

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

Situation Report # 27

Reporting Period: 4 -10 November 2012



World Food Programme

Fighting Hunger Worldwide

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

SYRIA - Dispatches for the November cycle commenced on 5 November. As of 10 November, food assistance for 276,500 beneficiaries arrived in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Idleb, Al-Raqqa and Deir Ezzor governorates.

JORDAN – The first November cycle distribution of dry rations to refugees in Al Za'atri camp started on 2 November and concluded on 10 November. The second round of distribution is planned to start on 16 November. This week, WFP distributed 140kg of bread daily to beneficiaries in King Abdullah Park and 6 mt in Al Za'atri camp.

LEBANON – WFP plans to assist 85,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon in November. During the reporting period, WFP started November cycle voucher distribution in the Bekaa Valley, targeting 40,000 beneficiaries. Distribution in the North targeting 45,000 people will start next week.

IRAQ – WFP is conducting a second round of dry ration distribution to Syrian refugees in Domiz camp that will be completed on 13 November. So far, WFP has distributed 138 mt of mixed food commodities to 9,225 refugees. Starting in December, WFP will distribute vouchers to Syrian refugees in Domiz camp. Food distribution in Al Qaim is expected to start by the end of November.

TURKEY – Through the Electronic Food Card Programme, WFP and the Turkish Red Crescent Society are assisting around 13,000 Syrians in Kilis. WFP is now preparing to launch the programme in Hatay to cover the needs of more than 25,000 people in total. The distribution of cards to beneficiaries in Hatay is scheduled to start on 17 November.

EGYPT – On 12 November, WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF will commence a joint rapid needs assessment of Syrian refugees in Egypt. There are currently over 7,000 Syrians registered with UNHCR in Egypt.



WFP's Executive Director Ertharin Cousin and Regional Director Daly Belgasmi discussing with beneficiaries in a communal kitchen in Al Za'atri Camp, Jordan. ©WFP/ Maria Anguera de Sojo

SITUATION UPDATE

The situation in many areas across the country has been rapidly deteriorating with intensifying armed activities, particularly in Aleppo. On 5 November, SARC main warehouse in Aleppo was hit by the fighting and most humanitarian assistance items stored there, including WFP food, were destroyed. During the same incident, a WFP armoured vehicle, which was parked in the same vicinity, was slightly damaged.

Dispatch and distribution of food assistance as well as monitoring activities were again affected by the deteriorating situation in the country; continuing road closures prevented food assistance from reaching Al-Hasakeh for the second consecutive week; food distribution was put on hold in Al-Haffi town of Lattakia governorate due to the critical situation; distributions and monitoring in Deir Ezzor were hindered; monitoring visits to Idlib and Hama governorates did not take place during the reporting period as both were declared no-go areas for UN staff while monitoring missions to Dara'a, Quneitra as well as several areas in Damascus governorate had to be postponed as a result of the volatile situation.

During the reporting period, the number of reported displaced individuals reached 850,000 in Aleppo,

63,000 in Tartous, 84,000 in Lattakia, 100,000 in Hama, and 130,000 in Idlib.

Market prices are reportedly still very high in all northeastern Syria. For instance, 4 liters of vegetable oil was sold at SYP400 two months ago, while the current price is reportedly SYP750. An increasing number of people are experiencing a lack of cash, especially those forced to leave their areas of origin. Food-related negative coping strategies include reducing the quantity and quality of meals and providing tea instead of milk to babies.

In Aleppo, the majority of basic food items are reportedly available, however, prices remain high. There is an increasing demand from the beneficiaries for canned food as a result of the shortage of cooking fuel. Moreover, government-subsidized bread is scarce especially in hotspot areas. Fuel is largely unavailable or sold at very high prices on the informal market. Power supply has reportedly been cut off in the eastern part of Aleppo city. During interviews, WFP beneficiaries continued to request blankets, mattresses and baby formula as their priority non-food needs.

WFP RESPONSE

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

Food dispatches for November cycle commenced on 5 November and, as of 10 November, food assistance for **276,500** beneficiaries arrived in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Idlib, Al-Raqqa and Deir Ezzor governorates.

The food basket for the November cycle includes 11kg of rice, 3kg of bulgur, 5liters of vegetable oil, 3kg of sugar, 5kg of dried pulses, 2kg of canned pulses and 3kg of pasta. 7,700 family rations will contain dried chickpeas instead of lentils and will be allocated to those governorates where cooking gas is available, namely to Damascus, Lattakia and Tartous.

WFP monitoring activities including household visits and market price collection continued in areas where the situation permitted. During the reporting week, WFP monitored food distributions in Ras El-Ein and Al-Hasakeh cities in Al-Hasakeh governorate, Daheit Abo Zaid and Baba Amr in rural Homs and Homs governorates respectively, Tartous and Al-Hamidieh cities in Tartous governorate and four food distribution points in Aleppo city (Nezar Qabbani, Al-Farouk and Saleh Al-Ali schools and Ammar Bin Yasser mosque sheltering those who were forced to leave their homes in search of safety).

LOGISTICS ACTIVITIES: Through the Special Operation (SO) 200477, WFP continues to provide free logistics services, inclusive of surface transportation and warehousing, to humanitarian organizations responding in Syria to the current crisis. Surface transport is provided to key storage hubs within Syria (Damascus, Tartous and Aleppo) where WFP

undertakes handling and storage of organizations' cargo. WFP continues to provide free storage, handling and transportation services of food and non-food items on behalf of UNICEF, UNRWA, UNFPA, WHO, DRC and Première Urgence.

After two attempts, WFP has been successful in dispatching food assistance for 6,750 beneficiaries to Quneitra as part of the October cycle. Distributions will start as soon as the situation becomes conducive.

As of 8 November, in-country stock stood at 9,713 mt of assorted food commodities while 14,117 mt are currently in-transit and expected to arrive in the country within the coming two months.

COORDINATION: WFP continues to conduct biweekly Food Security and Livelihoods Sector as well as Logistics Sector coordination meetings in Syria with organizations working in these sectors to better coordinate activities and address needs and potential gaps in humanitarian assistance. Logistics Sector coordination meetings are also held in Beirut and Amman on a monthly basis. The last meeting took place on 31 October in Damascus and the next meeting in Amman and Beirut will take place on 14 and 16 November respectively.

RESOURCE UPDATE

Country	Planned Beneficiaries in October 2012	Current EMOP Value till December 2012 (million US\$)	Contributions Received to date (million US\$)	Current Shortfall (million US\$)	Percentage Contributions Received/Shortfall
Syria	1,500,000	136	92	44	68/32

Approximately US\$92 million has been resourced thanks to contributions received from UN CERF, USA, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, Switzerland, European Commission, UK, Finland, France, Ireland, Germany, Kuwait, Russia, India, Republic of Korea, Hungary, Italy and other multilateral donors in addition to carryover from previous operations.

The Special Operation is currently valued at US\$7.1 million and, to date, approximately US\$2 million has been resourced thanks to contributions from the EU, UK and Finland.

For more information please visit: <http://www.wfp.org/countries/syria>

Jordan

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 11 November, UNHCR has registered 87,167 Syrians in Jordan with 31,231 who have received appointments for registration. This increase of some 25,000 refugees from the number reported last week does not represent an influx of Syrians into Jordan, but includes all registered refugees in the country, adding those in Al Za'atri camp who were previously not incorporated in the UNHCR registration figure. During the reporting period, Al Za'atri camp received 3,422 new arrivals. Large numbers of beneficiaries have left the camp either through voluntary return to Syria, the bailing system, or by their own means. Construction continues in the Marjeeb Al Fahood camp near Zarqa, however, weather conditions may delay construction.

The planned capacity is currently for 5,500 people and the camp is scheduled to open by mid-December. WFP is exploring the possibility of increasing the voucher value in urban communities due to winterization concerns and food price increases. In Al Za'atri camp, WFP dry rations combined with UNHCR complimentary goods provides nearly 2,400 calories per person on a daily basis; based on the current level of caloric intake, an increase in calories per person is not necessary for winterization purposes in Al Za'atri camp.

The November cycle dry ration distribution in Al Za'atri camp began on 2 November and concluded 10 November. Reconciliation is ongoing against the database and distribution figures will be reported next week. The next round of dry ration distribution is planned to start on 16 November. In addition, cooperating partner Save the Children continues to distribute welcome meals on a daily basis to new arrivals in Al Za'atri camp and on a daily basis to beneficiaries in King Abdullah Park (KAP); WFP will continue this assistance until markets and kitchens are established and a voucher programme can be implemented there. During the reporting period, WFP distributed 140kg of bread daily to beneficiaries in KAP and 6 mt in Al Za'atri camp. In KAP, construction of two supermarkets is being completed and communal kitchens are currently under construction. Following the completion of kitchens and shops, WFP will implement a voucher programme.

Bread distributions are gradually becoming a less contentious issue with the beneficiaries as they become more accustomed to the new distribution process, however they continue to request a larger bread ration. WFP is working with Save the Children to improve the distribution with proper verification to avoid shortages.

Difficulties in determining the number of beneficiaries in Al Za'atri camp continues to affect WFP operations as many beneficiaries are arriving to receive dry rations with inactive UNHCR ration cards. It is possible that beneficiaries were not present in their tents during the UNHCR tent by tent verification exercise and are therefore no longer registered in the database. WFP and UNHCR are working together to solve these challenges.

Assessments: The General Nutrition Survey in Al Za'atri camp began 4 November with plans to conclude the data collection phase by 12 November. The UNICEF consultant and WFP Regional Bureau VAM and Nutrition units will meet to analyse the data jointly. Over the past week, WFP ran food preference surveys with Syrian refugees and will take into account these preferences when procuring additional commodities.

Monitoring: During the reporting period, field monitors conducted 45 post-distribution monitoring (PDM) interviews in all areas of Al Za'atri camp as well as daily distribution monitoring of general food distributions, bread and welcome meals to new arrivals. The

following observations were made from distribution and post-distribution monitoring in Al Za'atri camp:

- Beneficiaries often cite the efficient and expedient process of dry ration distribution at the food distribution point. On average, it takes between 10 and 30 minutes to receive their rations.
- There has been a recent increase in shops opening along the main road of the camp. Winter clothes, prepared foods such as falafel, fresh vegetables and NFIs are currently being sold by beneficiaries.
- Beneficiaries have consistently reported that oil and sugar are the most preferred WFP commodities.
- Winterization is often discussed now that the temperature is dropping in the camp. Beneficiaries are requesting caravans and warmer clothes.

Voucher field monitors conducted a rapid market assessment to monitor food prices with winterization planning in mind to determine whether the voucher value should be increased. Prices of main food commodities were collected from 16 stores participating in the voucher programme and 23 non-participating stores to capture price fluctuations and factors affecting price changes of the same commodities in different areas and retailers. An analysis of the data is ongoing and results are expected by next week.

Coordination: WFP Executive Director (ED) Ertharin Cousin visited Al Za'atri camp and the Amman office on 8 November. The ED met with Princess Basma bint Talal, Head of the Jordanian Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition (NAJMA), the Prime Minister of Jordan Dr. Abdallah Al Nsour, Foreign Minister Naser Joudeh and Minister of Planning Dr. Jaafar Hassan. During her field visit to Al Za'atri camp, the ED received a briefing from UNHCR, UNICEF and JHCO at the registration centre, then toured the FDP, met with beneficiaries, visited women cooking in a community kitchen, and gave a joint press conference together with head of JHCO Mr. Ayman Almufleh. The ED also met with WFP staff from Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan in the Amman office to discuss her plans for the organisation and receive their comments on the re-organization, national staffing and how to improve operational capacity in the region.

The first nutrition working group meeting was held on 6 November between WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, Save the Children, WHO and International Medical Corps. They discussed infant young child feeding (IYCF) in both Al Za'atri camp and host communities in Jordan.

The health communications group met this week to discuss their communication strategy for Al Za'atri camp with an agreement on messaging for food security, food safety, nutrition, school feeding and WASH activities.

Lebanon

SITUATION UPDATE

To date, 83,860 Syrian refugees are registered with UNHCR in Lebanon; an additional 31,000 have been in contact with UNHCR to be registered. This brings the total number of refugees in Lebanon to 115,000.

UNHCR has finalized registration in Qaa and registration will move to Al Marj on 12 November to register refugees from Central and West Bekaa where more than 2,000 families are awaiting registration.

WFP RESPONSE

WFP has assisted over 66,000 beneficiaries in the October cycle so far, distributions are ongoing.

North: The final figures for October cycle assistance in the North between 16 October and 6 November were 35,724 registered Syrian refugees (7,766 households) in Akkar and Tripoli areas. WFP reached 33,511 people (7,169 households) with food vouchers and an additional 2,213 people (597 households) with 597 food parcels due to late registration or database problem cases. Around 10% of the printed vouchers were not distributed due to no-shows.

Concluding the October cycle in Halba, food and non-food item (NFI) distribution took place on 5 and 6 November. WFP distributed food vouchers to around 7,360 people (1,500 households) during these two days.

On 5 November, Qobayat Sub-Office received 47,000 blank vouchers for the November cycle. They will be printed over the weekend and distribution will start shortly thereafter.

WFP staff crosschecked the second round of redeemed food vouchers for September cycle, collected last week by WFP cooperating partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC). No errors were identified and DRC received authorization to pay the partner shops.

Bekaa Valley: In October, WFP assisted 25,199 beneficiaries with full-value food vouchers and during the last week, an additional 4,781 half-value mid-month food vouchers were printed and handed over to WFP cooperating partners who have finalized the mid-month second round of October distribution in all areas.

For the first November cycle distribution, WFP printed 31,299 vouchers and handed them over to cooperating partners DRC and World Vision (WV). The first

November cycle voucher distribution started on 4 November and will be finalized on 15 November in the Bekaa Valley.

On 5 and 6 November, the WFP Regional Bureau IT Assistant trained the new WFP Database Managers for the North and Bekaa Valley on the Access Database for food voucher printing and reconciliation. Partners also participated in the training. Following DRC's request for support in its fuel voucher programme in the Bekaa Valley, WFP shared its voucher printing database and provided database training to DRC.

Assessments: DRC assessed and selected additional stores in Arsal to accommodate for the increase in the number of beneficiaries in the area; this new selection will ensure more options and food availability and accessibility to the beneficiaries in Arsal.

Together with UNHCR, WFP conducted planning visits to the South (Nabatieh, Marjaayoun, Khiyam, Tyre, Bint Jbeil). During these visits, WFP staff met with municipal representatives, local authorities and active NGOs in the region to prepare for the launch of the voucher programme in December.

Monitoring: In the North, the Qobayat WFP staff conducted nine household post-distribution monitoring (PDM) interviews around Halba. No major problems were detected during the interviews, except some partner shops nearby that were allowing refugees to purchase hygienic items using their food vouchers.

The October household PDM continued for the October cycle this week in the Bekaa Valley for 15 households; six distribution points were also monitored.

Highlights from the previous week's monitoring include:

- 48 household PDM surveys were conducted.

- Type of residence: 83% rent, 13% hosted and 4% in tents.
- The vouchers are fully redeemed in an average of two weeks after the distribution.
- The most selected food items: 24% oil, 20% pulses, 12% cereals and canned food.
- 59% used the vouchers to purchase fresh food including vegetables, dairy products, eggs, meat and bread.
- The vouchers cover food needs for an average of 3 weeks.
- 87% purchased extra food; the main food items purchased outside the voucher are vegetables (45%) and bread (38%).
- 54% faced a food shortage in the past two months.
- 57% used part of their vouchers to cover other needs: 42% hygiene, 23% soap, 12 % shampoo and 12% cash.
- 96% prefer the food vouchers over the food parcels.

Coordination: The WFP Head of Sub-Office in the Bekaa Valley visited local authorities on 5 November to discuss the WFP operation and inform them about the Executive Director's (ED) visit during the week. WFP's ED visited Lebanon from 6 to 8 November and met with UN officials, the President of the Lebanese Republic, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Social Affairs. The ED visited the voucher programme in the Bekaa Valley and gave a press conference upon her return from the field.

UNHCR has organised a meeting on 12 November to discuss the fourth revision to the Regional Response Plan which is planned to be launched in Geneva on 19 December.

WFP continues negotiations with potential cooperating partners for programme implementation in the areas surrounding Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon.

Iraq

SITUATION UPDATE

As of 7 November, UNHCR reported that there are 49,032 registered refugees in Iraq. The majority are in Kurdistan Region governorates. UNHCR reports that some 15,000 refugees currently reside in Domiz camp, while others move between the camp and host communities due to a lack of formal shelter facilities.

WFP, humanitarian partners and local authorities are concerned about resources to meet the needs of the increasing number of refugees in Northern Iraq. The Department of Displacement and Migration (DDM) has discontinued its assistance, expecting WFP and

UNHCR to step up. WFP Iraq is reviewing its pipeline management to increase resourcing to meet both food and voucher requirements.

Food prices have remained relatively stable since October; however, there has been an increase of 10-12% in the price of pulses and vegetable oil. Regular market price monitoring in the Al-Qaim area will start after the hiring process of an Al-Qaim based Programme Assistant is completed by the third week of November.

WFP RESPONSE

Following the arrival of food commodities, WFP initiated October cycle distributions on 22 October to Syrian refugees in Domiz. By 12 November, WFP reached 9,225 Syrian refugees in Domiz with 139 mt of direct food assistance. The ration is comprised of: rice, sugar, wheat flour, pulses, vegetable oil, sugar and salt. Food distribution in Al-Qaim will start immediately after the arrival of food parcels which are expected to arrive in Iraq by the end of November.

WFP will launch its value-based voucher programme in Domiz in December targeting over 10,000 Syrian refugees.

Due to expected shortfall created by the increasing number of refugees, WFP Iraq has requested the Regional Bureau Resource Unit to help secure advance funding to procure food for 15,000 Syrians in Domiz camp in the month of December. Meanwhile, WFP is preparing to launch its voucher programme in Domiz in December. There is an urgent need to prepare for the needs of the

increasing number of refugees in the coming months.

Assessments: WFP is planning to conduct a Household Food Security Assessment in December of the refugees in Domiz.

After the launch of the voucher programme in Iraq, WFP will start to conduct regular market price data collection of the shops under the voucher system.

WFP conducted regular food and beneficiary contact monitoring in Dahuk during the reporting period. Some findings indicate that refugees who managed to escape Syria into Iraq have spent significant amounts of money during their journey; most refugees have arrived in Iraq with limited personal

resources and are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Coordination: UNHCR has confirmed in a recent coordination meeting that a full-fledged winterization plan is being implemented in the two camps in Al-Qaim. This includes replacement of all existing tents with more wind and cold resistant tents and the provision of additional quilts and blankets, cooking stoves, heaters, kerosene and other necessities for each family. IOM has also supplied some winterization items that complement UNHCR supplies.

Turkey

SITUATION UPDATE

According to official Government figures as of 9 November, there are 112,883 Syrians accommodated in 14 camps in seven provinces and in a temporary reception centre. This represents an increase of over 6,000 people compared to unofficial figures released a week ago.

Since the beginning of the crisis in April 2011, more than 155,000 Syrians have been admitted and registered in Turkey and some 46,000 have returned to Syria.

There are currently five tent cities in Hatay, two in Şanlıurfa, three in Gaziantep, and one in

Kahramanmaraş, Osmaniye and Adiyaman. In addition, there is one container city in Kilis.

Local Government officials have informed the UN that there are more than 10,000 Syrians at the borders of Hatay and Kilis provinces, however not all are willing to cross to Turkey because of the humanitarian assistance provided at the zero point of the border and also because some prefer to remain at the border area as they feel safer there.

WFP RESPONSE

Through the Electronic Food Card Programme, WFP and the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) are assisting around 13,000 Syrians in Kilis and will expand to Hatay over the coming weeks to cover more than 25,000 people in total.

Syrian refugees continue to redeem transferred funds through the electronic food cards with satisfaction. TRCS received the updated list of beneficiaries from the Disaster and Emergency Response Management Presidency (AFAD) and have charged the cards for the second cycle in November; the third cycle will begin on 15 November.

WFP and TRCS have delayed the launch of the programme in Hatay from 15 to 17 November. WFP has received the list of beneficiaries from AFAD

for three camps in Yaykadagi and Altinozu Governorates and will use it to print the cards. Shops are currently being contracted and electronic terminals are planned to be installed in shops on 13 November; expansion in the fourth camp in Hatay, Altinozu Boynu, is planned in the following days along with the installation of a retailer shop in the camp.

The Head of the Response Division at AFAD made a request to WFP and TRCS to expand the programme to cover all of the camps in Turkey. AFAD and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) will provide WFP with a written request to increase assistance to cover all camps and for the provision of 15,000 sets of household cooking facilities. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has also indicated willingness to support the

provision of these items through TRCS. WFP is working with AFAD and TRCS to develop a plan for the roll out of the kitchen facilities and scale up of the programme during late 2012 and early 2013. It is anticipated that a draft plan will be available by 16 November.

Assessments: The voucher feasibility study recommended 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.

Recent discussions with the Government of Turkey indicated a possible increase of 10,000 beneficiaries in Turkey by the end of 2012.

Coordination: Representatives from WFP Turkey travelled to Amman to meet with WFP’s Executive Director (ED) as part of a regional briefing. WFP Turkey briefed the ED on the activities and challenges faced by WFP in Turkey.

On 5 and 6 November, the WFP Emergency Coordinator briefed the Inter-Agency Standing Committee members and donor representatives in Geneva on the WFP-TRCS Electronic Food Card Programme. Both meetings were well attended and amongst others, 16 permanent mission representatives in attendance expressed enthusiasm about the electronic food card modality and its successful implementation in Turkey.

Regional Coordination and Resource Mobilization

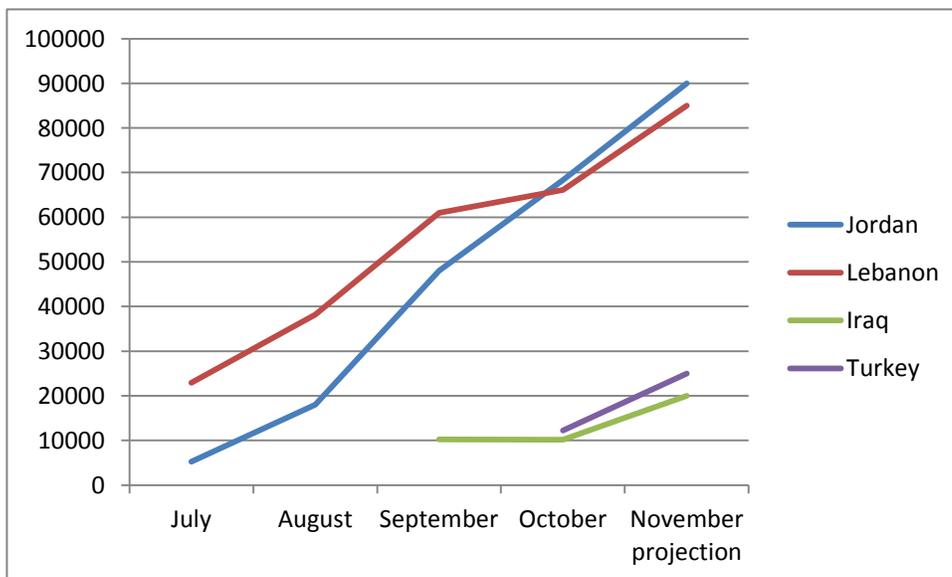
WFP Executive Director (ED) Ertharin Cousin visited Lebanon and Jordan from 6 to 9 November. The mission was successful and gave her the opportunity to observe WFP assistance to Syrian refugees and meet Government authorities, partners, and staff members working on the Syria and Regional Emergency Operation in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq. The ED’s mission to both Lebanon and Jordan included well attended press conferences where she was able to advocate for increased assistance to the Syrian refugees.

Discussions on the planning of the next budget revisions, winterization plans, programming for host communities and harmonization of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools remain ongoing.

Follow up meetings with UNHCR to discuss WFP inputs and cooperate on the UNHCR-led inter-agency Participatory Assessment for refugees outside the camps took place during the reporting period. The VAM Regional Advisor contributed to the discussion. Training for the assessment is planned to take place on 13 November.

The protection advisor started on 5 November and is working on protection issues in the Syrian Refugee affected countries. Protection TORs have been circulated, the work plan is being developed and protection awareness training for all field monitors and voucher staff in Al Za’atri camp has been arranged for the coming week.

WFP Assistance Under the Regional EMOP July to November (projection) 2012



Resource update -Budget Revision 4-				
Country	Requirements (US\$)	Resourced (US\$)	Shortfalls (US\$)	Percent Shortfall
Jordan	33,833,855	15,418,844	18,415,011	54%
Lebanon	16,765,670	9,407,771	7,357,899	53%
Iraq	4,928,479	2,528,892	2,399,587	23%
Turkey	7,163,402	6,654,619	508,783	6%
EMOP total	62,691,406	34,010,127	28,681,279	46%

USA, Japan, ECHO, Switzerland, Canada, Sweden, UN CERF, SRAC (USA), UK, Saudi Arabia and Sweden have contributed to the EMOP

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