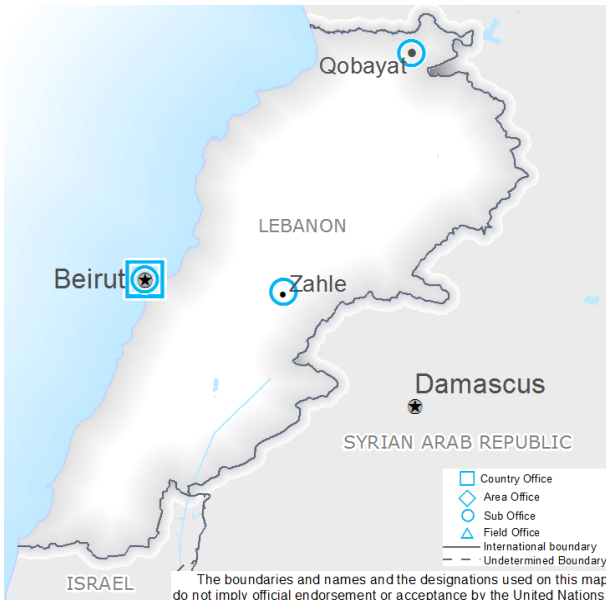




World Food Programme

Lebanon: Syria Crisis Response



For WFP's dynamic OpsFEED map, see:
<http://cdn.wfp.org/syriainfo/>

Numbers

May: 819,433 people reached with US\$19 e-cards

June: 795,976 people planned with US\$19 e-cards

Since 2013, WFP has directly injected **US\$475 million** directly into the Lebanese economy through the e-card programme.

WFP shortfall: US\$116 million (June-November)

Food security sector shortfall: US\$447 million (May-December)

Highlights

- In May, WFP assisted 819,433 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees with e-cards loaded with US\$19. In June, WFP plans to assist 795,976 people: fewer people as a result of the ongoing targeting exercise.
- Due to severe funding constraints (US\$116 million over the next six months), WFP will further reduce the amount given to beneficiaries from US\$19 per person per month to US\$13 in July and August, unfortunately coinciding with Ramadan.

Context and WFP Response

- UNHCR has registered over 1.1 million Syrians in Lebanon, representing the world's highest per capita concentration of refugees compared to its population. It is an influx that is placing significant strain on existing resources and host communities.
- As the Syria crisis continues, WFP - the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger - is increasingly relied upon to provide life-saving assistance to an extraordinary number of refugees. However, massive funding gaps forced WFP to prioritise less assistance to the neediest refugee households. With sustained constraints, WFP will be unable to meet the basic food needs of those refugees.
- In Lebanon, WFP provides assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria with e-cards and cash transfers. E-cards are the principle assistance modality as local markets are capable of providing sufficient food. Beneficiaries use the e-cards like a debit card in over 400 WFP-contracted shops around Lebanon. Significantly, e-cards allow beneficiaries to choose preferred foods and to meet their individual consumption needs. Since 2013, WFP has injected US\$475 million directly into the economy.
- WFP provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Affairs through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP). Through it, vulnerable Lebanese receive US\$30 per person per month.
- The 2014 multi-sectoral *Vulnerability Assessment of Refugees (VASyR)* in Lebanon found that despite ongoing assistance, living conditions of Syrian refugees deteriorated compared to 2013. Access to work was limited, household savings were increasingly depleted and more severe and irreversible coping strategies were used to meet basic needs. Food, shelter and health were the main expenses of households as well as the main reasons for borrowing money. The report can be downloaded here: <http://cdn.wfp.org/syriainfo/lebanon.html>. WFP and partners started to collect data for the 2015 VASyR in May. The preliminary results will be available in July.

WFP Assistance



- Limited funding since January forced WFP to reduce assistance by 30 percent from US\$27 per person to US\$19. Additionally, WFP ran validation and targeting exercises, reducing the overall caseload. They contributed to ensuring that the limited assistance was

channelled to the most vulnerable households. By June, WFP will have removed 118,682 individuals deemed 'not the most vulnerable' from assistance.

- In May, WFP assisted 819,433 beneficiaries with e-cards loaded with US\$19. WFP also assisted 21,685 Palestinian refugees with US\$19 through UNRWA's ATM cards.
- In June, WFP is planning to assist 795,976 people with e-cards loaded with US\$19. The number decreased from May due to the targeting process.
- In July and August, limited funding will force WFP to reduce the US\$19 ration to US\$13, equivalent to half of the originally intended ration of US\$27. Regrettably, the cuts will come in the middle of Ramadan.

Food Security Sector



- During May, food security sector members (Japanese Committee for the Children of Palestine, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center, Islamic Relief Lebanon, Lebanese Red Cross and the Union of Relief and Development Association) provided food parcels to 34,219 beneficiaries.
- The annual livestock vaccination campaign that started in February across Lebanon with support from the Ministry of Agriculture was completed, benefiting 14,000 farmers.
- During May, 730 affected Lebanese and 970 Syrians benefitted from community kitchens run by International Orthodox Christian Charities in Akkar and west Bekaa.

Partnerships



- WFP works closely with the Government of Lebanon and has key relations with the Ministry of Social Affairs. WFP is planning to further develop its partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture which is key to WFP's long-term planning as it looks at diversifying interventions.
- For its e-card activities, WFP works with eight non-governmental partners in Lebanon: Action Contre La Faim, Danish Refugee Council, InterSOS, Mercy Corps, Première Urgence—Aide Médicale Internationale, Save the Children, SHIELD and World Vision.

Resourcing Update

- WFP is facing a massive 75 percent funding shortfall over the next six months. An additional US\$116 million is urgently required.
- WFP Lebanon's biggest donors are: Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Norway, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, the United Nations Central Emergency Relief Fund and the United States of America, along with multilaterals and other private donors.

Impact of Limited Funds

- WFP is aware that reducing assistance means that beneficiaries adopt negative coping strategies. Beneficiaries already reported that the reduction from US\$27 to US\$19 forced them to reduce the size and frequency of meals as well as increase debts and borrowing to pay for food. An alarming number of beneficiaries also stated that if reductions are maintained beyond mid-2015, they will adopt increasingly severe strategies including begging, withdrawing children from school and placing them in employment, and seeking additional employment with longer hours, often involving high risk activities.
- As WFP reluctantly prepares to reduce the e-card value again in July and August from US\$19 to US\$13, such negative coping strategies will continue and will increase in severity.
- The long term consequence of assisting fewer people with less money is that WFP will no longer be able to guarantee that it is maintaining acceptable levels of food security among refugee populations in Lebanon.

Contacts

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WFP's operation in Lebanon							
	Project duration	Planned number of people	Total requirements (in US\$)	June - November shortfall (US\$)	June - November shortfall (%)	People assisted with e-cards	
						Reached (May)	Planned (June)
EMOP 200433	Jul 2012 - Dec	2 130 228	156 million	116 million	75%	819 433	795 976

The next report will be available in early July

For further information, see: <http://cdn.wfp.org/syriainfo/lebanon.html>