

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

Reporting Period:
6 – 27 June 2013



Syria

WFP plans to reach 2.5 million people during the ongoing June cycle and completed dispatches food rations for nearly 2.2 million people in 14 governorates by 26 June. Food dispatches to Al-Hasakeh have been particularly difficult in June due to dangerous access roads. Attempts earlier this month were disrupted by armed groups controlling checkpoints along the route. WFP is exploring alternative access options to Al-Hasakeh.

During a seven day period of negotiated access to Moadamiyeh in Rural Damascus, WFP made two unsuccessful attempts to deliver food and non-food items to populations in the area. On both occasions, the humanitarian convoy was accompanied by WFP staff up to the last checkpoint before Moadamiyeh, but had to return due to ongoing hostilities.



WFP/Bashar Elias

Renewed fighting in Quneitra has resulted in further population displacements. In response, WFP increased its provisions to the governorate in order to reach an additional 10,000 people in need. In Aleppo, expectations of more population displacements in view of expected hostilities have led WFP to pre-position emergency food rations in parts of the governorate to support 25,000 people. June cycle food distributions are already targeting 559,000 people across Aleppo governorate.

WFP also distributes wheat flour in priority areas where there is insufficient availability of bread. As of 26 June, wheat flour for 944,000 beneficiaries has been dispatched during the June cycle for distribution in 13 governorates.

WFP is accelerating food dispatches across the country in anticipation of a decline in commercial services, including transport capacity, during the upcoming holy month of Ramadan. As a result, food dispatches for both the June and July cycles are ongoing in parallel.

Inter-Agency Mission to Rastan

On 14 June, an inter-agency convoy to Rastan in Homs governorate delivered 3,000 family food rations for 15,000 people for one month and UNHCR non-food items. This was part of a two-series convoy plan to deliver assistance to an area that has been inaccessible to WFP since February 2013. The second convoy, which plans to deliver the same quantity of food, has yet to receive the necessary approvals, hampering efforts to address the significant needs.

Inter-Agency Assessment of Al-Qusayr City

On 15 June, WFP led a one-day assessment mission to Al-Qusayr city in Homs. UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, UNRCO, UNFPA, UNDP, OCHA, DSS, and IOM participated in the mission, which also included the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), WFP's main cooperating.

Heavy destruction was observed throughout the city. SARC's sub-office and clinic were also affected. Al-Qusayr's only hospital was destroyed and the city's sewage system was damaged. The city had no electricity or water supply, the market had ceased to function and many public facilities have been reduced to rubble. With an original population estimate of between 30,000 and 40,000 people, the assessment mission found that only between 20 and 40 families now remain after the intense fighting that overwhelmed the city. Most families have fled to neighbouring Hesieh and moved on to places like Jandar, Shamseen and Debeh villages in the southern part of the governorate, Qara and Yabroud in rural Damascus, or to the Ersal border town in Lebanon. The mission recommended the continuation of relief assistance to those displaced from Al Qusayr and support to voluntary returns.

WFP food assistance is ongoing in various locations to families displaced from Al Qusayr. Ready-to-eat family rations were provided in support of 11,575 people to meet immediate food needs after displacement. Displaced families in Hesieh have received regular food rations to assist 9,000 people, while IDPs in Jandar village have received food rations sufficient for 2,100 people. SARC and ICRC have provided 1,000 family rations for IDP families in Shamseen and Debeh, sufficient for 5,000 people.

Operational Constraints

A lack of funding and the late arrival of some food purchases have forced WFP to reduce the ration size of lentils, canned beans and vegetable oil during the June cycle, providing 90 percent of the full planned ration. Restricted access to a number of locations as well as an increasing number of armed attacks on trucks delivering WFP food continue to disrupt humanitarian deliveries to some areas of considerable need.

Food and Agriculture Sector Coordination

UN Agencies and other humanitarian organizations providing food and agricultural assistance in Syria meet on a fortnightly basis to coordinate respective responses. In order to maximize the reach of assistance across the country, sector members are working to improve information sharing amongst all partners, and minimize gaps in delivery particularly where needs are highest. The sector is also exploring the possibility of adopting a joint monitoring approach to enhance the quality and reach of monitoring activities.



WFP/Hiba Nahas

Logistics Cluster

In the end of February 2013, the Syria Logistics Cluster received five ambulances from WHO for temporary storage in its warehouse area in Safita (15 km from Tartous). The ambulances were safely stored for the next three months in the Cluster's Safita storage area.

On 6 June, as requested by WHO, the Logistics Cluster loaded the ambulances and transported them to Damascus. The ambulances reached Damascus on 7 June and are now being used for essential medical programmes in the country. So far this year, a total of ten ambulances have been received and stored by the Cluster (five in Lattakia, five in Safita) and eventually transported to Damascus as per requirements on the ground.



The Logistics Cluster continues to provide free-to-user transport as well as temporary storage services to the humanitarian community. So far, since January 2013, over 14,000 m³ of relief cargo have been delivered by the Cluster on behalf of ACF, DRC, FAO, Secours Islamique France, IOM, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNRWA, and WHO to locations inside Syria. The items transported include mattresses, blankets, health/hygiene kits, seeds, food, and medicines.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster continues to provide critical support to the humanitarian community responding to the crisis inside Syria.

WFP-FAO Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM)

A FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) was finalized on 6 June. As part of the assessment process the mission interviewed: traders, farmers, herders, IDPs, governorate-level authorities and other key informants in Homs, Tartous and Latakia governorates, as well as those in the northern city of Qamishli (Al-Hasakeh Governorate). The team is currently working on an independent technical report to be released in early July, which will provide an indication of food availability and access conditions in the country.

Jordan

For the first time dry ration distributions in Al Za'atri camp for the first June cycle reached fewer beneficiaries than in May. The number of those leaving the camp, particularly voluntary returns to Syria, outpaced the number of new arrivals during the reporting period. The number of registered refugees in Al Za'atri camp has also decreased in the reporting period as UNHCR deactivated the cards of refugees who have left the camp or those who had not collected food for four or more 2-week cycles.

Syrians in Jordan

UNHCR Registered: 415,361

Awaiting Registration: 76,419

Total: 491,780



WFP/Dina El-Kassaby

Throughout Jordan, WFP plans to reach approximately 380,000 beneficiaries in the month of June through voucher and in-kind food distributions. WFP and the Emirates Red Crescent (ERC) have agreed to begin the implementation of the food voucher programme in the Emirati-Jordanian Camp. ERC will continue to provide hot meals and WFP will complement it with a reduced-voucher programme equal to US\$8.46 per person per month.

WFP continues to distribute around half a million pieces of pita bread daily to the entire population of Al Za'atri camp. The school feeding programme in Al Za'atri is ongoing, with date bars being provided on a daily basis. Thus far around 4,000 students have benefitted from the school feeding programme on a daily basis.

Monitoring

WFP field monitors conducted distribution and post-distribution monitoring in Jordanian communities and Al Za'atri camp. Recent monitoring confirms that the voucher programme is functioning well and people are generally satisfied with the programme. Beneficiaries living in the south noted their preference for these areas as rent was often much cheaper than in Amman or the north of the country, where the majority of refugees reside. WFP is working with partners to expand the number of distribution points and the number of shops in all governorates to decrease waiting times at voucher distributions, ensure shop compliance and encourage competitive prices.



Lebanon

The volatile security situation remains a major concern for WFP Lebanon. WFP operations continue to experience delays, sometimes severe, due to incidents of extreme violence in areas where WFP frequently operates. WFP's partner, Islamic Relief, was forced to postpone food parcel distributions in Sidon (southern Lebanon) due to an outbreak of prolonged fighting in the city. Similarly, WFP distributions in North Bekka were suspended on 19 and 21 June due to the continuously deteriorating security situation.

Syrians in Lebanon

UNHCR Registered: 481,725
Awaiting Registration: 82,314
Total: 564,039

In June, through the use of vouchers and food parcels, WFP plans to reach approximately 505,500 Syrian refugees. Thus far, approximately, 432,699 Syrians have been reached (86 percent). WFP and the Lebanese Red Cross are also strengthening their cooperation while WFP is also renewing field level agreements with implementing partners in order to better meet the needs of the increasing Syrian refugee population in Lebanon.

Turkey



WFP/Laure Chadraoui

Through the use of the e-food card, WFP, in partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), has been able to increase food assistance in Turkey

exponentially. WFP assists approximately 100,000 Syrian refugees in thirteen camps as of June and in mid-July plans to expand into a fourteenth camp, Adiyaman. This will make a total of 110,000 beneficiaries of the e-food card programme, tripling the number of refugees assisted in less than five

Syrians in Turkey

UNHCR Registered: 369,780
Awaiting Registration: 22,701
Total: 392,481

months. The voucher programme will then cover around 60 percent of the total population of Syrians living in Turkish camps. A joint workshop organized with TRC will be held in Gaziantep in early July to bring together the key stakeholders of the e-food card program, including all camp managers, to share experiences and lessons learnt.

Monitoring

Through close and regular monitoring across the markets there are now some noticeable improvements in many of the markets in regards to price, labeling and variety of fresh produce.

Iraq

Thus far in the month of June, WFP has provided food assistance to 52,765 beneficiaries. This includes 50,325 beneficiaries in Domiz who received vouchers valued at US\$1.5 million as at 24 June. In preparation for the Holy Month of Ramadan, 2,440 food parcels have been provided to Syrian refugees in Al Qaim camp, as a one-off distribution in addition to the regular general food distribution for June .

Syrians in Iraq

UNHCR Registered: 159,140

Although the school year in Iraq ended on 25 May, the distribution in camp schools will continue through the summer in the form of summer school activities organized by Afkar Organization in Al Qaim and UNICEF in Domiz.



WFP conducted distribution monitoring at voucher distribution points. The majority of beneficiaries expressed appreciation for the assistance, adding that with the vouchers they were able to purchase sufficient amounts of food throughout the month. On 25 June, WFP began using a new monitoring and evaluation toolkit in Domiz camp in order to improve the effectiveness of WFP assistance.

Egypt

Through its food voucher programme, WFP will assist 28,000 Syrian refugees in June and plans to scale-up to assist 40,000 Syrian refugees in July. WFP Egypt has distributed US\$2.5 million in food

Syrians Egypt

UNHCR Registered: 69,207

Awaiting Registration: 18,320

Total: 87,527



WFP/Terri O'Quinn

vouchers to Syrian refugees since the start of the operation in February.

Operational Issues

WFP continues to implement the voucher programme directly as there have been delays in approving cooperating partners due to draft laws restricting NGO operations in the country. WFP is also exploring the possibility of changing to e-vouchers in the near future.

Security

On the anniversary of the first presidential election last year, a number of demonstrations are planned for 30 June in Cairo, Alexandria and other major cities. If needed, WFP will re-schedule voucher distributions to the Syrian refugees to ensure the safety of beneficiaries and staff.

Funding & Shortfalls

Given the escalating conflict, and heightened demands for the humanitarian response, WFP now requires US\$24 million per week to meet the needs of vulnerable people inside Syria and in neighbouring countries. Given the planned scale-up, WFP expects a total shortfall of US\$176 million until the end of August 2013. At current resourcing levels, pipeline breaks for all commodities will occur in September.

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, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Luxembourg, Norway, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Turkey, Russia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, the United States and private donors.





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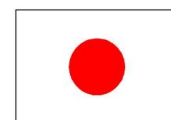
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Regional Refugee Emergency**
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