

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

Situation Report # 36

Reporting Period: 9 January - 15 January 2013



World Food Programme

Fighting Hunger Worldwide

HIGHLIGHTS

BENEFICIARIES REACHED IN SYRIA AND THE REGION ¹				
Country	Modality of Assistance	November	December	January (ongoing)
Syria	GFD	1,363,050	1,038,695 ¹ (ongoing)	74,990
Jordan	Vouchers	46,594	57,753 ²	n/a
	GFD	27,927	32,625	n/a
Lebanon	Vouchers	77,532	100,103	41,993
	GFD	2,925	3,610	2,575
Iraq	Vouchers	1,001	21,076	n/a
	GFD	4,395	11,557	n/a
Turkey	Vouchers	21,770	22,139	22,139
General Food Distribution Total in Region		35,247	47,792	2,575
Voucher Total in Region		146,897	201,071	64,132
Total beneficiaries reached in Region		182,144	248,863	66,707
<i>General Food Distributions (GFD) includes dry rations, food parcels, hot meals and welcome meals. Vouchers include paper and electronic modalities. (1) As of 15 January 2013 (2) Final December figure following data reconciliation</i>				

RESOURCING UPDATE				
Syria EMOP 200339 – Budget Revision 7				
Country	Requirements (US\$)	Resourced (US\$)	Shortfalls (US\$)	Percent Shortfall
Syria	268,146,325	132,887,529	135,256,796	50% ¹
Special Operation 200477 – Budget Revision 1				
Syria	10,878,507	5,364,780	5,513,727	51% ²
REG EMOP 200433 - Budget Revision 6				
Jordan	80,006,716	29,160,899	50,845,816	64%
Lebanon	63,493,095	23,215,880	40,277,215	63%
Iraq	20,183,286	4,938,700	15,244,585	76%
Turkey	31,703,172	9,632,684	22,070,488	70%
Egypt	3,662,152	452,289	3,209,863	88%
EMOP total	199,048,420	67,400,452	131,647,968	66%³
<i>(1) As of 15 January 2013; (2) As of 15 January 2013; (3) As of 16 January 2013 US\$22 million of Advance Financing has been made available to fill the gaps in voucher programmes under the REG EMOP for February and March. 39,000mt has also been made available through the Advance Purchase facility for operations in Syria.</i>				

¹ WFP's Response inside Syria and Regional Refugee Emergency Sitrep #36, 15 January 2013

SITUATION UPDATE

As the humanitarian situation in Syria continues to deteriorate, WFP will scale up its food assistance in Syria to 2.5 million beneficiaries from the current target of 1.5 million beneficiaries.

On 15 January, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) released updated figures of the affected population in Syria. The figures suggest over 4 million people have requested assistance from SARC. The number of people

in need of urgent food assistance still needs to be verified.

In view of the reported shortages of bread and fuel, WFP is exploring strategies for expanding bread availability for the affected families in Syria either through direct distribution of wheat flour to the beneficiaries or through provision of yeast and fuel to local bakeries, to help them produce enough bread for the affected population.

WFP RESPONSE

Food Assistance Programme: Under the Emergency Operation, WFP is targeting 1.5 million beneficiaries in all 14 Syria governorates with food assistance. This will be scaled up to 2.5 million beneficiaries as when funding and access permits. The current food basket provides 1,100 kcal per person per day.

Through an immediate response emergency operation, WFP is providing ready-to-eat food to about 125,000 Palestinians and Syrians affected by the escalation in the Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus. The three-month programme began in December distributions are taking place in twelve locations in Damascus and rural Damascus.

Food Deliveries: The December cycle of dispatches concluded on 7 January while distributions continue. As of 15 January, rations had been distributed to 1,038,695 beneficiaries. December cycle distributions are being finalized in areas where access is limited as the situation allows.

Under the January cycle, rations have thus far been distributed to almost 75,000 beneficiaries. Dispatches and distributions remain ongoing. Weather, insecurity, and shortage of transporters are some contributing factors towards delays in dispatches and distributions.

Several incidents of seized dispatches were recorded during the reporting period. Continued efforts are being made to recover these food items including through negotiations through third parties and in particular, through SARC and the office of the Joint Special Representative for Syria.

Target Populations: The majority of the caseload composed of affected populations who left their homes and moved to other areas, however, resident populations are becoming increasingly vulnerable. In Aleppo, SARC is requesting a doubling of the dispatch allocation to enable them to cover soaring needs.

Food Supply: 39,000 mt of food commodities valued at US\$32 million are currently being procured under WFP's forward purchasing facility. This amount is equivalent to three months ration at the current reduced ration size for 1.5 million beneficiaries. The current ration size provides 1,100 kcal per beneficiary per day.

Supplementary Food Distributions: The consignment of Plumpy Doz™ has been cleared by the Syrian Customs Authority and is being dispatched to WFP warehouses in Damascus, Lattakia and Qamishly. The distribution to beneficiaries will commence as soon as possible.

Food and Fuel: As the worrying humanitarian situation in Syria persists, media reports suggest the Government of Syria has started liberalizing the importation of fuel and plans to eliminate all tariffs on many basic commodities. The proposed measures will affect 17 basic commodities including sugar, rice, tea, wheat, soy, vegetable oil and barely. The measures are said to be aimed at quelling current shortages and soaring prices.

Assessments: The revalidation of findings of the June Joint Rapid Food Security Needs Assessment by WFP, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, is still undergoing analysis. Figures are yet to be quantified but are likely to validate a scale up of

current operations targeting vulnerable population groups.

For more information please visit: <http://www.wfp.org/countries/syria>

Jordan

SITUATION UPDATE

Syrians in Jordan
UNHCR Registered: 134,015
Awaiting Registration: 51,229
Total: 185,244
(Government figure: 290,000)

Al Za'atri: Efforts to control the flooding coupled with a break from rain and snow helped stabilize conditions in the camp. Although some beneficiaries continue to occupy areas such as the school and donated caravans, many beneficiaries were able to return to their tents. Winterization is needed urgently as weather forecasts predict another wave of cold temperatures and precipitation. Many families lack tent heaters, winter clothing and winterization materials. In addition, many beneficiaries complained about shortages of gas in the

communal kitchens. Families without access to gas resort to cooking on homemade stoves constructed from cinder blocks and burning materials gathered in and around the camp.

The Jordanian Ministry of Health (MoH) officials are concerned about the unsanitary conditions of private shops in the camp, some of which are preparing food and selling raw meat. The MoH suggests a higher degree of health standards is enforced on the shops, while bearing in mind the shops function as one of the few income generating opportunities for refugees in the camp. Thus far, health clinics have not reported any increases in the frequency of cases such as diarrhea and hepatitis in the camp.

WFP RESPONSE

Food Distribution: The second general food distribution in Al Za'atri camp is scheduled to begin on 16 January. The cycle had a delayed start due to a delay in the arrival of the UNHCR complimentary food items.

Voucher Distribution: Voucher distributions resumed in all governorates in Jordan following a brief pause due to poor weather conditions. WFP will target over 69,000 beneficiaries for vouchers for the January cycle of distributions.

New Arrivals: WFP provided bread to the entire population of Al Za'atri camp on daily basis. Following a reassessment of needs, the amount of bread distributed was increased from 10mt to 11.5mt per day highlighting the influx of beneficiaries. Welcome meals have been provided to 10,000 new arrivals thus far in January. The average influx of new arrivals during the reporting period was 700 refugees per day.

WFP Assistance: As WFP assistance is only provided to UNHCR registered beneficiaries, around 50,000 Syrians awaiting UNHCR registration in Jordan are excluded from WFP assistance; the waiting period between applying to register and receiving the registration appointment with UNHCR is currently six months. Various agencies are already working on assisting this vulnerable group facilitated by WFP through the food sector coordination, and many agencies have indicated a willingness to participate in a more formal joint plan of action with WFP to assist this group.

Assessment: A WFP mission from WFP Headquarters arrived in Jordan to conduct an assessment of the market size and the capacity required for a transition to vouchers in Al Za'atri and Zarqa refugee camps. The mission will meet with community-based organizations and carry out supply chain assessments in the markets and surrounding towns.

Lebanon

SITUATION UPDATE

Syrians in Lebanon
UNHCR Registered: 145,689
Awaiting Registration: 64,709
Total: 210,398

New Arrivals: The total Syrians in Lebanon is now over 210,000.

WFP RESPONSE

WFP Assistance: Food and voucher distributions under the January cycle have begun and are ongoing in the Bekka Valley and the North sub office. Distributions had been delayed due to poor weather conditions including significant snow fall in some areas. Voucher distributions for the South/Beirut sub office are scheduled to start on 18 January. Thus far, over 44,500

beneficiaries have received vouchers and food parcels in January.

Monitoring: The Bekka valley and South sub offices conducted 48 household monitoring visits thus far in January.

Turkey

SITUATION UPDATE

Syrians in Turkey
Government Registered: 154,705
Government estimate of Syrians present in country: 200,000

Voucher Distributions: The second voucher distribution for January was carried out on 15 January with funds being provided to 22,139 beneficiaries through the electronic food card programme. With these vouchers beneficiaries are able to purchase food items in selected shops.

WFP RESPONSE

Target Populations: The food security situation remains unchanged; populations residing in Government managed camps are reliant on outside assistance to meet their basic food needs. This assistance is being provided by the Government of Turkey, the Turkish Red Crescent Society and WFP.

Missions: The WFP Executive Director began her three-day mission to Turkey during the reporting period accompanied by the Regional Director, the Regional Emergency Coordinator and the Turkey Country Director to meet with Government officials and

representatives of the Turkish Red Crescent Society. The delegation will also travel to Kilis refugee camp.

New Arrivals: There are an estimated 35,000 Syrians on the border of Turkey awaiting admission into the country. The Turkish Red Crescent Society and other NGOs are providing assistance this vulnerable group. Between 500 – 1,000 people are registered daily; however, the average waiting time to enter Turkey is around one month.

Iraq

SITUATION UPDATE

Syrians in Iraq
UNHCR Registered: 72,480

WFP Assistance: WFP is providing assistance to refugees in both Domiz and Al-Qaim camps with both food parcels and vouchers.

WFP RESPONSE

Domiz Refugee Camp: January voucher cycle distributions will start shortly targeting 30,000 beneficiaries in the camp. Islamic Relief is contracting additional shops in Domiz camp and Dahuk to further ensure competitive market prices for the voucher programme.

Missions: The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary of the Secretary General (DSRSG), Humanitarian Coordinator and Resident Coordinator for Iraq, Ms Jacqueline Badcock, accompanied by WFP, UNHCR and WHO, visited Domiz camp and witnessed the voucher distribution to Syrian refugees.

Egypt

SITUATION UPDATE

Syrians in Egypt
UNHCR Registered: 13,874
Government estimate of Syrians present in country: 150,000

New Arrivals: UNHCR reported an increasing number of Syrian refugees are being registered outside the greater Cairo area, including in Alexandria and Damietta. UNHCR and WFP will

conduct rapid assessments on 22 – 23 January in Alexandria and Damietta.

There are reports that many of the refugees are moving to the Upper Egypt region, a traditionally food-insecure and vulnerable part of Egypt, although the largest concentration of Syrian refugees remain primarily in the urban centers of Cairo and Alexandria.

WFP RESPONSE

Targeting: WFP will initially provide target voucher assistance to 2,000 individuals in the poorer areas of greater Cairo in January (Al Obour and 6 October). As agreed with UNHCR, WFP then prioritize the refugees residing in Damietta in February.

Voucher Programme: WFP and the retail shop, Alwad Raged, are finalizing contracts for the voucher distribution in the greater Cairo area. WFP is conducting a shop assessment mission to identify partner shops in Alexandria and Damietta as Alwad Raged does not have a presence in these areas.

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