



# SITUATION UPDATE

JUNE 2015

## SYRIA CRISIS REGIONAL RESPONSE



For information on WFP's Syria Crisis Response in 2013 - 2015, please use the **QR Code** or access through the link: [wfp.org/syriainfo](http://wfp.org/syriainfo)

1 Post distribution monitoring (PDM) findings, Quarter 1 2015: In Lebanon 34 percent of female-headed households had a poor or borderline food consumption score (FCS) compared to 27 percent of male-headed households. In Turkey 18 percent of female-headed households had a poor or borderline FCS compared to 2 percent male HH. In Egypt, 46 percent of female-headed households reduced the number of meals consumed per day compared with 35 percent of male-headed households.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Reduced food assistance to some 1.6 million beneficiaries has led to an overall increase in food insecure Syrian refugees.
- In Jordan and Lebanon food insecurity rose to 85 and 79 percent respectively, with more than half of Syrian refugees in both countries currently living below the national poverty line.
- In order to meet food needs, refugee families voiced a more frequent use of coping strategies, such as withdrawing children from school and engaging in illegal and/or exploitative jobs.
- Monitoring findings in Lebanon, Turkey and Egypt indicate that female-headed households have a higher vulnerability than male-headed households.<sup>1</sup>

WFP/Dina El-Kassaby

# The Impact of Cuts

**Over 4 million Syrian refugees are now hosted in the region**, at a time when resources are evermore stretched due to competing humanitarian crises. As a result, they are receiving less support than previous years leading to heightened vulnerability and greater food insecurity with possible regional implications.

WFP's ongoing efforts to continuously assess the vulnerability of the refugee population is the basis against which assistance is channeled to those most in need. However, continued limited resources have resulted in reduced support to vulnerable Syrian families, even within these plans.

## JORDAN

Planned transfer values*		2015 Actual transfer values					
2014	2015	January	February	March	April	May	June
US\$31	US\$28	US\$28 in camps		Tiered approach implemented. US\$28 for camps and extremely vulnerable in communities. US\$14 for vulnerable in communities		US\$28 in camps	
		Reduced to US\$18 in communities				Reduced to US\$21 for extremely vulnerable and US\$14 for vulnerable in communities	

\*Harmonized Food Basket – economic options, market value and beneficiary preferences

In **Jordan**, April was the only month where the planned levels of assistance were provided with no reductions. Since then, support to 240,000 vulnerable and 190,000 extremely vulnerable refugees was reduced by 50 and 25 percent respectively (at time of publication, the scenario continues during the month of July).

The 2015 WFP/REACH Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise (CFSME) conducted in Jordan, outlines the dramatic impact these reductions in assistance have had on beneficiaries, **with only 15 percent of households now food secure, down from 52 percent last year**. The CFSME also found that approximately **80 percent of Syrian refugees are currently living below the national absolute poverty line**<sup>2</sup>. There has also been a drastic increase in the number of households adopting negative coping strategies in order to buy food, with 12 percent more households sending a male child to work as opposed to school, since 2014. In addition, refugee families are now working in either exploitative, socially degrading or high risk jobs which place them at risk of being deported.

In Jordan, **almost twice as many refugee families have over US\$700 of debt compared to last year**; considering Syrian refugees are unable to access legal employment this is likely to further compound their level of vulnerability.



WFP/Shada Moghraby

*"For the first time in my life, I took my two kids to the nearest set of traffic lights and put out my hand to strangers, begging for money."*

Just when mother of two Aisha thought that things could not get any worse, she received an SMS in April from WFP informing her that her family's assistance would be reduced to JOD10 per person. "At first I thought it was a joke. How can one possibly survive on JOD2.5 per week? That amount cannot feed a baby for a week". Desperate, she felt she had no choice but to do the unimaginable, beg for the survival of her children. "I would have sold my soul before putting my kids in this position, but I have exhausted every possible means to feed them and protect their dignity. There simply is no other way" she sighs.

**Aisha, 26, Jordan**

## LEBANON

Planned transfer values*		2015 Actual transfer values					
2014	2015	January	February	March	April	May	June
US\$30	US\$27	Reduced to US\$19					

\*Harmonized Food Basket – economic options, market value and beneficiary preferences

Similarly, in **Lebanon**, the living conditions of over 1.1 million Syrian refugees have deteriorated over the last year. This could be partially attributed to the fact that approximately 906,600 of these Syrian refugees have received reduced assistance since the beginning of the year.

Preliminary findings of the 2015 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) indicate both **a decrease in the proportion of food secure families** as well as those living above the national poverty level.<sup>3</sup> To cope with less access to food, the proportion of families adopting harmful coping strategies, such as buying food on credit, selling

<sup>2</sup> Absolute poverty line in Jordan between US\$40-96 per month.

<sup>3</sup> Food secure families reduced from 25 percent in 2014 to 7 percent in 2015. People below Lebanese Poverty line (USD 3.84) increased from 50 to 70 percent.

household goods, withdrawing children from school and begging, increased by almost 30 percent since last year. Given that it is illegal for refugees to gain formal employment in Lebanon, households appear to be relying more heavily on loans and informal employment, with female-headed households bearing a heavier brunt than their male counterparts.<sup>4</sup>

"A few months ago, my husband fell ill with a stroke, which left him paralysed in his hands and legs. My husband, two small children, and I depended entirely on the voucher for our every meal. WFP has already cut the voucher and it's scarcely enough for 5 days of food. I dread to think what would happen if they cut it completely. I have no choice but to pray and share my pain with god."

**Manar, 30, Lebanon**



WFP/Berna Cetin

-Dahham from Lattakia is thankful with the e-food card programme provided by WFP and Kizilay.

**Dahham, Karkamis camp, Turkey**

## TURKEY

Planned transfer values*		2015 Actual transfer values					
2014	2015	January	February	March	April	May	June
US\$30**	US\$23.2***	Reduced to US\$17 in 20 camps****	US\$23*** in 11 camps				Off-camp assistance began

\* Harmonized Food Basket – economic options, market value and beneficiary preferences  
 \*\* Complemented with US\$10 from the Government of Turkey  
 \*\*\* Complemented with US\$5.6 from the Government of Turkey  
 \*\*\*\* Government of Turkey increased their contribution to 11.8 to bring up the total voucher value to its full planned value.

**Turkey** hosts the highest number of Syrian refugees – now estimated at 2 million. In 2015, WFP went from supporting 220,000 to 150,000 camp-based Syrian refugees in Turkey through its joint e-food card programme with the Turkish Red Crescent. The Government of Turkey stepped in to fill the gap by taking over 9 camps with some 66,000 refugees due to the lack of funding of WFP's Regional Emergency Operation.

Considering **the majority of WFP's camp-based beneficiaries rely on their e-cards as their primary source of food**<sup>5</sup>, further cuts in assistance may jeopardise much of the progress made jointly to address the growing food requirements.

An estimated 90 percent of the total refugee population live in urban centres. WFP and the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) are partnering with the Government to provide e-card assistance to a pilot caseload of 2,000 vulnerable refugee families, with plans to increase in the coming months.

## IRAQ

Planned transfer values*		2015 Actual transfer values					
2014	2015	January	February	March	April	May	June
US\$31	US\$28	As planned US\$28	Reduced to US\$19				

\*Harmonized Food Basket – economic options, market value and beneficiary preferences

**Iraq** is the only country in the region where Syrian refugees are provided with work permits. Complementing food needs with their own income, beneficiaries are less prone to resort to negative coping strategies.

For the past several months, **WFP and UNHCR have embarked on a joint endeavor to determine the vulnerability of all Syrian refugees currently residing in Iraqi camps** via a comprehensive tent-by-tent survey. Some 20,000 households were surveyed. Preliminary findings of the 2015 food vulnerability assessment indicate that most Syrian refugees in Iraqi camps are moderately food secure. Therefore, food assistance will be channeled to those deemed most vulnerable via a tiered approach expected to commence in August, whereby varying transfer values will be provided to families based on their food security status.



WFP/Mohammed Albahbahani

- Suleiman helps his parents pick out food items in WFP's new partner shop in Basirma camp. Since the opening of the shop in April, WFP has only been able to provide voucher valued at US\$19 per person per month to families like Suleiman's.

**Suleiman 2, Iraq**

<sup>4</sup> Lebanon PDM findings Quarter 1 2015, 34 percent of female-headed households had a 'poor' or 'borderline' food consumption score (FCS) compared to 27 percent of male headed-households

<sup>5</sup> Turkey PDM findings, Quarter 1 2015

## EGYPT

Planned transfer values*		2015 Actual transfer values					
2014	2015	January	February	March	April	May	June
US\$30	US\$24	Reduced to US\$17					

\*Harmonized Food Basket – economic options, market value and beneficiary preferences

In **Egypt**, phone interviews with Syrian refugees and rapid field surveys were conducted to better understand the impact of reduced assistance. When asked what they would do if food assistance ceased, **one-third of beneficiaries said they would look for illegal/temporary jobs, whereas another third claimed that they would seek asylum elsewhere.** Many of those who responded that they would stay in Egypt, would only do so due to a lack of funds to travel and/or due to visa restrictions. An additional **10 percent of households reported to have reduced both the number and the portion size of meals consumed per day in the last year.**<sup>6</sup> According to WFP monitoring, this is more hardfelt amongst female-headed households, with almost half (46%) reducing the number of meals consumed per day compared to 35 percent of male-headed households.<sup>7</sup> This finding could be attributed to the fact that women in the Middle Eastern region commonly tend to prioritize the food needs of their children and the male members of the household.

These regional findings indicate the food security situation of Syrian refugees has deteriorated over the last year, possibly compounded by a reduction in assistance. As they struggle to meet their food needs, their reliance on negative and sometimes irreversible coping strategies has increased.

A sustained reduction in the transfer value will reverse the gains that have been made in the region and place already vulnerable refugee families in an evermore compromising position as they try to meet their daily food needs.

## July, August and September Plans:

The scenarios **on the next page** (see timeline) will see WFP continue to maximize its resources to reach the most vulnerable.

In July:

- Egypt's transfer value will be maintained at 30 percent of the original plan (US\$17)
- Jordan's transfer value will be maintained as planned in all camps (US\$28) and for vulnerable Syrian refugees in communities (US\$14 for vulnerable ), while the extremely vulnerable in communities will continue to receive a reduced transfer value (US\$21)
- Iraq's transfer value will be maintained at 30 percent of the original plan (US\$19)
- Lebanon's transfer value will be reduced by 30 percent of the current value (from US\$19 to US\$13.5), 50 percent of the original plan (from US\$27 to US\$13.5)
- Turkey's transfer value will be maintained at US\$23 to refugees in 11 camps

In August, further funding **shortfalls are expected to impact nearly half a million refugees residing in communities in Jordan.** It is expected that cuts will also affect Egypt, Lebanon and Turkey. In Iraq, results of the vulnerability assessment will be implemented, it is expected that a significantly reduced caseload will receive support through a tiered approach.

In September, all countries will re-examine their funding situation to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable are supported.

<sup>6</sup> Egypt PDM findings, Quarter 4 2014 and Quarter 1 2015: households limiting portion size at meals increased from 31 percent to 43 percent. Households reducing the number of meals consumed per day increased from 28 percent to 37 percent.

<sup>7</sup> Egypt PDM findings, Quarter 1 2015

# Contingency Plans Based on Available Resources June – September 2015

	July	August*	September
<b>LEBANON</b>	<p><b>Caseload:</b> 781,000 US\$ 13.5</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 13.5</p> <p><b>Caseload:</b> 24,500 US\$ 13.5</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 13.5</p>	<p><b>Caseload:</b> 771,000 US\$ 13.5</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 13.5</p>	<p><b>Caseload:</b> 25,000 US\$ 13.5</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 13.5</p>
<b>JORDAN</b>	<p><b>Caseload:</b> 2,500 in communities US\$ 28</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 14</p> <p><b>Caseload:</b> 207,000 in camps US\$ 21</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 28</p>	<p><b>Caseload:</b> 250,000 in communities US\$ 23</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 23</p> <p><b>Caseload:</b> 98,000 in camps US\$ 23</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 23</p>	<p><b>Caseload:</b> 125,000 in camps only (as per August plan) (any additional funds would be used for safety net cases in the communities (children under the age of 5 years old, pregnant and lactating mothers, the disabled, the elderly etc.) This would be linked to long-term planning, if possible.) US\$ 28</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 28</p>
<b>TURKEY</b>	<p><b>Caseload:</b> 15,000 in communities US\$ 23</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 23</p>	<p><b>Caseload:</b> 25,000 in communities US\$ 23</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 23</p>	<p><b>Caseload:</b> 150,000 in camps US\$ 23</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 23</p>
<b>Egypt</b>	<p><b>Caseload:</b> 71,700 US\$ 17</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 17</p>	<p><b>Caseload:</b> 62,200 US\$ 15</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 15</p>	<p><b>Caseload:</b> 2,800 US\$ 15</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 15</p>
<b>IRAQ</b>	<p><b>Caseload:</b> 94,500 US\$ 19</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 19</p>	<p><b>Caseload:</b> 76,300 US\$ 7</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 7</p>	<p><b>Caseload:</b> 22,800 US\$ 14</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 14</p>
	<p><b>Caseload:</b> 24,500 US\$ 13.5</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 13.5</p>	<p><b>Caseload:</b> 24,500 US\$ 13.5</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 13.5</p>	<p><b>Caseload:</b> 24,500 US\$ 13.5</p> <p><b>Voucher value:</b> US\$ 13.5</p>

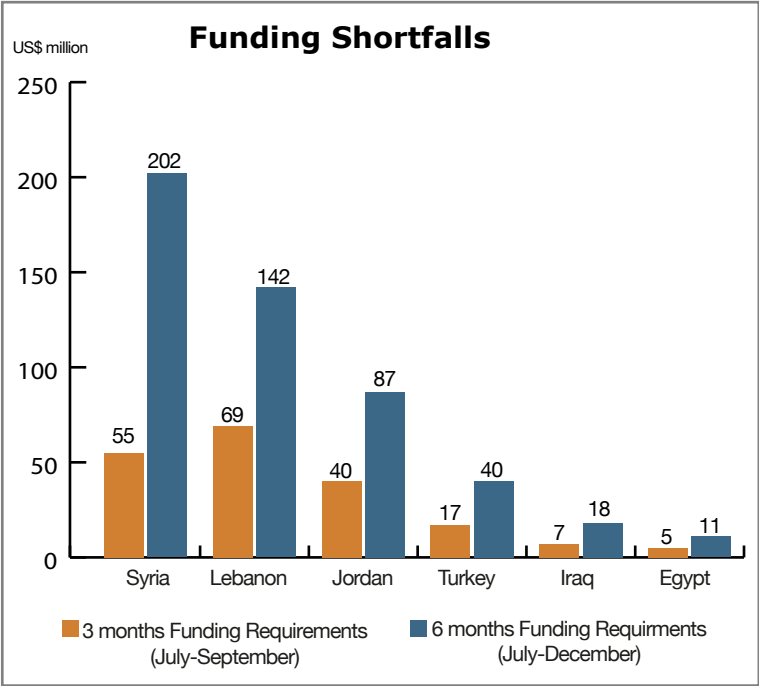
\*All caseloads depend on vulnerability assessments.

 New arrivals Syrian refugees
  Vulnerable Syrian refugees
  Extremely vulnerable Syrian refugees
  Vulnerable Syrian refugees in camps
  Palestinian refugees from Syria

# Distribution figures and funding shortfalls:

To cover shortfalls for the next three months (July-September), WFP urgently requires **US\$138 million** for the region.

To cover shortfalls until the end of the year (July – December 2015), WFP requires **US\$298 million** for the region.



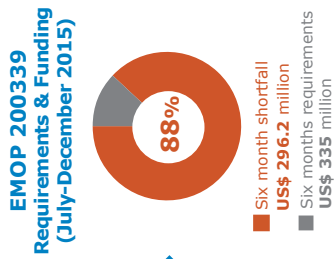
WFP/Berna Cetin

# Syria Crisis - Regional Response Dashboard

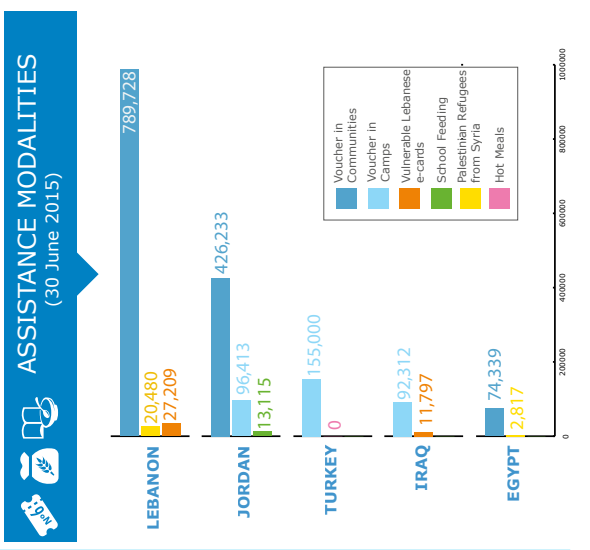
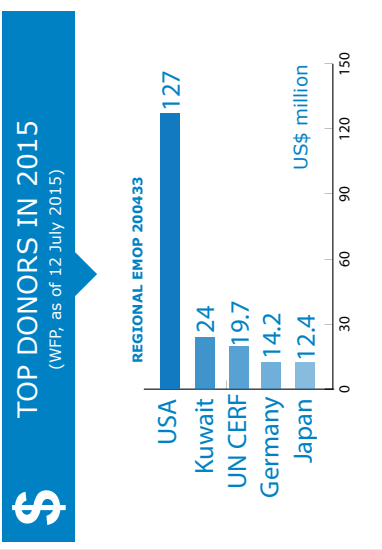
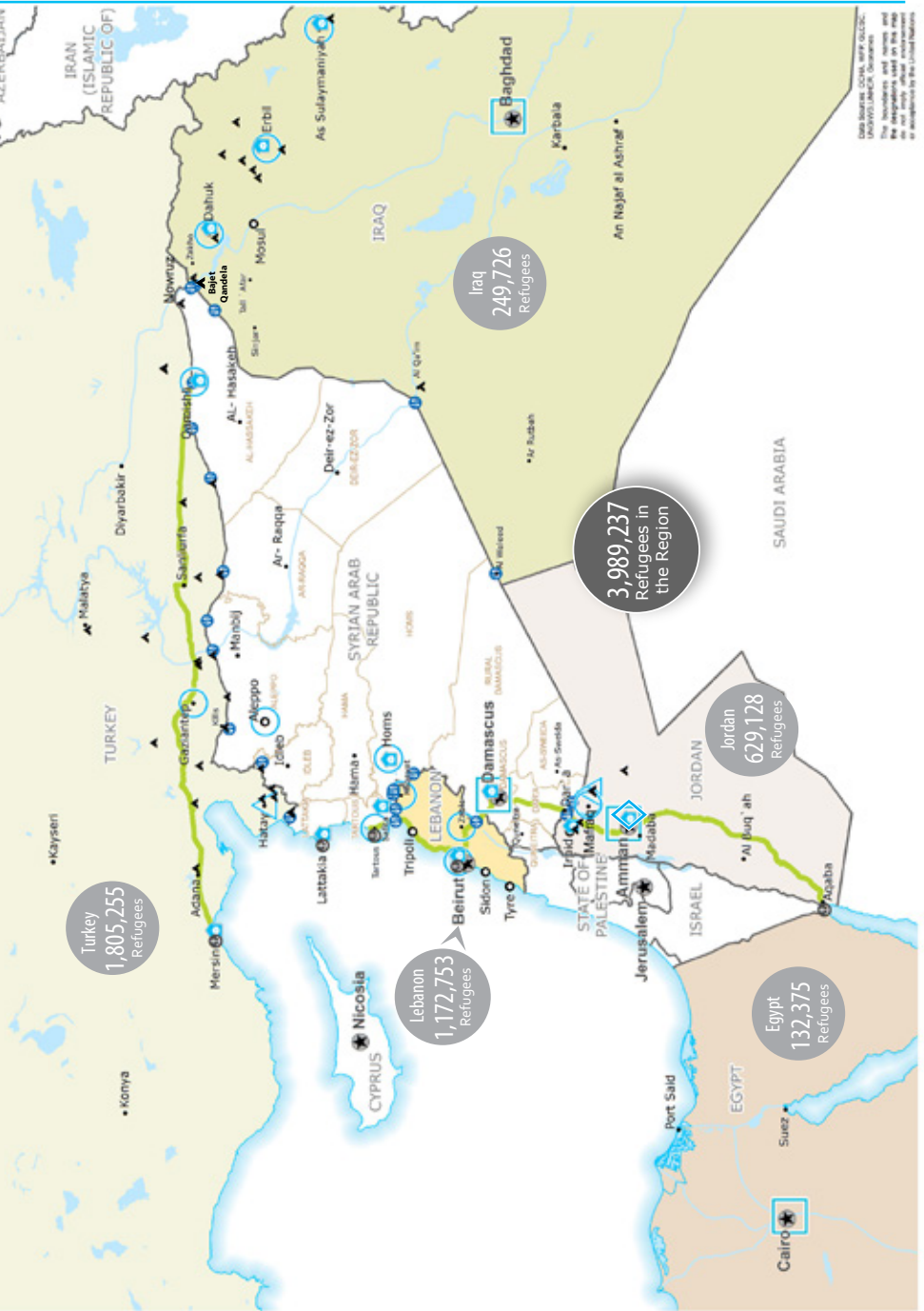
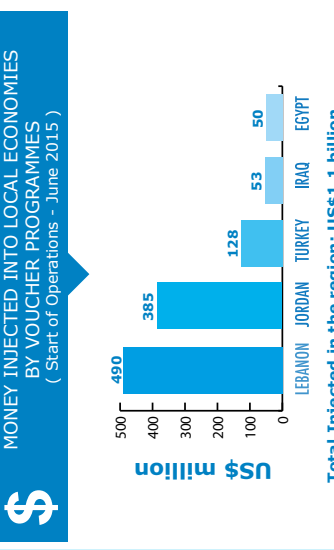
Date created: 16 July 2015



## FUNDING



Total refugees planned for May: 2.03 million



**WFP LEVEL 3 EMERGENCY**  
**SINCE 14 DECEMBER 2012**  
 Contact: WFP.OPSCEN@wfp.org  
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Donors are represented in alphabetical order.

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