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) monthly assistance of TRY 120 (USD 22.6) per person to help cover basic needs. In addition, 94,015 beneficiaries in six camps received e-vouchers with a monthly value of TRY 50 (USD 9.4) under the in-camp assistance programme. The ESSN programme remains the largest single cash-based transfers operation for both WFP and globally.
- ESSN Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) conducted in November investigated protection-related experiences of refugees in Turkey, especially related to access to ESSN assistance, and awareness and utilisation of ESSN communication and feedback mechanisms. Many participants stated that they regularly receive information on their payments and programmes updates via the ESSN Facebook page and the SMS sent by the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC). Most participants also reported being aware of their right to report complaints about the programme, and that they know how to contact programme officials for their complaints. Across all groups, participants reported that they were treated with respect when submitting their applications for the programme.
- WFP and TRC are working on livelihood survey data received from the TRC Call Centre. With the first round of data cleaning completed, it is expected that the survey analysis will be ready by February 2019. WFP is also working with UNHCR and UNDP to structure the livelihoods mapping; the mapping questionnaire will be finalised in mid-January, 2019 with the pilot field exercise implemented later in the month.

Resourcing Update

- In the refugee-hosting countries across the region, with the current levels of confirmed resources, WFP needs a total of USD 322.6 million to ensure continued lifeline support in the next six months from February to July 2019.

Contacts

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WFP Operation

| | Total Requirements (in USD) (February – July 2019)* | Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February - July 2019)* | People Assisted (December 2018) | Activities | Modality |
|-----------------|--|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Regional | 813.9 million | 322.6 million | 2,940,913 | | |
| Egypt | 14.2 million | 3.5 million | 81,445 | General Food Assistance Food Assistance for Training Nutrition Support | Cash-Based Transfers |
| Iraq | 6.9 million | 2.9 million | 39,601 | General Food Assistance Food Assistance for Training | Cash-Based Transfers |
| Jordan | 134.1 million | 56.4 million | 490,324 | General Food Assistance Food Assistance for Assets School Meals | In-kind Food Cash-Based Transfers |
| Lebanon | 200.1 million | 32.3 million | 715,937 | General Food Assistance Food Assistance for Assets/Training School Meals | In-kind Food Cash-Based Transfers |
| Turkey | 458.7 million | 227.5 million** | 1,613,606 | General Food Assistance | Cash-Based Transfers |

* Funding overview (01-14 February 2019); Pertains to the Syrian refugee response only

** No immediate shortfalls are foreseen under the implementation plan.