

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

## Situation Report # 19

Reporting Period: 9- 15 September 2012



**World Food Programme**

*Fighting Hunger Worldwide*

### HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

**SYRIA** – The situation across the country continues to be tense resulting in operational constraints for WFP such as delays in dispatches and curtailed monitoring activities.

Director of WFP Field Security Division, Stephen Gluning, visited Syria during the reporting period to conduct an assessment of the situation in the country.

Dispatches for the September cycle are underway with rations for 100,500 beneficiaries dispatched as of 15 September.

**JORDAN** – During the reporting period, WFP distributed a total of 340,000 hot meals (an average of 52,000 meals per day) through its implementing partners TUA, Thaghar Al Madina, and Radi Shedifat in Al Za'atari camp and King Abdullah Park. In addition, WFP provided an average of 4,213 welcome meals to new arrivals in Al Za'atari Camp.

**LEBANON** – In the North, the last distribution for August cycle has been completed; overall WFP reached 22,575 beneficiaries, including 10,660 individuals with food-vouchers in Akkar and 11,915 individuals with food-kits in Tripoli. This means that the August distribution cycle for the whole country is now complete.

In Bekaa Valley, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has distributed 7,479 vouchers in north Bekaa for the first round of September voucher distribution. In remote areas, DRC delivered 77 food parcels to families door to door.

**IRAQ** – During the reporting period, WFP and Islamic Relief Iraq, working in partnership with Barzani Foundation, have distributed 68.71mt of food to 5,261 Syrians in Domiz camp.

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



WFP Food distribution in Domiz Camp, Northern Iraq. © WFP/Sarbast Raouf.

### SITUATION UPDATE

The situation remains tense across the country with armed activities on-going in various governorates and on international roads causing WFP dispatches to be delayed and monitoring activities hindered especially in Idleb, Homs and Aleppo.

The volatile situation in Syria remains the main challenge for WFP operations in the country. Inconsistent mobile phone and internet services have been reported by Qamishly Sub-Office.

During a visit to Syria, Director of WFP Field Security Division, Stephen Gluning, conducted an assessment of the situation in the country, held meetings with various stakeholders, accompanied WFP Damascus Programme Unit staff on field missions and visited WFP Tartous Sub-Office.

In September, as per the allocation plan prepared by WFP and SARC, Rural Damascus governorate has the

highest allocation (16 percent of total allocations) as it is hosting significant numbers of people coming from various governorates. Homs and Aleppo allocations represent 15 and 13 percent respectively in response to humanitarian needs in both cities.

Based on reports from Qamishly Sub-Office, as of 13 August, numbers of new arrivals registered with SARC in North-Eastern Syria reached 276,340 individuals (47,500 originally from Deir Ezzor, 127,500 from Al-Raqqa and 101,340 from Al-Hasakeh).

*In September, WFP has responded to escalated humanitarian needs by increased allocations of food assistance in affected areas.*

### 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, placing ever larger demands on SARC, 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. A training plan for SARC staff and volunteers is also being prepared to take place in September. During the reporting period, SARC HQ dispatched equipment provided by WFP to all its branches (2 desktops, 2 laptops and 1 printer each). This equipment is expected to improve the implementing partner's beneficiary registration process and distribution reporting.

In addition to SARC, WFP continues to explore opportunities to enter into new direct partnerships with local NGOs and/or charity based organizations.

Based on the current pipeline situation, the nutrition value of the food basket for the September cycle represents approximately 1,000 kcal per person per day

and is estimated to increase in October when the pipeline forecast is improved.

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

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

**Dispatches for the September cycle** commenced on 8 September and, as of 15 September, 20,100 family rations for **100,500 beneficiaries** had been dispatched.

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).

WFP has identified a warehouse complex near Tartous from where food rations can be packed and delivered to northern parts of the country. The storage facility can also be made available for Inter-Agency cargo.

### COORDINATION:

To improve inter-agency logistics coordination for the humanitarian community undertaking activities in

response to the events in Syria, WFP established a logistics coordination mechanism in Damascus, Beirut and Amman. Meetings are held in all three locations every two weeks. In addition, bilateral operational meeting was held between WFP and UNICEF on 12 September in Damascus.

During the reporting week, WFP provided handling services and transportation of over 22 mt of hygiene, recreational and health kits, food, household equipment, clothes and other Non-Food Items (NFI) on behalf of DRC, UNICEF and UNFPA. WFP also provided storage services of 2.5 mt of first aid kits on behalf of UNICEF.

To ensure a coherent flow of logistics information to all stakeholders, relevant logistics information products (such as maps, assessments, snapshots, etc.) continue to be produced and disseminated to humanitarian actors through a defined mailing list on a regular basis. To enable access to logistics information not intended for public distribution, a web based shared folder for all humanitarian stakeholders has been created. In

addition, OCHA shared with WFP their Geographical Data Base (GDB) for Syria consisting of administrative boundaries and populated areas.

WFP is ready to provide packaging facilities, on a cost recovery basis, to humanitarian organizations that have signed Service Level Agreements (SLAs). Service providers have been identified in Beirut in case Lebanon-based packaging operations for Syria are required.

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, are currently assessing possible automated digitalized solutions for better tracking of supplies and services.

## 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.**

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 10 September, UNHCR has registered 49,236 Syrian nationals in Jordan and reports that 10,568 Syrians are awaiting registration.

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.

During the reporting period, Al Za'atari camp received 4,213 new arrivals, bringing the total number of people in the camp to about 29,500. UNHCR is working to gather accurate figures.

The number of beneficiaries in King Abdullah Park (KAP) in Ramtha decreased from 1,557 to 1,250 during the reporting period.

### WFP RESPONSE

In September, WFP will provide voucher assistance to 40,058 individuals. WFP already printed vouchers for this second phase.

WFP is also assisting an increasing number of Syrian nationals with hot meals in additional transit centers close to the border. WFP has provided a total of 340,000 hot meals (an average of 52,000 meals per day) through its implementing partners *Tkiyet Um Ali* (TUA), Thaghar Al Madina, and Radi Shedifat in Al Za'atari camp in Mafraq and King Abdullah Park in Ramtha. In addition, WFP provided an average of 4,213 welcome meals to new arrivals in Al Za'atari camp.

WFP and UNHCR are working together to set up kitchen facilities for refugees at Al Za'atari camp to transition from hot meal distribution to dry rations. The aim is to have 160 communal kitchen blocks (320 individual kitchens) in place by the 30 September. This will enable refugees to prepare their own meals and diversify their food consumption. Each kitchen will be shared by 12 families and the kitchens will have sinks and solar-powered lights, but not running water. 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.

**Assessments:** WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR collaborated in conducting the MUAC Rapid Assessment in Al Za'atari camp which concluded on 6 September. Initial findings include that 2% of children from 6-59 months are "severely malnourished", 2.1% are "moderately

malnourished" and 6.9% were found to be at risk of malnutrition. The survey indicated that 2.3% of children need supplementation. Half of the children surveyed were suffering from an illness, most commonly diarrhoea, respiratory infection and fever.

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

**HOT MEAL DISTRIBUTIONS:** Discussions with beneficiaries in Al Za'atari camp revealed that the beneficiaries would prefer a greater variety of food to be included in the hot meals. WFP recognizes that a varied diet is essential to the health and satisfaction of beneficiaries and is working in coordination with UNHCR and JHCO to establish a complementary meal programme.

**VOUCHERS:** WFP monitors have visited 29 of the 33 shops. No major issues were discovered during the monitoring process. WFP began tracking the vouchers and prepared a database of the beneficiaries that received vouchers during the first phase. The database will be used by cooperating partners to identify beneficiaries of the voucher programme during the second.

**Coordination:** WFP hosted a Food Sector Meeting to discuss the process for revising the Regional Response Plan. The meeting was attended by UNHCR, NGOs, and JHCO. Partners were asked to submit inputs for the revision of the Regional Response Plan to UNHCR by 10 September. The plan will be formally launched on 1 October.

## Lebanon

### SITUATION UPDATE

Over 3,100 Syrian refugees registered this week with UNHCR, bringing the total number to 49,653 with an additional 18,307 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 UNHCR finalises their registration.

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

### WFP RESPONSE

WFP assisted more than 38,000 Syrian Refugees in Lebanon during the August Cycle compared with the target of 33,000. In coordination with UNHCR, WFP plans to assist 65,000 beneficiaries during September if the registration is completed. **In the North**, the distribution of food-kits took place in Tripoli between

10 and 12 September: 1,155 households received food-kits, and 57 individuals from Akkar received food-vouchers. The August distribution cycle is now complete assisting 22,575 beneficiaries, including 10,660 individuals with food-vouchers in Akkar and 11,915 individuals with food-kits in Tripoli.



Between 10 and 13 September, DRC started door-to-door distributions to vulnerable, newly arrived and unregistered Syrian refugees in Akkar: 14 food-kits were distributed to 56 individuals.

**In the Bekaa Valley:** In Bekaa Valley, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has distributed 7,479 vouchers in north Bekaa for the first round of September voucher distribution. This includes the voucher distribution for Mashari Al Qaa beneficiaries in Fakeha which had been receiving food parcels up to now. DRC delivered 77 food parcels door to door to families in remote areas.

The voucher distributions in Central Bekaa (Zahle and Qab Elias) and in West Bekaa (Jib Jannine) have been completed this week. In Saadnayel voucher distributions will take place next Tuesday, 18 September.

#### **Assessment:**

**Bekaa Valley:** DRC conducted extra shops assessments in Majdal Anjar area and with WFP, selected two shops from four assessed. 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. The final results of the FGD have been consolidated by DRC and shared. The results indicate these beneficiaries would prefer assistance through vouchers even if they have to travel to shops in other areas to redeem them. Following this assessment, DRC will select additional shops in Fakeha for the Masharii El Qaa beneficiaries.

**Monitoring:** WFP staff in the North are conducting close monitoring visits on the 24 selected shops receiving the vouchers in Akkar. WFP in Bekaa Valley

conducted 20 HH PDM visits, two distribution monitoring visits and four shop monitoring visits during this period. The 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 and partners will meet on Monday 17 September to evaluate shop performance and the way forward.

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 has also requested 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 participated in a working group chaired by the Government of Lebanon High Relief Commission to develop an interagency assistance strategy. The main issue remains the targeting criteria and the official registration system to be put in place by the Government of Lebanon. WFP integrated the forecasted caseload of a thousand families into the forthcoming Budget Revision so they can be assisted if an agreement on the assistance approach is reached.

## **Iraq**

### **SITUATION UPDATE**

According to UNHCR the total number of Syrian refugees has now reached 25,508. This includes 20,987 in Kurdistan (80% in Dohuk Governorate),

4,490 in Al Qaim and 36 others in Al Waleed and Rabia.

UNHCR and WFP have agreed to use 60,000 for planning requirements under the RRP by December.

### **WFP RESPONSE**

WFP is currently targeting a caseload of up to 15,000 people Syrian nationals by December (this

will increase under the forthcoming budget revision) with the provision of direct in-kind food

assistance; priority is given to those in the Domiz camp, Dohuk governorate.

As of 15 September, WFP and Islamic Relief Iraq working in partnership with Barzani Foundation have distributed 68.71mt of food to 5,261 Syrians in Domiz camp. The distribution of September rations is expected to be completed by early next week, reaching a total of 10,000 Syrians registered by UNHCR and DDM.

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. Two trucks carrying 30 mt of rice arrived at Ibrahim Khalil customs post in Iraq on 17 September awaiting clearances by health and customs authorities for off-loading.

There is an urgent need to procure the next consignment to cover needs for October while working on the set up of the voucher programme.

WFP is looking for urgent additional resources to meet the food needs of refugees in Al Qaim for October 2012. Assessments:

The Kurdistan Regional Government Bureau of Migration and Displacement (BDM) approved the final report of the Joint UN Interagency Needs Assessment of Syrian Nationals in Iraq on 10 September. Accordingly, the report is now public and being circulated to interested stakeholders including donors.

A joint UNHCR-UNICEF-WFP international team conducted a rapid assessment in Al Qaim from 2 to 4 September to assess programmatic and operational needs of Syrian refugees in this area as well as for Syrians stranded at the border. The assessment shows that the refugees increasingly depend on the host community and local authorities for food assistance. For this reason the Government of Iraq has closed the border at Al Qaim to contain large scale influxes which it cannot easily manage. On 16 August, the Ministry of Displacement officially requested WFP to take over the feeding of the refugees and WFP prepared a CERF application for assisting 7,000 Syrians in Al Qaim camp. WFP expects to commence food assistance in Al Qaim in October contingent on the availability of funding.

## Turkey

### SITUATION UPDATE

As of 13 September, according to the Government of Turkey there are 80,177 Syrians registered and accommodated in Turkish camps including those temporarily placed in schools and those undertaking medical treatment in hospitals. According to the officials the Syrians who are waiting across the borders of Hatay and Kilis are admitted gradually (about 2,000 persons daily). However, despite these admissions, the number of people across the border waiting to be admitted remains between 8,000 and 10,000.

The new arrivals are referred to the recently opened new camps of Kahramanmaraş and Osmaniye. According to the local authorities, the Camp in Adıyaman will also be ready to accommodate people in a week while the camp

management of Akçakale is working to increase the capacity of the camp. Furthermore AFAD reported that there will be an additional camp in Akçakale by end of September with a capacity of 2,200 tents, estimated to accommodate about 11,000 people.

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.

The Government and Turkish Red Crescent continue to distribute relief items including food to the vulnerable people in the villages across the border.

### WFP RESPONSE

The WFP Office in Ankara has a team of five international support staff and one national staff member; identification and recruitment of

additional national staff is ongoing, and four additional staff have been identified to start with WFP in the coming weeks. A second recruitment

round for national staff will begin by the end of September. 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: the updated documents have now been submitted for final approval. WFP is planning to start its operation in Kilis camp and later on in Hatay province in October; 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 12 September, WFP held another technical level meeting with staff from TRCS to discuss details relating to the implementation of the voucher system. TRCS confirmed its intention to partner with WFP for the voucher programme. The discussion was focused primarily on the feasibility of a phased approach in which 20,000 displaced Syrians would be targeted initially. Implementation will begin first in Kilis, and a field trip of TRCS and WFP technical staff will travel to Gaziantep (in the region of the Kilis camp) on 17 September to plan implementation and to undertake meetings with local government officials.

## 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; the updated documents have now been submitted for final approval.

The fourth revision of the budget is now being drafted, which will incorporate increased refugee numbers in the neighbouring countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey in line with the revised interagency appeal due to be launched in Geneva on 1 October.

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
SRAC (SWE)	1,219,800
Total confirmed	33,287,997
REG EMOP 200433 Cost	34,355,910
<b>SHORTFALL</b>	<b>1,067,913</b>

*WFP operated in Jordan and Lebanon since April and May respectively under two Immediate Response Emergency Operations. These operations were fully funded by Japan with a contribution of USD 2,684,512, bringing the overall contribution of Japan to WFP Regional Refugee Operations to USD6 million.*

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