

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

**Situation Report # 18**

Reporting Period: 2- 8 September 2012



**World Food Programme**

*Fighting Hunger Worldwide*

## HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

**SYRIA** – The situation in Syria remains tense across the country resulting in operational constraints for WFP as well as other humanitarian organizations while humanitarian needs grow dramatically.

The OCHA-led joint UN mission to Homs aiming to assess the humanitarian situation as well as possibility of a fixed UN presence in the governorate took place from 4 to 6 September. The mission conveys concerns about the humanitarian situation of the population in affected areas.

Food dispatches for the August cycle concluded on 6 September with 152,600 rations for 763,000 beneficiaries (approximately 90 percent of the planned figure) while distributions continue in remaining governorates.

**JORDAN** – During the reporting period, Human Relief Foundation (HRF) completed the distribution for the first cycle of the second phase to 419 beneficiaries (101 families) in Cyber city. WFP provided an average of 43,400 meals through its implementing partner TUA, in Ramtha and Al Za'atari camp, reaching an average of 22,000 beneficiaries daily.

**LEBANON** – In the North, the August distribution cycle has reached 2,700 Syrian families: 2,300 households received around 10,500 food vouchers and 430 households, with limited access or other restraints, received food packages so far. Distributions are on-going. The voucher programme will begin in Tripoli area under the September cycle.

In the Bekaa Valley, the first round of September voucher distribution is on-going in four locations reaching 998 households so far. In the remote areas, DRC will distribute food parcels door to door for 77 households for September cycle.

**IRAQ** - Distribution started on 6 September and will continue for 10 days from until 16 September, on the first two days, WFP reached about 4,000 beneficiaries with 34mt of food

**TURKEY:** The voucher programme is planned to start in Kilis camp and then in Hatay province during the fourth quarter of 2012; this first voucher cycle will cover a caseload of 20,000 people. The proposed assistance is expected to gradually expand as cooking facilities and access to shops are available in other camps.



Syrian child in a Ramtha transit camp, Jordan. © WFP/Maria Anguera de Sojo

## SITUATION UPDATE

The situation remains tense across the country with armed activities on-going in various areas including Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Idleb, and Homs posing operational challenges to WFP and other humanitarian organizations as humanitarian needs continue to grow dramatically.

The on-going volatility coupled with unstable connectivity continues to hinder WFP operations in terms of dispatches, distributions and monitoring activities in affected locations. Communication remains inconsistent in Aleppo and Deir Ezzor governorates.

The OCHA-led joint UN mission to Homs with the aim to assess the humanitarian situation in as well as look into establishing a fixed UN presence in the governorate took place during the reporting period. The team

consisting of OCHA, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, WHO, UNDSS and WFP staff discussed the way forward for UN agencies to address the humanitarian needs in the area with the SARC branch and local authorities. In addition, the mission visited various accommodation centres, compounds, and schools distributing humanitarian assistance, including food.

Based on the findings, WFP will increase the food allocation for Homs governorate (from 25,000 to 44,700 rations for 223,500 beneficiaries) effective this month and 2,000 extra rations will be allocated to Bab Amer.

***During the reporting period, the volatile situation across the country resulted in dramatically growing humanitarian needs.***

## WFP RESPONSE

**FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME:** From September 2012, as per the latest budget revision of the Emergency Operation (EMOP), WFP started providing food assistance to 1.5 million beneficiaries in all 14 Syrian governorates that have been directly or indirectly impacted by the current events.

As humanitarian needs inside Syria grow with the capacity of SARC being overstretched, WFP continues to provide financial support to SARC to cover offloading costs, salaries and incentives for their staff and volunteers in all 14 branches, ICT equipment, trucks and light vehicles, mobile storage units, and warehousing capacity. Training plan for SARC staff and volunteers is also being prepared to take place in September.

The food basket for the September cycle contains rice 15 kg, bulgur 5 kg, pasta 5 kg, dried pulses 3 kg, canned pulses 3 kg, canned meat 1 kg, vegetable oil 3 kg, sugar 5 kg, salt 0.5 kg, tea 0.5 kg and tomato paste 1 kg. The nutritional value of this basket represents 1,018 kcal.

WFP monitoring activities including household visits and market price collection continued in areas where the situation permitted.

WFP Monitoring and Evaluation report for the month of July has been finalized. Staple food prices in three major cities of Damascus, Rural Damascus and Aleppo

generally increased by 25 percent during the reporting period before they stabilized again towards the end of the cycle. People who left their homes to safer places remain the main beneficiary profile representing 85 percent of the total targeted beneficiaries in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Dara'a and Lattakia. These people mainly originate from Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Deir Ezzor thus forming a massive internal movement. People living in the vicinity of hotspots are severely affected. Those who lost their livelihoods make up only a small percentage of the total number of beneficiaries in the North-Eastern region overwhelmed with newcomers who need urgent assistance. The report also concluded that more attention must be paid to the risk of duplication in receiving food assistance due to the continuous movement of people.

**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 the August cycle commenced on 10 August and concluded on 6 September with total dispatches of 152,600 rations for 763,000 beneficiaries (approximately 90 percent of the planned figure for the month).

Dispatches for the September cycle commenced on 8 September with first convoys destined for Rural Damascus governorate.

Non-Food Items (prefab offices and accommodations, mobile storage units, plastic pallets and generators) are being procured internationally. As part of logistics capacity building, SARC will be given 500 plastic pallets and 5 additional mobile storage units (Wiik-Halls).

**COORDINATION:** WFP established a logistics coordination mechanism in Damascus to improve inter-agency logistics coordination for the humanitarian community undertaking activities in response to the events in Syria.

As suggested by participants during the Logistics Sector Coordination meeting held in Amman on 28 August, and to ensure a coherent flow of logistics information to all stakeholders, the coordination structure has been extended to Beirut. On 5 September, meeting with humanitarian stakeholders to better identify needs and gaps in the regional logistics humanitarian response was held in Beirut. Therefore, Logistics Sector Coordination meetings are currently held in three locations (Damascus, Amman and Beirut) every two weeks.

#### RESOURCE UPDATE

The EMOP is currently valued at US\$136 million.

Approximately US\$75 million has been resourced thanks to contributions received from UN CERF, USA, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, European Commission, UK, Finland, Ireland, Germany, Kuwait, France, Russia, and other multilateral donors in addition to carryover from previous operations.

**The current shortfall stands at US\$61 million.**

During the reporting week, WFP provided handling services and transportation of over 20 m<sup>3</sup>/49 mt of hygiene and recreation kits, food, household equipment, clothes and other Non-Food Items on behalf of DRC, UNICEF, UNRWA, UNFPA and WHO.

Relevant logistics information products (such as maps, assessments, snapshots, etc.) continue to be produced and disseminated to humanitarian actors on a regular basis.

WFP is ready to provide packaging facilities, on a cost recovery basis, to humanitarian organizations that have signed Service Level Agreements (SLAs).

WFP is establishing its own fuel depot to ensure fuel is available for the increased transport requirements over the coming months. The depot in Damascus is now operational with sufficient capacity for two months expected to gradually increase over the coming weeks. The depot is intended to serve the WFP light vehicle fleet and, if needed, can be utilized on a cost recovery basis by other UN agencies, implementing partners, and commercial transporters. WFP Logistics, together with the service provider, is currently assessing possible automated digitalized solutions for better tracking of supplies and services.

Urgent funding is also needed to continue implementing activities under the Special Operation (SO) 200477, aimed at augmenting WFP's capacity in logistics, communication and security amidst the increasingly challenging environment.

**The SO is currently valued at US\$7.1 million and, to date, approximately US\$1.2 million has been resourced thanks to contributions from the EU, UK and Finland.**

## Jordan

#### SITUATION UPDATE

As of 6 September, UNHCR has registered 48,315 Syrian nationals while the Government of Jordan reports that over 185,000 Syrians have entered the country. In addition, 8,942 people have registration appointments and 25,373 people are awaiting registration in Al Za'atari camp, bringing the number of people eligible for assistance to 83,154. As the situation in Syria

persists, large numbers of Syrians continue to cross the Jordanian borders seeking asylum, mainly through the cities of Mafraq and Ramtha.

The number of new arrivals in Al Za'atari camp per night varied significantly during the reporting period, ranging from 87 to as much as 1,579.

#### WFP RESPONSE

In September, WFP is targeting 48,000 refugees registered with UNHCR in the communities and in a Cyber City transit camp with vouchers. During the reporting period, Human Relief Foundation (HRF) completed the distribution for the first cycle of the second phase to 419 beneficiaries in Cyber city.

WFP is also assisting an increasing number of Syrian nationals with hot meals in additional transit centers close to the border. WFP has provided an average of over 43,400 meals per day through its implementing partner *Tkiyet Um Ali* (TUA) in both transit centres in Ramtha and Al Za'atari camp in Manfraaq, reaching more than 22,000 beneficiaries daily.

WFP and UNHCR are working together to set up kitchen facilities for refugees at Al Za'atari camp to transit from hot meal distribution to dry rations. This will enable refugees to prepare their own meals and diversify their food consumption. The construction of 160 Communal Kitchens (each of which will contain two functioning kitchen facilities) started on 29 August and will be completed by the end of September. WFP is in the process of procuring dry food commodities to be pre-positioned in the camp. The food basket includes wheat flour, bulgur wheat, rice, pasta, lentils, vegetable oil, and sugar.

In addition to hot meals, WFP is distributing welcome packages to new arrivals who come to Al Za'atari camp mostly in the middle of the night, requiring a 24/7 WFP staff presence. The welcome packages are comprised of six ready to eat non-perishable items and they are prepositioned at WFP's rubbhall in the Al Za'atari camp.

**Assessments:** WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR collaborated in conducting the MUAC Rapid Assessment in Al Za'atari camp which concluded on 6 September. Results of the health screening for Pregnant and Lactating Women and Children under five years of age will be used to determine the current nutrition situation and an appropriate intervention modality.

**Monitoring:** During the reporting period WFP Field Monitors made the following observations:

**HOT MEAL DISTRIBUTIONS:** Hot meals in Al Za'atari camp are being delivered in a timelier manner due to an increased number of distribution staff. However, the distribution of hot meals continues to present challenges as the camp continues to expand with new beneficiaries arriving daily.

**VOUCHERS:** Cooperating Partners monitored retailers in order to ensure the proper functioning of the voucher system. In addition, retailers were requested to attach receipts of the exchanged items with the redeemed vouchers. This enables the Cooperating Partners and WFP to ensure that the shop owners are not misusing the vouchers

**Coordination:** On 2 September, a WFP Regional Syria Crisis Meeting took place in Amman. The WFP Regional Director, relevant WFP Country Directors, as well as WFP Emergency Coordinators from Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey and relevant staff from the ODC Regional Bureau came together to reflect on WFP operations in and around Syria and to determine a plan of action both inside Syria and in the neighbouring countries.

## Lebanon

### SITUATION UPDATE

Over 3,500 Syrian refugees registered this week with UNHCR, bringing the total number to 46,509 with an additional 18,532 scheduled to be registered.

Part of the registered caseload is awaiting receipt of their cards required to obtain WFP vouchers; WFP is assisting these refugees with family food packages and

will phase over to vouchers as soon as UNCHR finalises their registration.

The security situation this week has remained relatively calm allowing most project activities to go ahead as planned.

### WFP RESPONSE

WFP is targeting over 33,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon during the August cycle which is now in its final stages and, as suggested by UNHCR, plans for 65,000

beneficiaries during September if their registration is completed.

**In the North,** the August cycle started in Akkar in mid-August and had reached a total of 1,600 households

with 7,800 vouchers and 230 problem case households with food packages. The completion of the distribution in Wadi Khaled was postponed due to as UNHCR's NFIs delays, it resumed on 3 September and in two days 700 households received vouchers while 200 households received food parcels.

August cycle distribution in Tripoli started on 5 and 6 September with 800 households assisted during this reporting period.

As usual, all WFP staff were actively involved in the distribution along with the partner DRC. WFP staff continue to make frequent inspections in all shops to make sure that the voucher redemption goes well and regulations are respected

**In the Bekaa Valley:** The first round of the September voucher distribution is on-going in north Bekaa reaching 998 households so far. However, the voucher distributions in central Bekaa, Saadnayel, Zahle and Qab Elias have been postponed till 11 September due to the delay in receiving the NFI kits to be distributed at the same time.

In the remote areas of north Bekaa DRC will distribute food parcels door to door for 77 HHs for September cycle. This is less than in previous cycles as Masharia al Qaa's beneficiaries, who received food parcels last month, will be receiving vouchers in September cycle.

#### **Assessment:**

**North:** in Tripoli area, the 28 selected shops signed their contracts and received training from DRC and WFP and are now ready to receive the food vouchers for September cycle. Redemption of vouchers continues in the 24 selected shops in Akkar district closely monitored by WFP staff.

**Bekaa Valley:** DRC conducted extra shops assessment in Baalbeck area and, with WFP, selected three shops to participate in the project. A focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted jointly with DRC for beneficiaries

in Mahsari Al Qaa, an area difficult to access for WFP and partners, to assess their preference between vouchers and food parcels. While the final results of the FGD are being consolidated by DRC before sharing, preliminary results show that these beneficiaries would prefer assistance through vouchers even if they have to travel to shops in other areas to redeem them. DRC will start the voucher distribution as soon as the final approval to move from parcels to vouchers is released.

**Monitoring:** During the previous reporting period WFP in Bekaa Valley had conducted 29 HH PDM visits, four distribution monitoring visits and six shop monitoring visits. Main findings included that 100 percent of the interviewed HHs as well as shopkeepers were satisfied with the voucher programme and that the most selected items (according to shopkeepers) are rice, oil, sugar, eggs, canned food, and vegetables.

However some misuse of voucher has been reported highlighting the need for beneficiaries to cover other urgent needs such as cooking gas, NFIs and hygiene products or to pay the rent.

WFP will continue monitoring, building a more comprehensive picture of voucher utilisation and addressing issues raised. WFP has also shared the information with UNHCR who is now working with other organisations to see how the NFI assistance can meet some of the non-food needs raised by beneficiaries. WFP will also request a decision on the use of the UNHCR identity card in shops as this should reduce the opportunity for beneficiaries to sell their vouchers.

**Coordination:** Following the official request from HRC for WFP to assist Lebanese returnees, WFP will participate in a working group chaired by the Government of Lebanon High Relief Commission to develop an interagency assistance strategy. This caseload of less than a thousand families could be included in the WFP beneficiaries for the September distribution cycle if the strategy has been agreed.

## Iraq

### SITUATION UPDATE

According to UNHCR the total number of Syrian refugees has now reached 21,744. The majority of them are in Northern Iraq (more than 3,000 in the Domiz camp) and the rest in the Al Qaim camps in Western Iraq. This number exceeds WFP's planning target for December (15,000), highlighting the need

to revise the food requirements in the September RRP update.

The construction of the UNHCR and Iraqi Red Crescent camp at Ksak (Talafar district of Ninewa) with a capacity for 1,000 people is on-going. Iraqi returnees in this area will be accommodated in school buildings.

Al-Qaim camp is now hosting 2,090 Syrian refugees, while another 3,682 people in the area are accommodated in local schools and public buildings in the city. Construction works are in progress to expand

the capacity of Al-Qaim camp, while 38 percent of the extension of Domiz camp was completed during the reporting period.

## WFP RESPONSE

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WFP is targeting a caseload of up to 15,000 people Syrian nationals by December with the provision of direct in-kind food assistance; priority is given to those in the Domiz camp, Dohuk governorate.

Distributions started on 6 September in Domiz camp and will continue for 10 days until 16 September. The delay in the provision of UNHCR registration list required to prepare the WFP beneficiary list has caused a delay in the distributions. WFP is using temporary coupons for identification of refugees living in the camp to enable them receive their rations. On the first two days, WFP reached about 4,000 beneficiaries with 44mt of food.

WFP is following up the second procurement of 162 mt of food ex Turkey to meet the increased food needs of 10,000 Syrians in Kurdistan Region.

**Assessments:** The final report of the Joint UN Interagency Needs Assessment of Syrian Nationals in Iraq is awaiting approval from the Kurdistan Region Government authorities before dissemination to stakeholders including donors. Preliminary findings of

this assessment indicate that Erbil is conducive to voucher programme implementation to serve the Syrian nationals in the area, including those in Domiz Camp.

A joint UNHCR-UNICEF-WFP international team conducted a rapid assessment in Al Qaim to assess programmatic and operational needs of Syrian refugees in Al Qaim, as well as for Syrians stranded at the border. The assessment covered living conditions, coping mechanisms, protection and gender-based violence, health and nutrition, food security, and education.

**Coordination:** Following the request from the Ministry of Displacement and Migration to assist Syrian national in Al Qaim, WFP is seeking CERF funding to meet emergency needs in the area, which will be included under EMOP BR4. UNHCR is installing various infrastructure in the camp including rubble-halls and they can provide additional storage facilities within short notice if required, including food storage.

## Turkey

### SITUATION UPDATE

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On 5 September the Government of Turkey reported that the number of Syrians registered and accommodated in Turkish camps including those temporarily placed in schools and those undertaking medical treatment in hospitals reached 78,431 persons. According to the officials during the period of 31 August to 4 September, 2,747 persons have returned to Syria voluntarily and 1,038 persons have been admitted and placed in various camps.

Currently there are 11 operational camps including five in Hatay, two in Gaziantep, two in Şanlıurfa, and one in Kahramanmaraş and one container city in Kilis; an additional three camps each with 10,000 capacity are under construction and planned to open during

September 2012. When all camps are completed, Turkey will have the capacity to host 130,000 people. Local authorities informed that there are already 4,000 persons transferred to Karkamış camp and about an additional 4,000 will be transferred from the schools. According to the authorities, there are an estimated 10,200 Syrians across the border close to Kilis and Hatay waiting to be admitted. Reportedly the border is open and humanitarian assistance (food-water-medical assistance) is provided at the zero point of the border. The Government and Turkish Red Crescent also continue to distribute relief items including food to the vulnerable people in the villages across the border.

## WFP RESPONSE

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The WFP Office in Ankara is being set up and voucher specialists have been deployed to Turkey to kick start the implementation of the project. A team of five international support staff has started to work and the first national staff member will begin work on Monday 10 September; identification and recruitment of additional international and national staff is ongoing.

Budget revision number 3 of the Regional Refugee Emergency Operation which incorporates the caseload in Turkey in the operation was endorsed by the Project Review pending some changes and is now being finalized. WFP is planning to start its operation in Kilis camp and later on in Hatay during the fourth quarter of 2012; this first voucher cycle will cover a caseload of 20,000 people. This figure is likely to be reconsidered in BR #4 based on the revised interagency appeal expected to be consolidated in September.

**Assessments:** The final report of the voucher feasibility study recommends a phased transition

from direct food assistance to a market based approach with food vouchers in camps where people have or will have cooking facilities and access to shops. The proposed assistance is expected to be expanded as cooking facilities and access to shop is ensured.

**Coordination:** On Thursday 6 September, WFP met jointly with the TRCS, AFAD and MOFA to discuss the approach for implementation of the voucher programme. The primary objective of the meeting was to discuss at what scale and where the WFP supported voucher programme should be implemented, based on where cooking facilities can be installed. The Government of Turkey once again expressed its support for the WFP operation and will provide written advice on which camps they can install cooking facilities in and the maximum number of beneficiaries that WFP should support by Tuesday; the Government will then sign the LOU.

## Resource Mobilization

Budget revision number 3 of the Regional Refugee Emergency Operation which incorporates the caseload in Turkey in the operation was endorsed by the Project Review Committee pending some changes and is now being finalized

The fourth revision of the budget is now being drafted, which will incorporate the additional caseloads of refugees in the neighbouring countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey based on the revised interagency appeal expected to be consolidated in September

DONOR	CONFIRMED US\$
USA	14,700,000
Japan	3,315,488
ECHO	3,676,471
Switzerland	198,346
CANADA	1,494,024
UN CERF	2,904,292
UN SRAC	1,070,000
UK	4,709,576
Total confirmed	32,068,197
REG EMOP 200433 Cost	34,355,910
<b>SHORTFALL</b>	<b>2,287,713</b>

**Thanks to contributions from ECHO and the governments of USA, Japan, Canada, Switzerland, UK the UN CERF and the UN SRAC US\$22.4M has been resourced to date towards the Regional EMOP, leaving a budget shortfall of US\$11.5M.**

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