

Situation Update

31 OCTOBER – 11 NOVEMBER 2014

SYRIA LEBANON JORDAN TURKEY IRAQ EGYPT

HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP food reaches 60,000 besieged civilians in Homs, Syria.
- Food deliveries to Al Hasakeh through Nusaybin corridor underway for second consecutive month.
- WFP supports Government of Lebanon's assistance to vulnerable Lebanese
- WFP to expand assistance to non-camp refugees in Turkey.
- Iraq's Akre and Darashakran camps to transition to voucher assistance.

Five year-old Ahmad, a refugee from Syria, walks with his grandfather every day to the mosque near their tent in Al Za'atri camp, Jordan.

WFP/Joelle Eid



November dispatches on track despite security challenges

As of the middle of the month, over 430,000 food rations for some 2.1 million people had been dispatched to 11 Syrian governorates as part of the November cycle – constituting over 50 percent of the monthly plan. Insecurity continued to hinder food deliveries to Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa, completely cut-off since May and July respectively. In Hama, a further deterioration of the security situation in rural areas led to a slow-down of deliveries to the governorate since the end of October, as trucks are exposed to worsening security threats and forced to navigate numerous check points. As a result, and following a recent security incident involving a commercial truck, drivers have become increasingly unwilling to travel this route. Similar security challenges continue to prevent deliveries in conflict ravaged rural areas of Quneitra and Dar’a governorates, where the conflict further intensified over the reporting period.

Food supplies for 227,000 people cross Nusaybin border for second consecutive month

Following the shipment of 45,000 rations during October, WFP began the consignment of a second tranche of 46,000 rations to Al-Hasakeh governorate through the Nusaybin corridor on 11 November. By mid-month, approximately half of the planned quantities had already reached WFP storage facilities in Qamishly, to be dispatched in the coming days. Meanwhile, approximately 90 percent of rations transhipped in October have been delivered to partners who are distributing them to beneficiaries in several parts of the governorate, including contested or opposition-held areas such as Hole, Tel Brak, Tel Hamis, Shaddada, Ras Al-Ein and Abu Rasin.

Food supplies for 60,000 people reach civilians under partial siege in Homs

A total of 12,000 WFP food rations reached the besieged neighbourhood of Al-Wa’er in western Homs City as part of a 23-truck inter-agency convoy on 11 November, providing food assistance for 60,000 civilians along with other life-saving humanitarian supplies. This followed a first attempt on 8 November, when the convoy had to be postponed due to security concerns. Distributions started on 15 November and are being carried out by three cooperating partners - SARC and two local NGOs - while project facilitators will be responsible for verifying the distribution process.



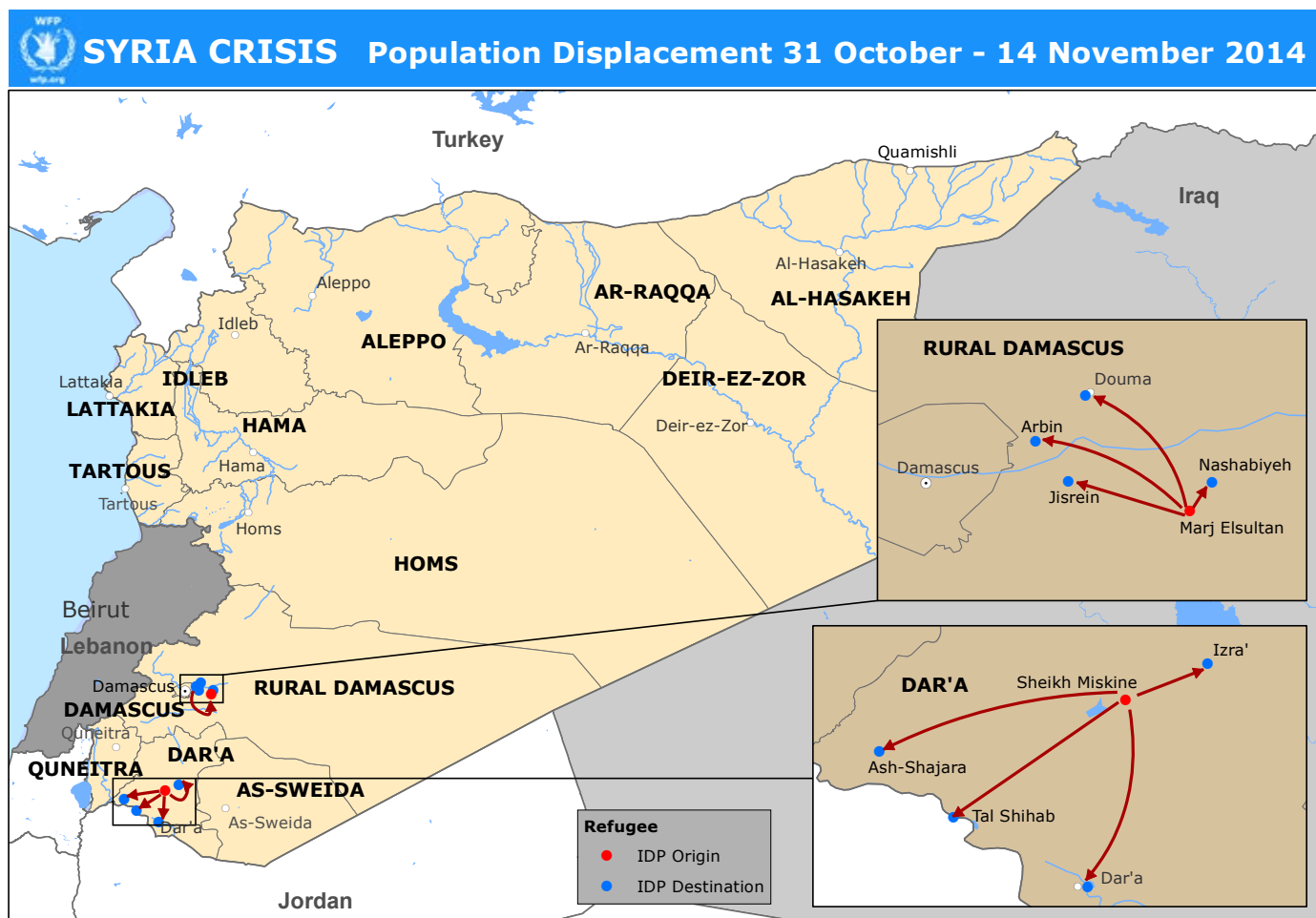
Food distributions in Al Wa’er

Al Wa’er has been under partial siege since October 2013, with only limited and irregular supplies allowed into the area. The security situation deteriorated significantly following a failed truce agreement last month, further affecting the safety and food security of the population, currently estimated at some 125,000 people. Over half of Al-Waer’s population consists of IDPs from rural areas of the governorate, now mostly living in precarious conditions in unfinished buildings, schools and makeshift accommodation. With strict limitations applied to the flow of supplies allowed in, acute shortages of all basic food commodities are reported in Al-Wa’er, while available items are sold at 35 percent above the average prices in the rest of Homs City.

Hard-to-reach areas witness new IDP influx

New waves of displacement were reported in conflict-affected parts of the country, where limited resources are already overstretched and the protracted restrictions on humanitarian access strain local capacities to meet the needs of a growing vulnerable IDP population. In Dar’a, approximately 18,000 civilians were displaced to Izra’, Dar’a city, Ash-Shajara and Tal Shihab in less than 48 hours, as an outbreak of fighting hit the western part of the country on 11 November. The newly displaced families, most of whom have undergone multiple displacements and who are reportedly in dire conditions, are being hosted in temporary shelters, including schools or among hosting families. WFP’s partner SARC is assessing needs and conditions of affected households and has distributed emergency WFP food rations, with additional food rations to be provided on the basis of reported needs.

In Rural Damascus, an escalation of violence in Marj El Sultan, Eastern Ghouta, forced the displacement of tens of families to surrounding locations, including Jsrein, Arbin, Douma and Nashabiyeh. Concerns are growing over the food security situation in the area, where an estimated 600,000 civilians have been living under siege since October 2012. After almost two years of blockade, local markets are registering acute food shortages of most basic food commodities, while reports indicate that vulnerable residents are adopting extreme coping strategies. Since the beginning of the siege, WFP has only been able to deliver limited quantities in the area - 2,000 family food rations for 10,000 people - in March and May 2014.



WFP scales up support to primary school children in Aleppo and Tartous

WFP carried out an orientation and capacity building training to over 200 school principals and representatives of the local Department of Education in Aleppo and Tartous, in preparation of the launch of the school feeding programme in these two governorates at the end of November. Dispatches of fortified date bars to selected schools are planned to commence in the second half of November, providing daily nutritional support to an initial target of 30,000 primary school children in Aleppo and 10,000 in Tartous. Combined with the 43,000 children already reached in Rural Damascus, WFP's school feeding programme will scale-up its target to over 80,000 children by December.

Targeted areas are selected on the basis of a combination of vulnerability and education indicators. Schools visited in west Aleppo City, for instance, showed high levels of vulnerability, with IDPs from other areas of the governorate accounting for up to 70 percent of the enrolled children, a significant number of whom were reported to be living under extreme conditions. Baseline surveys are ongoing in Rural Damascus, Tartous and Aleppo, enabling WFP to measure programme progress and effectiveness.



WFP provides technical assistance to the Government of Lebanon for food assistance to vulnerable Lebanese

The 1.14 million Syrian refugees currently in Lebanon - representing 25 percent of the country's population - significantly increase competition for jobs and resources in the country. Compounded by the economic downturn, Lebanese communities have been affected by increased poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. In response, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), as part of the Emergency National Poverty Targeting Programme (E-NPTP), launched a program on 5 November to provide food assistance to vulnerable Lebanese using WFP's e-card platform. Funded by the World Bank and UNHCR, MoSA plans to reach some 27,270 vulnerable Lebanese with entitlements of US\$30 a month, redeemable for food items at 410 WFP shops across the country.

WFP's role is primarily to provide capacity building support to MoSA - leveraging its extensive experience implementing the e-voucher programme - in addition to developing monitoring and evaluation tools and training of MoSA field staff. The first set of E-NPTP cards are being distributed in major distribution points by MoSA Social Development Centre staff, accompanied by WFP field staff, with cards to be activated towards the end of November. A baseline pilot is underway with MoSA field staff to establish a full-scale baseline, measuring pre-assistance food consumption scores, health indicators and coping mechanisms. The baseline will establish the basis for measuring the impact of the MoSA food assistance on vulnerable Lebanese over time.

WFP caseload for food assistance to new arrivals reduced in line with lower refugee influx

The Government of Lebanon announced in October 2014 that no further refugees from Syria would be accepted into the country, except in what the authorities deem to be "exceptional" cases. Syrian refugees who choose to temporarily return to Syria will similarly have their permits revoked. Accordingly, the number of WFP parcels distributed to eligible new arrivals from Syria is expected to decrease significantly over the coming period.

WFP's operations continue despite clashes in Tripoli and Akkar

Despite several security incidents in Tripoli and Akkar that resulted in travel restrictions towards the end of October, WFP met its monthly field monitoring targets and delivered food parcels to 153 new arrivals. Meanwhile, the e-card distribution was successfully implemented in the area following the restoration of access. While blockades and disruptions on major highways regularly used to deliver food to Syria were also reported, food was sent as planned using alternate routes.



Targeting continues as appeals committee reviews applications for re-inclusion

A total of 32,651 individuals - equivalent to six percent of the pre-targeting caseload - have been removed from WFP's November beneficiary lists in November based on targeting criteria defined by the Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise, conducted earlier this year. WFP plans to increase its targeting of Syrian refugees residing in communities by an estimated additional 9 percent in the coming months, based on interagency agreed Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) criteria currently being developed.

Since the start of targeting in October, of the more than 12,790 households excluded through the process, some 3,000 have submitted an application to appeal their exclusion from WFP food assistance. Both WFP and UNHCR have increased their staff capacity as a contribution to the interagency appeals committee, a component of the VAF, and expect to provide responses to all appealing households within one month of their appeal.

The role of WFP's call centre has become increasingly significant with the implementation of targeted assistance. October saw some 4,994 calls recorded, 60 percent of which related to e-cards in camps and communities, including information on why e-cards had not been loaded (i.e. as a result of targeting) and the transfer timing of upcoming monthly e-card entitlements.

WFP completes e-voucher rollout in Azraq Camp

WFP finished its rollout of e-cards in Azraq camp, reaching 6,362 individuals prior to the loading of the cards on 4 November by WFP's partner, Jordan Ahli Bank. WFP continues to print paper vouchers for the 2,618 individuals who did not come to collect their e-cards - many of whom were outside the camp on government-issued leave permits, thus missing the e-card distributions. Al Za'atri camp e-card distributions are planned to be completed by the end of November.

WFP distributes A28 and A29 bars in primary schools

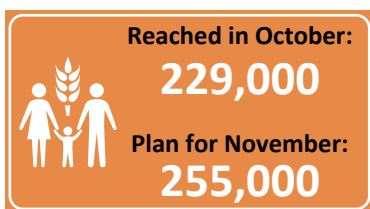
As a result of inconsistent funding that prevented the procurement of date bars for its school feeding programme in camps, WFP is facing a pipeline break for the period October through December. As a result, to ensure school children continue to receive nutritionally important school snacks, WFP began distributing A28 and A29 meal bars in Al Za'atri and Azraq camps. The fortified bars, which contain all necessary nutrients for an entire day, were piloted in October. Following a positive response among younger children, WFP will continue the distribution of the bars in primary schools, starting in mid-November.



WFP/Joelle Eid

School feeding at Jordan's Zaatari camp

TURKEY



WFP requested to expand assistance to new Suruc camp in December

WFP is attending regular inter-agency meetings with the municipality to coordinate assistance to the recent influx of Syrian Kurdish refugees from Kobane, Syria, to the Turkish border town of Suruc. To date, over 190,000 Syrian refugees have entered Turkey - many of whom are spread across the country, while over 10,000 are located in transit camps in Suruc and 50,000 in the city itself. WFP is

delivering food to the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) for the provision of two daily meals to 10,750 refugees - mostly in transit camps.

Given that only transit camps are available for those in Suruc, the government is planning to open a new camp in December, accommodating over 30,000 people. Within the new camp, the government has requested WFP to provide additional food to TRC for the provision of hot meals, which WFP expects to fulfill in the coming weeks.

Preparation of assistance to non-camp refugees underway

To date, WFP's e-food card programme has only been operational in Syrian camps. However, in response to requests from the government and the ever increasing needs of non-camp Syrians refugees, WFP is planning to expand the programme - in collaboration with the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey (AFAD) and local authorities - to serve Syrian refugees in host communities.

In preparation, WFP is working with other actors in the Food Security Working Group to develop common vulnerability criteria to enable food assistance to be targeted to those most in need. Efforts are also underway to ensure assistance to non-camp populations is harmonized and coordinated to mitigate duplication of efforts.

Reached in October:
102,815

Plan for November:
101,000



Syrian families from Kobane seek refuge in Iraq

The Ibrahim Khalil border crossing between Iraq and Turkey remained open during the reporting period, facilitating the entry of Syrian refugees from Kobane and surrounding areas. As of 13 November, 19,050 refugees from Kobane had entered the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and had been relocated to Basirma, Qushtapa, Darashakran, Kawergosk, Arbat and Gawilan camps, and the transit settlement in Kharir Youth Centre. The majority of newly arrived families have chosen to leave

the camps and move to host communities. WFP is coordinating immediate assistance to newly arrived refugees with other food sector partners and is working to include families who choose to remain in camps into its regular monthly food assistance.

Two camps to transition to vouchers in December

WFP will transition two camps – Akre and Darashakran – from in-kind food to voucher assistance in December 2014. A shop near Akre camp has been selected to participate in the programme, while another has been built inside Darashakran camp. With this transition, WFP plans to increase its voucher beneficiaries from a planned 66,000 people in November to almost 76,000 people in December. Through WFP’s monthly vouchers, beneficiaries in the two additional camps will be able to purchase foods based on their preferences and will have access to a wider range of nutritionally important food items – including fresh produce, fruits, meat, dairy and eggs – not available as part of traditional in-kind food parcels, including those currently distributed in the camps. WFP plans to transition other camps in the Kurdistan Region to vouchers in the coming months.

Reached in October:
99,315

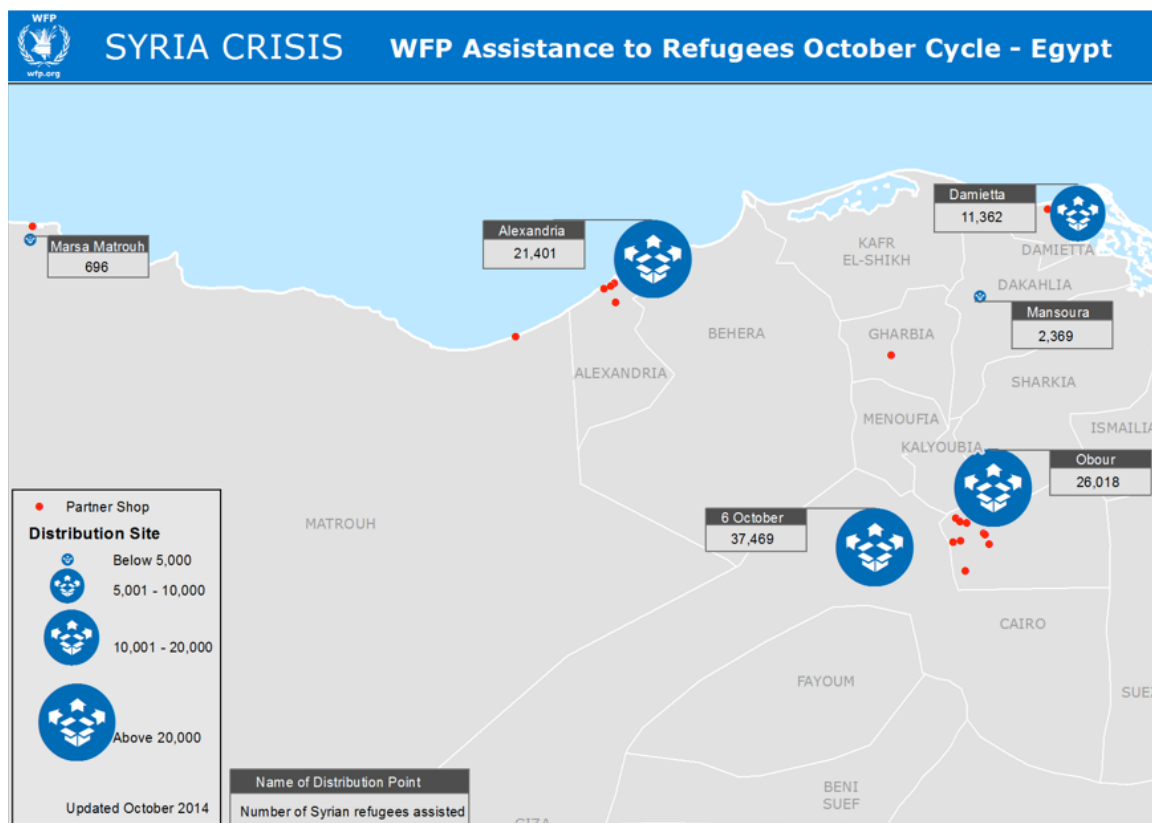
Plan for November:
100,000



October distributions reach almost 100,000 beneficiaries

October distribution commenced as planned on 26 October 2014, reaching 99,315 beneficiaries in six locations across the country, including Obour, 6th of October, Alexandria, Damietta, Marsa Matrouh and Mansoura. This included assistance to over 4,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria, while the majority - over 95,000 people - were Syrian refugees.

Over half of WFP’s caseload is located in greater Cairo, including 6th of October and Obour. The beneficiaries in greater Cairo are assisted through Carrefour e-cards, which are automatically uploaded with 200 EGP (equivalent to US\$28) every month. Remaining beneficiaries are assisted through paper vouchers of the same value, distributed in one of the country’s six distributions sites (see map below).



FUNDING AND SHORTFALLS

A number of new contributions confirmed and pledged during the reporting period have enabled WFP to further maximize its internal loan mechanisms and avert immediate cuts in food assistance across the region. As a result all refugees in the region continued to receive their full entitlements throughout November.

That said, until these pledges are confirmed, WFP's actual funding situation remains dire. New funds are urgently required to cover December requirements for the region and January for inside Syria.

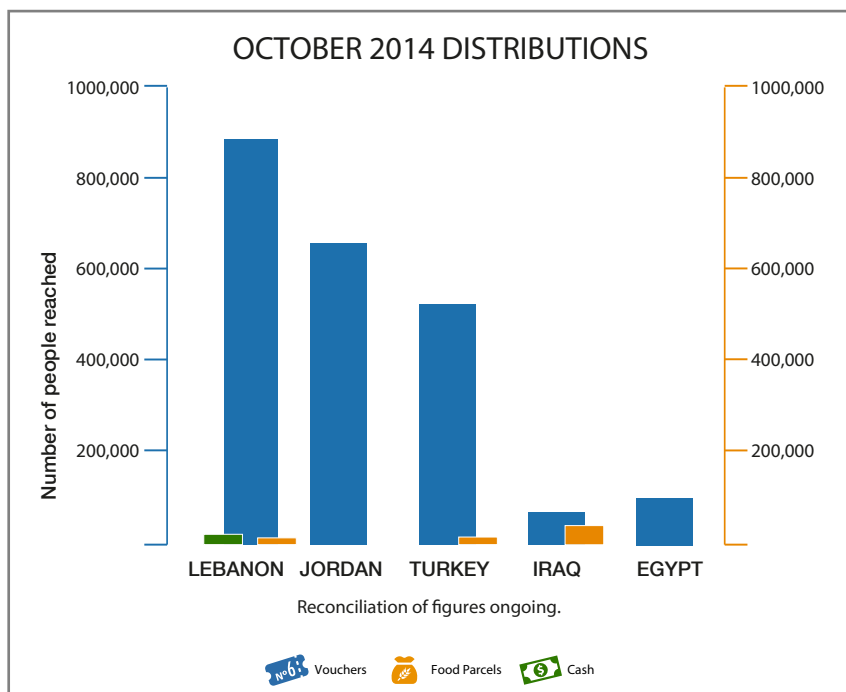
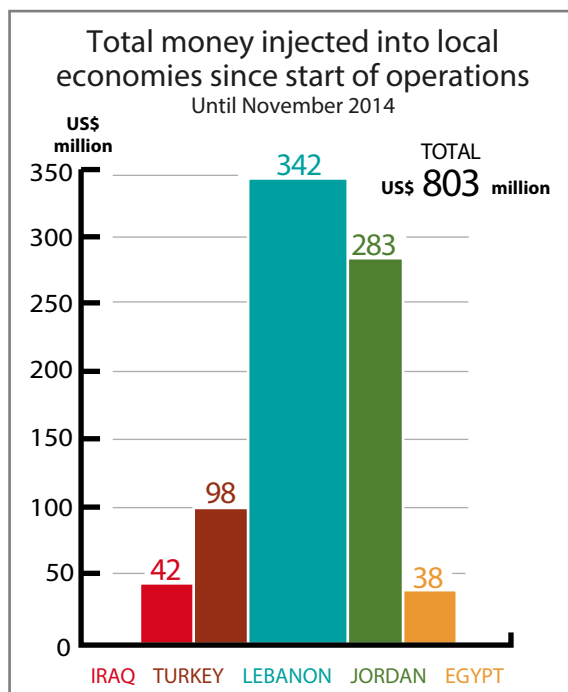
For the next three months, WFP requires **US\$412 million: US\$123 million** for Syria and **US\$289 million** for the region.

WFP needs commitments today to avoid immediate programme interruptions and ensure continued lifesaving assistance.

SHORTFALLS UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR					
Syria	Lebanon	Jordan	Turkey	Iraq	Egypt
123	133	85	41	16	14
US\$ million	US\$ million	US\$ million	US\$ million	US\$ million	US\$ million

REGIONAL OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

Until October 2014



WFP is grateful for the critical support provided by multilateral donors in response to the Syria crisis, as well as that of Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States and private donors.



Donors are represented in alphabetical order.

For further information contact:
syriacrisis.info@wfp.org

Rebecca Richards
 Head Operational Information Management Unit
 Mobile: +962 (0) 798947954
 E-Mail: rebecca.richards@wfp.org

Louise Gentzel
 Deputy Head of Information Management Unit
 Mobile: +962 (0) 799551562
 E-Mail: louise.gentzel@wfp.org