

HIGHLIGHTS

2014 Achievements

- Food for 3.8 million people delivered to Syria's hard-to-reach areas
- August's 4.1 million the highest reached in any one month in Syria
- 1.9 million refugees reached in December
- 98 percent of regional assistance provided through vouchers, injecting US\$1 billion since start of operations

2015 Plans

- Introduction of resilience activities and expansion of nutritional programmes in Syria and the region
- Regional harmonization of voucher food baskets and reduction in voucher values
- Expansion of regional targeting of assistance
- US\$500 million reduction in 2015 budget
- Quarterly communication and planning timeframe

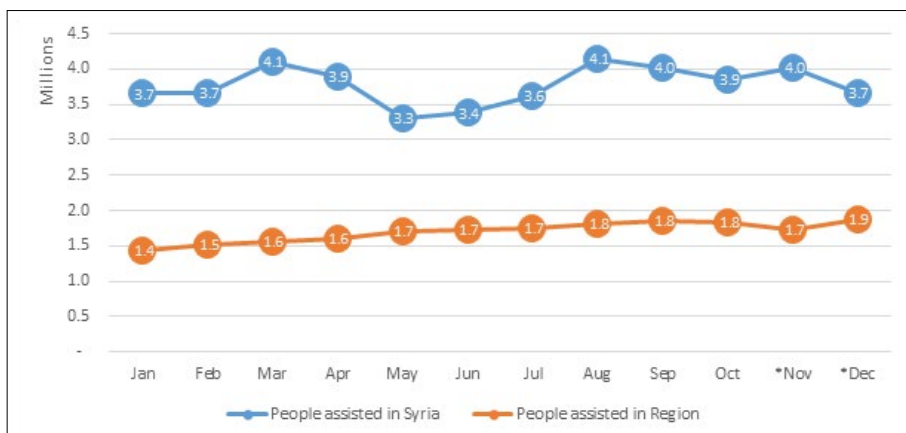
Malwa having lunch with her family in a transit camp in Suruç.

WFP/Berna Cetin



Over the course of 2014, WFP supported an ever growing number of people affected by the Syria crisis. The reach of assistance within Syria continued to fluctuate in line with access and administrative constraints, with August's 4.1 million people the highest number reached during any one month. Meanwhile, operations to support Syrian refugees in the five neighbouring countries expanded gradually over the year, reaching some 1.9 million people by the end of 2014.

At a time when multiple global emergencies increasingly strain donor resources, WFP's objective in 2015 will be to continue ensuring access by the most vulnerable Syrians to efficient, effective and sustainable assistance. In this regard, WFP will focus its operations in Syria and the region on the introduction of resilience-based interventions and the expansion of nutritional programmes, while regional operations will also work to strengthen linkages with national plans, refine and expand targeting efforts, harmonise food baskets and continue the roll-out of electronic vouchers and the OneCard.



*Figures not yet reconciled.

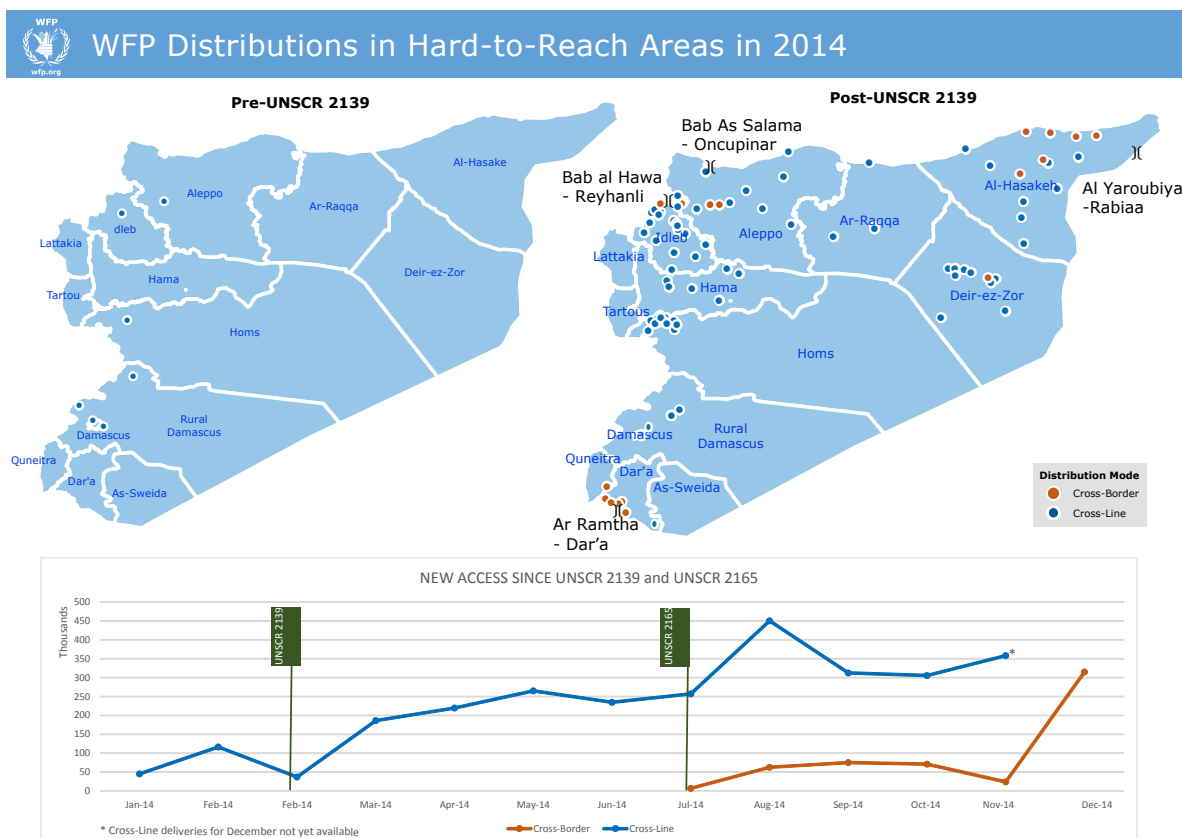
2014 ACHIEVEMENTS

SYRIA

WFP's network of 27 cooperating partners, seven warehouses and five packaging facilities enabled assistance to reach all 14 Syrian governorates during the course of the year. While considerable access challenges and administrative hurdles consistently prevented WFP from reaching the full 4.25 million target caseload, a flexible operational approach helped a maximum number of vulnerable families to be supported - allowing plans to be adjusted and additional caseloads to be reached in response to new population movements.

Food for almost 3.8 million people delivered to hard-to-reach areas in Syria

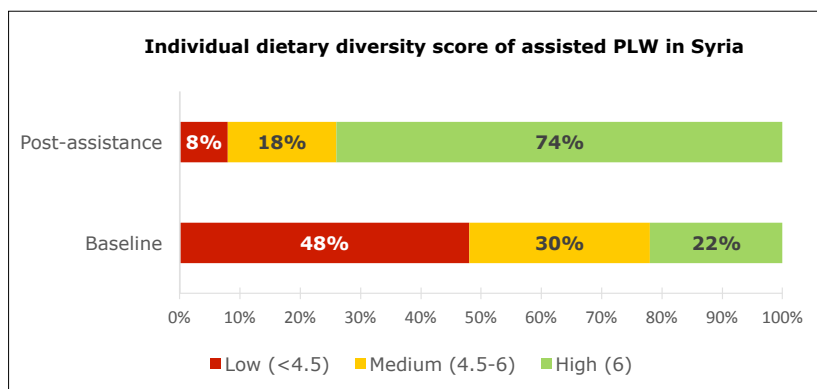
The passing of UN Security Council Resolutions 2139 and 2165 – demanding unfettered humanitarian access to vulnerable families within Syria and across certain border points – significantly strengthened WFP's ability to reach people in need in hard-to-reach and besieged areas. Through a combination of regular food deliveries, cross-line inter-agency convoys, emergency airlifts and cross-border deliveries from Turkey and Jordan, food for almost 3.8 million civilians living in these areas was delivered over the course of 2014. More than 550,000 of these were reached through cross-border deliveries from Turkey and Jordan, with a significant scale-up planned for 2015 - should the required cooperating partnerships, funds, and access conditions materialise.



Expanded school feeding and nutritional programmes

WFP's supplementary feeding programme, launched in April 2013, continued to expand over the course of 2014. Originally targeting only children in public shelters, the programme now also covers children in host communities, reaching a total of 220,000 children by the end of 2014.

In coordination with UNICEF's "No Lost Generation" strategy, WFP launched a school feeding programme in August 2014 in an effort to improve enrolment rates and regularise attendance, while providing nutrition support to children attending classes. Prioritising critical districts with a high concentration of displaced families, food insecurity and low education indicators, some 81,000 students in primary schools in Tartous, Rural Damascus and Aleppo governorates were being reached on a monthly basis at the end of 2014.



Source: WFP M & E Report (Quarter 3, 2014)

To address the particular effects of the conflict on pregnant and lactating women (PLW), a voucher-based nutrition programme in support of these groups was introduced in Homs and Lattakia in July 2014, progressively scaling up from an initial monthly target of 730 women to more than 3,000 women by the end of the year. By allowing women easier access to fresh foods not available in the regular food parcels, WFP monitoring activities found a considerable positive impact on the diversity of women's diets, raising the number with high dietary diversity from 22 percent before receiving assistance to 74 percent once in the programme.

REGION

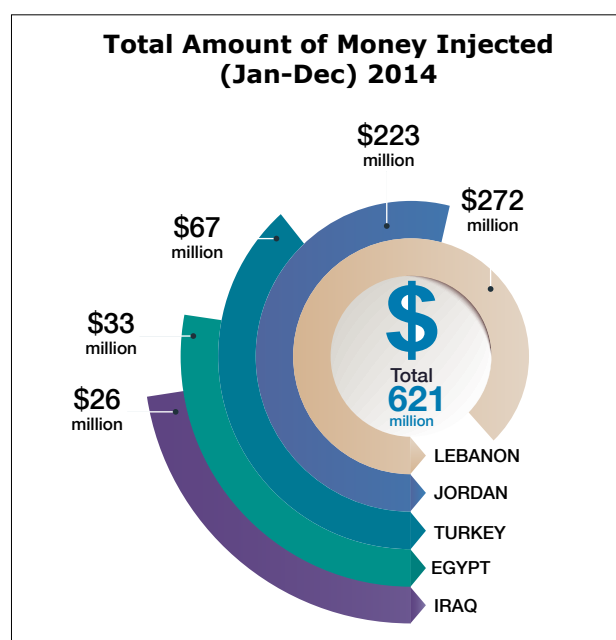
98 percent of assistance provided through vouchers

The number of people assisted in the region grew to more than 1.9 million people by December 2014, including 24,800 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon and Egypt. Thanks to functioning market systems and sound financial infrastructure, 98 percent of assistance could be provided through food vouchers - 93 percent electronic (e-cards) and 7 percent paper.

US\$1 billion injected into local economies since the start of operations

In addition to allowing critical benefits to beneficiaries, such as facilitating access to fresh foods and allowing individual nutritional needs to be met, WFP's vouchers contributed an estimated US\$621 million to the local economies of Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt and Iraq over the course of the year, with around US\$1 billion injected since the start of operations. As indicated by economic impact studies in Lebanon and Jordan, they also generated additional investments in infrastructure, created employment opportunities and contributed significant indirect economic benefits as the funds trickled down through the local economies.

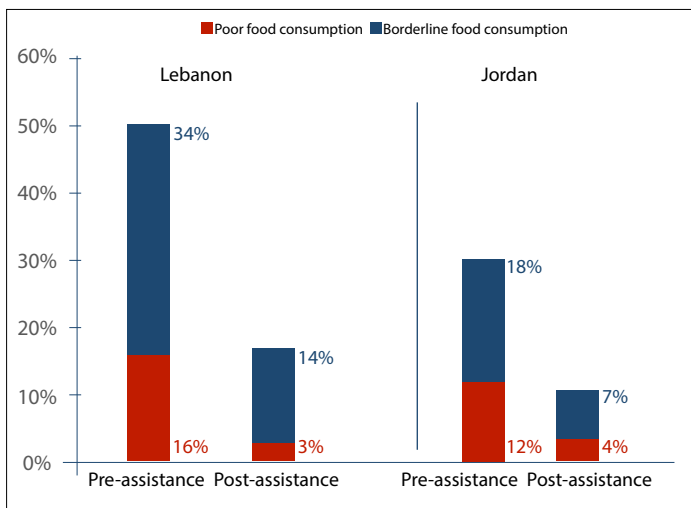
Food parcels continued to be provided to new arrivals awaiting registration in Lebanon and Jordan and in certain Iraqi camps. Meanwhile, as part of the school feeding programme, daily school snacks were given to primary school children in Iraq and primary and secondary school children in Jordan. A hot meals programme was implemented to allow for a quick response to the influx of some 200,000 Syrian refugees from Kobani in Syria into Turkey in the second half of 2014.



87 percent display acceptable food consumption scores

Monitoring findings from July to September 2014 indicate* - in line with the previous quarter - that some 87 percent of all households receiving WFP assistance across the region have acceptable food consumption scores. A comparison between the scores of newly arrived refugees and those already receiving assistance in Jordan and Lebanon similarly found a significantly reduced number of people with 'poor' scores - from 16 to 3 percent in Lebanon and 12 to 4 percent in Jordan - once on WFP assistance.

*Full report: <http://docustore.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/communications/wfp271368.pdf>



Source: WFP M & E Report (Quarter 3, 2014)

Definition of Food Consumption Scores:

The FCS is a composite score based on dietary diversity, food frequency, and relative nutritional importance of different food groups.

Threshold	Profiles	WFP's Goal
0-28	Poor food consumption	To stabilize/improve the food consumption of targeted households over the assistance period
28.5-42	Borderline food consumption	
>42	Acceptable food consumption	

More nutritional foods purchased with vouchers

A comparative analysis between different transfer modalities in Iraq also underlined the additional benefits of vouchers as compared to food basket assistance, noting that households receiving voucher assistance more frequently consume all main food groups, especially dairy products and animal protein-rich food (meat, fish, and eggs).

Coping strategies remain frequent

Despite the stabilization of food consumption levels, the adoption of coping strategies remains a concern and point to the significant vulnerability and dependence on assistance of Syria refugees. Monitoring findings indicate that Syrians frequently relied on less preferred or expensive food (80 percent), many fell into debt (50 percent), while almost two out of five households spent their savings to purchase food for their families. The continuation of WFP assistance at sufficient levels hence remains critical for preventing Syrian refugees from becoming more vulnerable and from falling further into poverty.

PLANS FOR 2015

Strengthened programming, including targeting, embedded in increased cost effectiveness and efficiency, will be WFP's focus in 2015. While the response within Syria will see the introduction of resilience-based interventions and an expansion of nutritional programmes, the regional response will gradually expand inter-agency targeting to ensure that we meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

2015 budget requirements US\$500 million lower than 2014

SYRIA

Harmonised 1650kcal food basket

In addition to continuing the provision of life-saving assistance, WFP will support resilience-building through the introduction of new food for assets and food for training activities, while also expanding nutritional activities. Of the 6.8 million people in need of critical and sustained food assistance, WFP will continue to provide life-saving food assistance to a maximum of 4.25 million people through general food distribution (GFD). In the post-harvest period, WFP will prioritise GFD to the severely food-insecure, estimated at 4.1 million people (61 percent) of those in critical need, while the moderately food-insecure will be provided with conditional food assistance through livelihoods strengthening interventions. WFP will maintain flexibility in adjusting the number of people assisted with unconditional and conditional food transfers based on food security monitoring data. In addition, the food basket will be reduced from 1,919kcal to 1,650kcal as of January 2015, taking into account beneficiary preferences and with a view to harmonise the basket with other food security sector actors.

Introducing resilience-based activities

Moderately food insecure populations in safer areas – particularly IDPs in urban settings and rural farming communities in Homs, Hama, Rural Damascus and Lattakia - will be offered food assistance linked to their engagement in various activities. These include, for example, rehabilitating basic services, restoring agricultural infrastructure and, in close collaboration with FAO backyard kitchen gardening and poultry production schemes, undertaking small-scale and livestock production. Vocational training schemes are planned to support alternative livelihood opportunities. Activities will be gradually scaled up over the course of 2015, should results be positive, while general food distributions will gradually be scaled down.

Expanding nutrition programmes

A targeted supplementary feeding programme will be introduced to prevent acute malnutrition in 30,000 children in hard-to-reach areas. Meanwhile, the target for the blanket supplementary feeding programme to prevent malnutrition in districts with Global Acute Malnutrition rates above five percent - the World Health Organization threshold warranting a nutrition response - will be maintained at 240,000 children. WFP will continue to progressively expand the voucher-based programme coverage of pregnant and nursing mothers - depending on market functionality - to reach up to 15,000 women.

1,000 Day Window of Opportunity

The right nutrition during this 1,000 day window can have a profound impact on a child's ability to grow, learn, and rise out of poverty. It can also shape a society's long-term health, stability and prosperity.

Expanding school feeding

Expanding school feeding: WFP will expand the school feeding programme to reach 500,000 students in areas with a high concentration of IDPs and poor education indicators. Targeted students receive daily rations of fortified date bars, to boost enrolment rates and incentivize regular attendance, while contributing to the increase in micronutrient intake of the children assisted.

WFP Modalities by Country

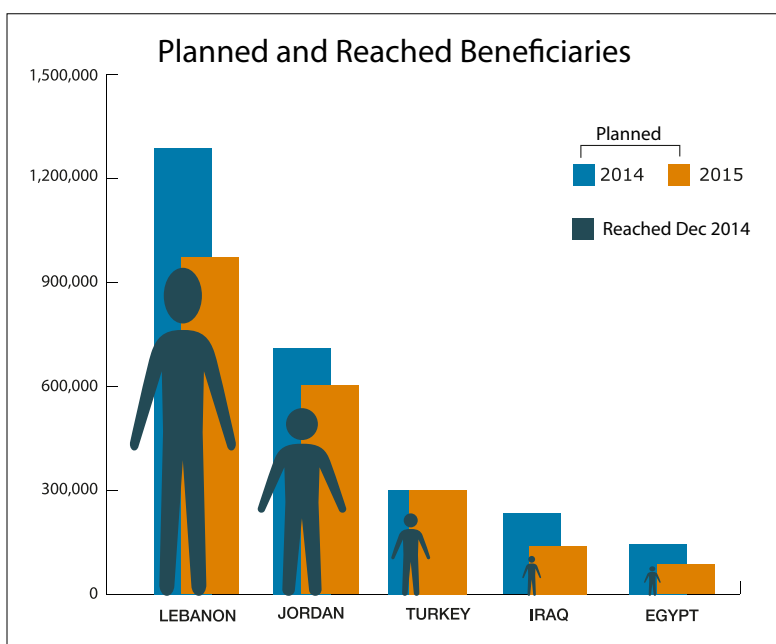


REGION

Focus areas in 2015 will continue to reflect local realities and lessons learnt by strengthening resilience programming, increasing targeting, expanding nutritional activities and continuing the transition to electronic vouchers, and where possible, the OneCard.

Reduction in caseload plan for 2015

WFP plans for 2014 targeted 2.7 million refugees, yet the number of refugees arrivals was significantly less, with 1.9 million receiving food assistance in December 2014. Thus, taking into account the current caseload of refugees reached, together with UNHCR's estimated influx for 2015 of some 1 million additional arrivals over the course of the year, as well as strengthened targeting efforts, WFP will aim to reach around 2 million refugees every month in 2015.



Continuing vouchers while reducing food parcel distribution

Voucher assistance – already used to support 98 percent of WFP’s beneficiaries in the region - will remain the primary means of assisting refugees in all five countries. Following an agreement with the Government of Turkey, the current level of e-card assistance to camps (by which WFP provides TRY60 and AFAD TRY20 per beneficiary per month) will be gradually handed over to AFAD. Meanwhile, the assistance to refugees living in communities will be scaled up, with plans to achieve a 50/50 division of the caseload between the two by the end of the year. Iraq will aim to shift from food parcels to paper vouchers, with a small e-voucher pilot planned to determine the feasibility of a wider roll-out.

Welcome meals in Jordan and food parcels for those awaiting registration in Lebanon will be reduced to reflect lower numbers of new arrivals. In Lebanon, food parcels will be replaced with welcome e-vouchers after March – paving the way for the transition of new arrivals into WFP’s regular e-voucher programme, should they meet WFP’s vulnerability criteria.

Maintaining support to Palestinian refugees from Syria

Palestinian refugees from Syria in Egypt and Lebanon will continue to receive support – the former through a combination of paper and e-vouchers and the latter through an ATM card.

Planned Activities for 2015

Country	Camp Refugees	Communities	Other Groups	Beneficiaries
Lebanon		E-vouchers - 944,648 Food parcels - 15,000 (first quarter, thereafter voucher)	E-vouchers - 27,000 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)	971,648
Jordan	E-vouchers - 126,000 School feeding - 20,000 welcome meals - 6,000	E-vouchers - 476,000		602,000
Turkey		E-vouchers - 300,000 Beginning of 2015, support to 250,000 in camps and 50,000 in non-camps. By the end of the year, 150,000 in camps and 150,000 outside		300,000
Iraq		Transition from food parcels to vouchers in all camps by first quarter of 2015		140,000
Egypt		Food vouchers - 85,651	Food vouchers - 3,720 PRS	89,371
Total				2,103,019

Expanding school feeding activities

While current school feeding activities in Iraq and Jordan will be maintained, a new programme directed at schools attended by a high concentration of Syrians in Egypt – under WFP’s Development Programme – will be initiated to support refugee children and the children of impacted communities.

Introducing livelihood and resilience activities

In Lebanon, WFP continues to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Affairs to support the roll-out of the first e-voucher programme for vulnerable Lebanese communities. The initiative, termed the Emergency-National Poverty Targeting Programme, is based on WFP’s e-card programme and is being implemented in collaboration with the World Bank and UNHCR. In Jordan, WFP’s Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation will work closely with the government to implement a Cash for Asset programme with a dual objective of enhancing the food security of vulnerable Jordanians, while improving community infrastructure and services.

Strengthening targeting of assistance

In Jordan, targeting has already reduced the caseload by some 37,000 individuals - about seven percent of all registered refugees - with a further eight percent to be reduced during January 2015. Following the outcome of a second phase of the inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment Framework, possible targeting within camps will also be considered. In Lebanon, targeting based on findings from the second Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees is expected to decrease the number of refugees targeted from 75 percent in 2014 to around 55 percent of the total number registered Syrian refugees by the end of 2015.

In Egypt, the outcome of a WFP and UNHCR vulnerability assessment expected to be available mid-year will potentially inform a further reduction in the caseload in 2015. In Turkey, the results of an analysis of available data will be used to inform programming of support outside camps. In Iraq, a joint Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment will inform support required in communities, while targeting within camps will also be explored during 2015. All targeting efforts depend upon government approvals and inter-agency support.

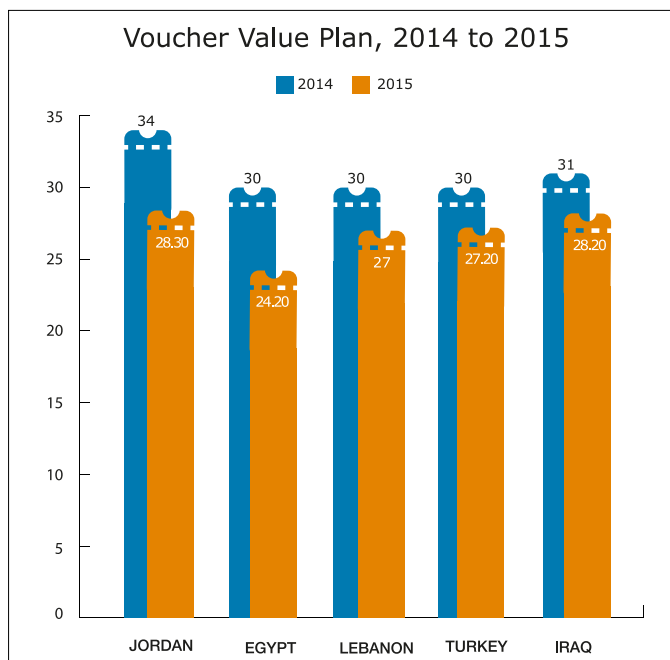
Harmonising voucher food baskets and reducing voucher values

Taking into account dietary preferences of Syrian refugees, economic options for food items with similar nutritional values and the availability of items in the region, the voucher food basket was harmonized across the region in 2014. Reducing the overall voucher value by an average of 13 percent – implemented across the region as of January 2015 – the revised basket now includes eggs, dairy products and vegetables, while replacing canned meat with fresh poultry. Given fluctuation in market prices, the cost of all commodities was reviewed across the whole year, with the average price of each commodity used in the final food basket.

Continuing transition to e-cards and the OneCard

Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan had transitioned from paper to e-vouchers by the end of 2014. Iraq will transition to paper vouchers and possibly e-cards, should the pilot project be successful, during 2015. In Egypt, a wider roll-out of the current 60 percent e-voucher coverage is planned.

The next step is the roll out of the “OneCard”, a single electronic card that offers the possibility of providing food assistance using the point-of-sale terminals at selected retailers, as well as a cash modality to provide non-food assistance through ATM cards. The card will be available to all humanitarian agencies planning for either electronic vouchers or cash transfers to Syrian refugees in the respective countries. The transition to the OneCard is in line with an overall strategic shift to ensure cost efficiency and optimization as well as harmonization of assistance amongst humanitarian agencies. The Jordan refugee response is the first operation in the region to sign an agreement with UNICEF for the roll-out of the OneCard in camps in 2015. Discussions for similar agreements are underway in Lebanon and Egypt.



2015 QUARTERLY PROGRAMME & COMMUNICATION PLAN

WFP has begun implementing a ‘Quarterly Programme and Communication Plan’ for our Syria and Regional operations. Planning on a three-month basis will enable WFP to allocate funds across a longer timeframe, inform beneficiaries, host governments, partners and donors of our funding outlook in advance, and adjust plans should additional resources become available.

As such, WFP’s programme for Syria is established by the 15th of every month for the following two months, while the refugee response is set by the 20th of every month for the following month, and will be communicated accordingly.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

WFP requires US\$214.5 million, of which US\$112.6 million is required the Syria operation (January – May 2015) and US\$101.9 million for the regional refugee response (January-April 2015) – US\$53.3 million for Lebanon, US\$31.8 for Jordan, US\$7.2 million for Turkey, US\$4.4 million for Iraq and US\$5.2 million for Egypt.

WFP Syria and Regional Crisis Shortfalls

TIMEFRAME	COUNTRY	US\$ million
January - May 2015	SYRIA SHORTFALL	112.6
January - April 2015	REGIONAL SHORTFALL	101.9
January - April 2015	JORDAN	31.8
January - April 2015	LEBANON	53.3
January - April 2015	EGYPT	5.2
January - April 2015	TURKEY	7.2
January - April 2015	IRAQ	4.4
	TOTAL SHORTFALL	214.5