Regional Syrian Refugee Crisis Overview

In Numbers

Net Funding Requirements:
(August 2020 - January 2021)

Jordan: US$ 146.3 m
Lebanon: US$ 122.3 m
Egypt: US$ 26.6 m
Turkey: US$ 19.2 m
Iraq: US$ 19.1 m

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Highlights

• 1.8 million Syrain refugees, non-Syrian refugees and host community assisted by WFP in June 2020.

• WFP is working to safely resume its livelihoods activities, as some countries begin easing restrictions; in Lebanon food for assets and food for training activities are gradually resuming and scaling up with COVID-19 health and safety measures in place.

These icons represent all WFP activities planned and implemented in each country in response to the Syrian refugee crisis. To adapt to COVID-19, WFP introduced adjustments to distribution modalities. Figures above may include host community members and non-Syrian refugees. UNHCR locations are partially represented at this scale. Map updated as of June 2020.
Situation Updates

The sub-region registered 325,357 cases of COVID-19 with 10,277 fatalities as per JHU COVID-19 tracker (2 July 2020), although cases may be underreported. There are concerns about the pandemic’s impact on nationals and refugees who were extremely vulnerable even before the pandemic, especially those who live off daily wages. In light of COVID-19, WFP is extending every effort to continue its support to food insecure people in Syria’s neighboring countries, while assessing new COVID-driven needs across the sub-region.

WFP Response

After being put on hold because of the pandemic, livelihood activities have begun to gradually resume, with WFP and partners working to take full precautions to protect the health of all people involved, and adhere to the government's guidelines.

Unconditional Resource Transfers

**Egypt**: WFP Egypt has expanded its caseload by about 20,000 vulnerable refugees and plans to expand further to include 3,000 migrants. Additionally, nutrition support has been extended to a total of 8,000 pregnant and lactating refugee women, from various countries. WFP also switched its General Food Assistance vouchers modality to monthly cash transfers, minimizing mobility and risks of exposure to COVID-19.

**Jordan**: WFP supported 475,484 refugees through the provision of cash assistance. As of June, all refugees assisted by WFP in communities were able to access a larger network of ATMs (about 900) thanks to the integration that WFP and Jordan Ahli Bank completed with Housing Bank, Bank of Jordan, Jordan Islamic Bank, etc.

**Lebanon**: In Lebanon, WFP assisted 728,303 Syrian refugees, 21,353 refugees of other nationalities and 105,240 vulnerable Lebanese beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 14.8 million. Given rising food prices and the favourable exchange rate negotiated with the Central Bank, WFP adjusted the food transfer value from LBP 40,500 to LBP 50,000 in April and LBP 60,000 in June.

**Iraq**: In Iraq, WFP delivered cash-based assistance to 267,611 IDPs, and 69,722 refugees, in nine governorates. This included an additional 33,000 refugees and IDPs added as part of WFP’s scale-up to meet increased humanitarian needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ready-to-eat food packages of Immediate Response Rations were distributed to a few quarantined households. WFP continues to consider appeals from families via helpdesks in camps, to be included in July’s cycle of assistance.

**Turkey**: WFP continues to support 55,159 refugees in six camps, through a monthly e-voucher payment of TRY 100 (USD 15) per person. In June, WFP delivered the second round of 15,000 hygiene kits to cover camp residents’ household hygiene needs, with the second distribution completing one full kit; each kit covers 3 months’ needs. As of 30 June, no COVID-19 positive cases have been confirmed among refugees in the camps.

Asset Creation and Livelihoods

**Turkey**: 158 students (85 Syrians and 73 Turkish, of whom 82 were women and 76 men) received intensive practical cooking classes under the cash-for-training component of the Mutfakta Umut Var (MUV)/Kitchen of Hope project and were then registered in Turkey’s national Employment Agency’s (ISKUR) database for the on-the-job training component, which will take place in restaurants and soup kitchens.

**Lebanon**: Livelihoods activities are gradually resuming and scaling up with COVID-19 health and safety measures in place. Activities include both individual and community-level capacity development such as irrigation canal construction and forestry, vocational skills training in digital skills and agriculture, and climate-smart agricultural development.

School Feeding

Following the disruption of school feeding activities due to the pandemic, WFP is adjusting to the situation and preparing for the upcoming academic year.

*A taste of hope*

*A taste of hope and home has made its way to Poland after WFP Lebanon supported six cooperatives across the country with training sessions and state-of-the-art machinery through funds from Germany’s BMZ and in collaboration with the Polish Centre for International Aid. This support facilitated their access to the international market and enhanced their production capacity.*

“Our stuffed vine leaves have reached Poland! We’re now more confident about the continuity and development of our work,” said Mary, a member of the Andaqet Agricultural Cooperative in north Lebanon. Through this training, Mary expanded her knowledge and expertise on food safety, packaging and production techniques.

Photo: Members of WFP-supported Lebanese cooperatives display their goods at the World Food Fair in Warsaw - Photo/Polish Centre for International Aid

Contacts

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For more information you can visit WFP.org country pages: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey.