







Syria Crisis Regional response Situational Report

 ECHO and WFP signed an unprecedented agreement valued at EUR 348 million to roll-out an Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) in Turkey. WFP's Executive

Director and Turkish officials attended the official

ESSN opening ceremony in Ankara on 26 September.

• In early August, for the first time in WFP history, two 70-metre cranes were used to shift life-saving food

assistance to over 78,000 people stranded at the

Jordanian-Syrian border (the berm).

August/September 2016

Highlights

In Numbers

4.8 million Refugees in the Region (Source: UNHCR)

1.7 million Assisted in August

1.6 million Assisted in September

Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP)-2016

Overall:

USD 5.8b

WFP share:

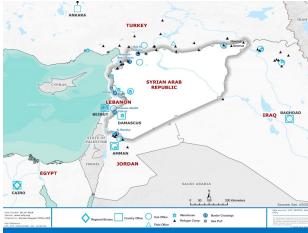
USD 694.39m

WFP 3-month Net Funding Requirements (Oct 2016 -Dec 2016)*

EMOP 200433

Fully Funded**

^{**}With solid forecasts, the operation is fully funded until the end of 2016



Regional EMOP - 200433

Situation Update

Protests in *Lebanon* occurred close to the two largest Palestinian camps in Shatila, south of Beirut and Ain El Helweh camp in southern Saida. In Beirut, protests were also witnessed due to the unresolved presidential vacuum. Incidents did not directly affect humanitarian operations, but continue pose a threat to humanitarian workers.

Due to security incidents at the berm in *Jordan,* the border remained closed throughout the reporting period. Humanitarian access has not been granted since the crane operation at the beginning of August, and populations are in urgent need of food and other supplies. The UN Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff of the Jordanian Army have agreed to continue with life-saving distributions; however humanitarian partners are still awaiting final approvals prior to proceeding with distributions for over 78,000 people.

On 27 September, The Minister of Labour (MoL) in **Jordan** confirmed the extension of the grace period of work permits for Syrian refugees. According to the MoL, 26,000 valid work permits have been issued to Syrians to date.

Turkey continues to witness heightened security concerns resulting from the recent attempted coup and the ongoing combat in Syria. President Erdogan has stated to parliament that the imposed state of emergency following the coup can be extended for an additional three months.

Intensive clashes between the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and Turkish security forces continued in southeast Turkey.

^{*}New project starting January 2017

The Turkish Government submitted a motion to parliament to give permission for the use of Turkish troops in Iraq and Syria for cross-border operations against members of the PKK.

On 24 August Turkey launched its "Euphrates Shield" ground incursion into Syria, targeting Islamic State and Levant (ISIL) and Kurdish fighters. The incursion succeeded in capturing the Manbij region, while Kurdish militants withdrew east of the Euphrates River. The Turkish army, with the Free Syrian Army (FSA) continued to move south in Syria towards the strategic town of al-Bab.

The situation for Syrian refugees inside camps in the Kurdistan Region of *Iraq* (KR-I) remains stable. Those outside camps face unpredictability due to the ongoing conflict between various armed groups, the Iraqi Security Forces, and the Kurdish Peshmerga forces.

While the situation in Mosul is not directly impacting the refugee humanitarian operations, the imminent military operation to retake Mosul from ISIL may displace an additional one million Iragis in the coming months.

The situation in **Egypt** remains stable, with the ongoing state of emergency in North Sinai having no impact on the refugee operation.

On 19 September, the first-ever Summit for Refugees and Migrants was held at the United Nations General Assembly, where member states adopted the New York Declaration. The Declaration contains commitments to address current issues surrounding refugees and migrants. Future commitments include negotiations for an international conference and the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration in 2018.

WFP Response

Food Assistance

Lebanon

August: 700,713 people reached through ecards (648,822 Syrian refugees; 19,575 Palestinian refugees from Syria; 32,316 vulnerable Lebanese who were assisted through the National Poverty Targeting Programme). September: 703,185 people reached through ecards (650,282 Syrian refugees, 15,344 Palestinian refugees from Syria and 37,559 vulnerable Lebanese who were assisted through the National Poverty Targeting Programme).

School meals resumed in September, benefitting 10,000 Lebanese and Syrian primary school children in 13 schools activities.

Preliminary results of the 2016 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR), reveal that the food security situation in Lebanon continues to deteriorate among refugees compared to data from 2015. Overall, only 7 percent of refugee households are estimated to be food secure; a decrease from 11 percent in 2015. The majority of households (58 percent) – are in the mild food security category, while 34 percent are moderately food insecure.

As part of WFP's strategic move towards building the resilience of vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees, a small-scale livelihoods project started in collaboration with Mercy Corps International. The project has several areas of focus:

- providing agricultural improvement packages to refugees and small holder farmers;
- training Lebanese and female-headed Syrian refugee households on nutrition awareness and financial management; and
- rehabilitating agricultural infrastructure through cash-for-work activities.

Through these resilience activities, 50 small-holder farmers have received agricultural inputs and training, 450 people have received training on financial management and nutritional awareness, and 750 people are benefiting from micro-gardening activities. Two additional cashfor-work projects focusing on restoring rural roads have also begun in the Bekaa Valley.

The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) unconditional cash pilot in Lebanon ended and the participants will return to the original e-card modality from October. The pilot examines the degree of effectiveness of providing cash over restricted voucher assistance. Cash allows people to prioritize their purchases and use their preferred shops, whereby e-voucher assistance can be used only for certain food items in particular shops. The study concluded that:

Overall, 90 percent of households are satisfied with how WFP assistance is being delivered, whether in cash or voucher;

- Three quarters of people prefer cash due to increased flexibility, higher buying power, dignity and empowerment;
- Results from two rounds of PDM suggest that cash did no harm during the course of the study;
- No protection incidents nor harmful family dynamics relating to the modality were observed;
- Operational limitations and contextual risks will be considered as WFP builds on the analytical results taking into account concerns regarding accountability.

Extensive preparations are underway for new e-card distributions in October. WFP and its partners will replace all existing blue e-cards with new red e-cards which will be used by UNHCR, UNICEF, Lebanese Cash Consortium and WFP.

Jordan

<u>August</u>: 536,015 people reached in host communities and camps, mainly through evouchers. An additional 78,289 people at the berm with in-kind food assistance. <u>September</u>: 534,672 people reached in host communities and camps, mainly through evouchers.

WFP resumed its school meals programme inside Za'atri and Azraq camps, reaching 19,955 children in September with nutritious meals.

In early August, WFP used its first-ever crane operation to deliver food and other supplies to 78,289 people stranded at the berm. This innovative delivery mechanism enabled WFP to reach people who had not received assistance since June 2016. Military drones were also used in the operation to monitor the distribution process. Click here to read more about the crane operation. Pending final approvals from the Jordanian Government, WFP and partners are planning to resume distributions until the end of 2016 with a diverse, 30-day food basket and essential non-food items.

Turkev

August: 280,319 people reached with evouchers: 151,395 people in camps, and

128,924 people off-camp.

September: 282,000 people reached with evouchers: 150,000 people in camps and

132,000 people off-camp.

Emergency Social Safety Net in Turkey

ECHO and WFP have signed an unprecedented agreement valued at EUR 348 million to roll-out the ESSN in Turkey—the largest ever humanitarian contribution from the EU. The ESSN is designed to support one million vulnerable refugees through a cash-based humanitarian relief programme. Through the use of debit cards, the ESSN will help families afford basic necessitates such as food, rent, medicine and winter clothing. Special priority will be given to families headed by women and the elderly, families with members suffering from disability, and families with large numbers of people unable to support themselves, such as children or the elderly.

The ESSN is a prime example of working through partnership. The programme has been developed and will be implemented in close collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC/Kizilay). Under the coordination of the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), the ESSN will build upon WFP/TRC's existing voucher schemes and the expertise of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP). This will ensure that the ESSN is closely aligned with existing national social assistance programmes. The programme will also promote social cohesion, and positively impact host communities with an injection of funds into local economies. Click here to read a press release about the EU's humanitarian programme, where the ESSN is described as a game changer in humanitarian assistance, and here for a WFP ED-issued statement.

WFP's expansion for assistance to Syrians living in host communities continues to face challenges related to identification mechanisms. WFP and the TRC continue to work with officials and local leaders, conducting lengthy house-to-house visits in order to reach vulnerable families. Meanwhile, WFP is working with partners to enhance identification mechanisms by using service centers to receive application requests to be included for assistance. On 21 September, a remote Post-Distribution Monitoring (rPDM) pilot exercise commenced in Turkey, where 400 households have been

reached by phone. The exercise is being tested for Pre-Assistance Baseline and PDM data collection during the ESSN implementation. This will enable WFP to reach a larger number of households in less time, reducing the number of staff and logistics required to collect the data through physical visits.

August: 58,624 people reached (50,799 people assisted through e-vouchers and 7,825 people were reached with a final ad-hoc in-kind distribution.

September: 51,452 people reached with evouchers.

In coordination with UNHCR, WFP Iraq will conduct a new targeting exercise in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The exercise aims to revise the demographic criteria for assessing the vulnerability of refugees residing in nine camps. The results will inform planning figures for the upcoming regional Protracted Relief and Recovery operation (PRRO) in January 2017.

Focus group discussions were held with Syrian refugees in Dohuk governorate in Iraq to inform planning for potential livelihoods activities in 2017.

Egypt

<u>August</u>: 65,987 people reached (63,072 Syrian refugees and 2,915 Palestinian refugees from Syria). These figures include 1,177 who appealed their exclusion from assistance based on previous targeting exercises. September: 65,873 people reached (63,126 Syrian refugees and 2,922 Palestinian refugees from Syria). These figures include 60 people reincluded from the appeal process.

Data collection continues for the interagency Egyptian Vulnerability Assessment for Refugees (EVAR), with 51,000 refugees reached to date. Initial findings reveal that 94 percent of Syrian refugees are unable to meet the minimum expenditure for their families; 61 percent of households are considered severely vulnerable, and 29 percent are highly vulnerable. Final analysis of the EVAR is expected by the end of November and will inform enhanced targeting of refugees and support planning of future food security interventions.

WFP Egypt is planning to roll out livelihood activities for 11,500 Syrian refugees and vulnerable Egyptians, including vocational training and income-generating activities. WFP is finalizing discussions with partners Caritas and Care International on the implementation process.

Since the start of the regional emergency operation, USD 2.16 billion has been injected into local economies in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt and Turkey, through the voucher transfer value and food procurement.

Please see last 2 pages for detailed figures on the operation during the reporting period.

Clusters

Food Security Sector



The Food Security Sector is working to update the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for the 2017-2018 cycle, including projected appeals. The 3RP is the guiding strategic document that responds to the humanitarian, protection and resilience needs of refugees from Syria and other impacted persons, communities and institutions in the five hosting countries of Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

In August, the food sector in Lebanon conducted an exercise to capture up-to-date information on funds received according to the priorities of sector partners. The results of the exercise will develop stronger advocacy messages to ensure that funding is allocated to cover all sector goals.

An online survey was also launched to capture the impact of strategic outcome 4 of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan- enhance effective and coordinated Food Security response. The results will be used as baseline for an end of year evaluation on sector performance. Other countries across the region continue to focus on 3RP planning.

Partnerships



WFP works with a number of strategic government partners and donors, international and local NGOs, sister agencies, financial agencies, and retail partners in the region to efficiently deliver assistance to those in need. WFP delivers its assistance through 20 cooperating partners across the five countries.

Ongoing Strategic Partnerships

WFP has partnered with Microsoft to explore innovative methods to increase programming impact through better use of data. Together, WFP and Microsoft are identifying ways to improve WFP's internal data collection, analysis, and distribution to support evidence-based programming decisions at both country and regional level. New systems that improve WFP's beneficiary accountability and feedback mechanisms are also being built. WFP and Microsoft are conducting design missions in both Jordan and Lebanon, with plans to scale to all Syria +5 countries in 2017.

WFP, UNDP and ILO have partnered to conduct a Regional Economic Opportunity Assessment. The overall aim is to strengthen livelihoods of communities as well as provide support to governments in the region through interventions that increase the employability and economic opportunities of Syrians and vulnerable members of host communities. Built on existing research, the assessment is based on wide consultation with various stakeholders. Its results will serve as a public good for the humanitarian and development community, providing a common base for future programming.

WFP, respectively with UNICEF and ILO is in the process of identifying areas of deeper programme collaboration in the Syria +5 region to support education outcomes. Joint WFP/UNICEF and WFP/ILO surveys have been sent out to country offices to determine the scope of the partnership and ensure complementarity of activities for enhanced integration.

Resourcing Update

Thanks to the record contribution from Germany pledged at the London Conference as well as continued support and solid forecasts from other donors, WFP's emergency response inside the five neighboring countries is fully covered until the end of 2016.

However, current operation will be replaced by a two year regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), set to begin January 2017, for a total cost of USD2.3 billion

Contacts

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WFP Operation							
Project Duration		Planned number of people Total requirements (in US\$)		Total received (in US\$)	3 month net funding requirements* (in USD) Sep -		
The Region	Jul12 -Dec12	2,297,585	3.2 billion	2.26 billion	0 m*		

^{*}With solid forecasts, the operation is fully funded until the end of 2016

Impact Review VI:

WFP's Global Retail Engagement Strategy

Every month the World Food Programme delivers a lifeline to 1.6 million people in five countries directly affected by the Syria crisis: Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt.

Historically, assistance is delivered with food, but increasingly, WFP is using cash in contexts where the appropriate market structures are in place. Introduced in Lebanon in the form of paper vouchers, today cash makes up 97 per cent of total assistance in the region, in the form of vouchers or e-cards. For beneficiaries and host countries alike, cash-based transfers (CBTs) are the most effective means of quaranteeing beneficiaries' safety and nutrition while respecting their autonomy and dignity. Equally, significant advantages are brought to the region. By directing money into the local economy, there are significant positive effects to the host society and economy. Where refugees are seen as a source of customers, not competition, the risk of host-refugee tensions declines.

From WFP's perspective, under its Retail Strategy, further engagement with cash programmes is possible, as well as the ability to better understand beneficiaries' needs. Better data enhances WFP's accountability, while applied business strategies help improve efficiency throughout the entire supply chain, allowing lower prices at the checkout for the beneficiary and for members of host communities.

Over the longer term, WFP's support for the retail sector and the associated improvement in supply chains will translate into the development of the sector as a whole. WFP's legacy will be a more robust and sustainable business model for the day when emergency food assistance is no longer necessary.

Ultimately, WFP's engagement with its cash programmes and the retail strategy is governed by a need to better connect with beneficiaries. In improving food security and nutrition, our engagement helps restore a measure of dignity and control to lives for whom are perhaps the most scarce and valuable commodities of all.

How does it work?

In deciding to implement a cash programme (as opposed to in-kind or direct food assistance), WFP seeks out partnerships with shops and financial service providers. Selected shops immediately receive an increased flow of shoppers, translating to increased sales. Through the Retail Strategy's three pillars (lower prices, traceability of purchases, and retail sector

development), WFP seeks to leverage these incremental sales to pass on benefits to beneficiaries and other members of the community who use the WFP-contracted shops. The strategy supports not only the retail sector inside countries hosting Syrian refugees, but also aids in the design of livelihood projects around supply chains, such as internships and entrepreneurial development. Syrians participating in the programme gain skills that can eventually be transferred back to Syria.

What are we doing now?

The strategy is well underway in Jordan and Lebanon, and has recently started in Iraq (August, 2016). Through contractual agreements with WFP, large supermarket chains in Jordan and Lebanon already highly integrated into markets are able to pass savings along to WFP beneficiary customers at no cost; refugees in Lebanon and Jordan are already enjoying these savings. WFP is continually working with the large retailers in both countries to ensure the maximum level of savings is achieved. In Iraq, WFP is working with retailers inside camp shops to identify price improvement opportunities.

The retail strategy places special emphasis on smaller shops. Given the geographical spread of



refugees and vulnerable Lebanese and Jordanian residents, not everyone is able to access the large retailers. Before smaller shops can achieve the target level of savings (Pillar I), concerted efforts are needed to better integrate these shops into the retail market by strengthening their capacity to create a sustainable, lower cost operation (Pillar III). Specific measures include improving stock and inventory management, employing retail education strategies, acquiring a POS system to automate purchase data (also allowing WFP to integrate pillar II of the Retail Strategy—traceability of beneficiaries' purchases), and forming buying cooperatives that lower purchasing and transport costs — all are better business practices that shop owners may struggle to realize on their own. The efficiencies gained can then be passed on to consumers in the entire community, leaving the retail sector in better health long after WFP assistance has ended.

Traceability and greater accountability; items, prices, quantity and modality

Point of **SALE** systems provide **WFP** with itemized transaction data that shows prices paid, items bought, a method of payment, without breaching confidentiality

Another component of the Retail Strategy is better data management, through the ability to track and monitor beneficiaries' purchases (Pillar II). In Lebanon, a significant number of contracted shops, large and small, are providing WFP with itemized sales data generated from the POS systems. In Jordan, WFP is scaling up the data component, aiming to achieve data from most shops by the end of October 2016.

This data allows WFP to view the spending patterns of Syrian refugees, thereby improving output monitoring of the programme.

For instance, when data indicates that families are not purchasing specific items in the food basket, reviews and necessary adjustments can be undertaken. Ultimately, this ability enhances accountability to WFP's beneficiaries, ensuring that preferred items are stocked.

Better data also helps WFP ensure that contractual obligations with shops are maintained, through monitoring sales and pricing. Gaining access to this level of information allows for enhanced accountability: WFP can inform its key stakeholders where the resources entrusted were spent and on which commodities. WFP will ultimately be able to also report on the origin of the commodity with a view to quantifying the positive secondary effects of the intervention on local production.

Through the understanding of key value items, sale prices, and amounts being sold, opportunities can be leveraged to engage with new suppliers, securing volume purchasing that translates into lower prices, thus

supporting Pillar I of the strategy.

Efforts are now underway in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq to standardize the huge volume of data sets to allow for more efficient analysis. By ensuring anonymity and confidentiality, data can also be shared for humanitarian purposes, aligning with one of Vision 2020's guiding principles, the use of data as a common humanitarian good.

The implementation of the Retail Strategy is regularly monitored in both Lebanon and Jordan, with key milestones achieved each month. Refugees in camps in Iraq will also soon benefit from enhanced purchasing power as early as November 2016, as WFP completes its initial work with camp retailers to identify opportunities for lower prices.

With the ever-changing complexity of protracted crises and emergencies in WFP's portfolio, and the increasing ability to switch between cash and food as markets dictate, cash-based transfers have emerged as a critically important tool for WFP to assist those in need. WFP will continue to reflect on lessons learned and focus on innovation to ensure initiatives such as the Retail Strategy can be leveraged, where appropriate, to ensure long-term solutions for both beneficiaries and the host countries where it works.

RETAIL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening the capacities of retailers to create a sustainable,

LOWER COST

operations benefiting entire communities after WFP assistance has ended

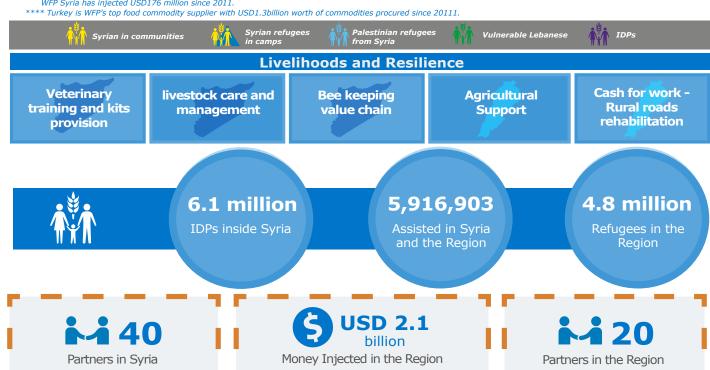
31	KIA TO	KEGION	IAL RES	PUI	ISE UPDA	TE - AUGUST D.	TOLKIDOLIONO
	IDPs/ Registered Refugees	Targeted Beneficiaries	Assisted Beneficiaries	%	Money Injected in Local Economies*	Modalities Used	Cash Based Transfer Value (USD)
SYRIA	6,100,000	4,000,000	4,196,956**	105%	USD 29 m***	Family Food Basket, Supplementary feeding Cash Based Transfers -using paper vouchers School Feeding Snacks	Pregnant and nursing 30 women Due to the fluctuation of the exchange rate this value is approximate
LEBANON	1,033,513	† † † † † † † † † †	700,713	87%	USD 740 m	Cash Based Transfers -using E-cards and Cash	Vulnerable 27
JORDAN	655,990	563,500	614,304	109%	USD 596 m	Cash Based Transfers -using E-cards and paper vouchers In-kind food at the berm School Feeding Snacks	Vulnerable 14.1 Extremely Vulnerable 28.2 Jordan Camps 28.2
TURKEY	2,726,980	† †† 1	280,319	54% lower due to delayed scale-up of off-camp refugees	USD 578 m****	Cash Based Transfers - using E-cards	inside camps 18.2 host communities 22.5 Government of Turkey provides 50 TL (USD18.1) on a separate card to meet complementary food and non-food needs inside camps USD values are approximate due to fluctuations in the exchange rate
EGYPT	114,911	70,877	65,987	93%	USD 113 m	Cash Based Transfers - using E-cards and paper vouchers	Vulnerable 22.5 USD values are approximate due to fluctuations in the exchange rate
IRAQ	293,008	72,500	58,624	81%	USD 65 m	Cash Based Transfers -using SCOPE and cash Ad-hoc in-kind food	Vulnerable 19 Extremely Vulnerable 28.2

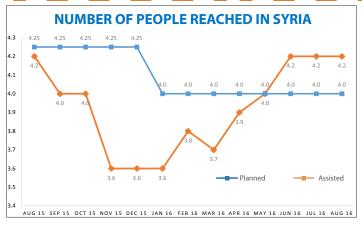
*Includes Procurement and CBT transfer.

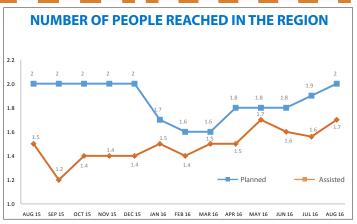
*** 4,161,956 were provided with food baskets. The rest were provided with wheat flour.

*** WFP Syria is gradually scaling up its CBT response, while it is maintaining a very large in-kind response. If local transport and packaging facilities are added to the above figure,

WFP Syria has injected USD176 million since 2011.



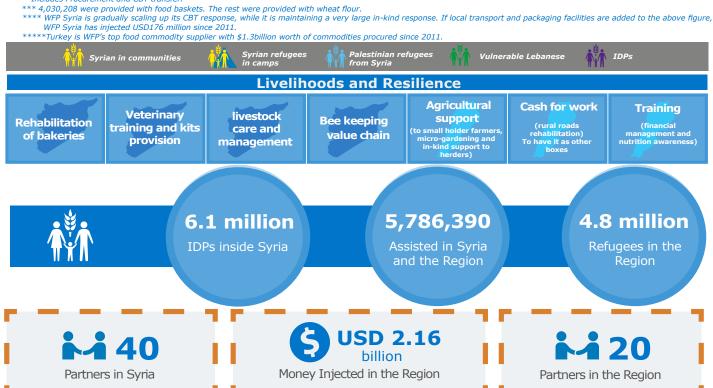


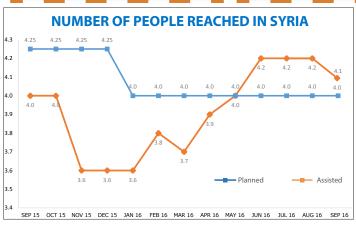


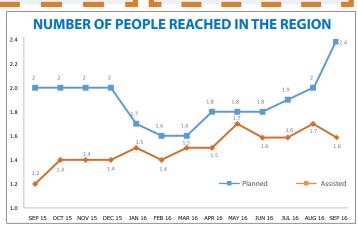
SYRIA +5 REGIONAL RESPONSE UPDATE - SEPTEMBER DISTRIBUTIONS

	STRIA TO REGIONAL RESPONSE OFDATE - SEPTEMBER DISTRIBUTIONS						
	IDPs/ Registered Refugees	Targeted Beneficiaries*	Assisted Beneficiaries*	%	Money Injected in Local Economies**	Modalities Used	Cash Based Transfer Value (USD)
SYRIA	6,100,000	4,000,000 4,	,149,208***	104%	USD 29 m****	Family Food Basket, Supplementary feeding Cash Based Transfers -using paper vouchers School Feeding Snacks	Pregnant and nursing 30 women Due to the fluctuation of the exchange rate this value is approximate
LEBANON	1,033,513	Å Å Å Å Å Å Å Å Å Å	703,185	85%	USD 759 m	Cash Based Transfers -using E-cards and Cash School Feeding Snacks	Vulnerable 27
JORDAN	655,990	Å 686,400	334,072	78% lower due to no distribu- tions at the berm	USD 612 m	Cash Based Transfers -using E-cards and paper vouchers In-kind food at the berm School Feeding Snacks	Vulnerable 14.1 Extremely Vulnerable 28.2 Jordan Camps 28.2
TURKEY	2,726,980	735,000		38% lower due to delayed scale-up of off-camp refugees	USD 583m****	Cash Based Transfers - using E-cards	inside camps 18.2 host communities 22.5 Government of Turkey provides 50 TL (USD18.1) on a separate card to meet complementary food and non-food needs inside camps USD values are approximate due to fluctuations in the exchange rate
EGYPT	114,911	† † † † 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	65,873	93%	USD 114 m	Cash Based Transfers - using E-cards and paper vouchers	Vulnerable 24.2 Voucher value changes due to fluctuations in exchange rate. Accordingly, in September, the value increased- to original value.
IRAQ	293,008	57,350	51,452	90%	USD 66 m	Cash Based Transfers -using SCOPE and cash	Vulnerable 19 Extremely Vulnerable 28.2

^{*} Targeted and assisted figures only cover food assistance activities.







^{**}Includes Procurement and CBT transfer.