Situation Update

- Access remain a challenge facing WFP and the humanitarian community at the Berm at the Syrian-Jordanian border. Since mid-June, WFP was not able to reach 50,000 Syrians stranded at the Berm who were living in difficult conditions and relying mostly on humanitarian agencies for life-saving assistance. WFP and all relevant agencies are working with the Jordanian Government to resume the provision of life-saving assistance.

- Armed clashes in Lebanon’s Arsal’s outskirts erupted on 21 July 2017 and resulted in the displacement of more than a hundred Syrian refugee and Lebanese Households. WFP has put preparedness measures in place and has been prepositioning additional food cards for the event of additional displacement of Syrian and Lebanese households in the areas.

- In Egypt, the cost of minimum expenditure food basket has reached EGP 402.5 (USD 22.2) in May 2017, compared to EGP 239.6 (USD 13.2) during May 2016. In recognition of the increasing pressures of soaring prices on Egyptian household purchasing capacity, the Egyptian Cabinet announced that the food ration card allowance will be increased as of July by 140 percent from EGP 21 per person to EGP 50 per person, and this applies to a family of 4 members. Any additional family members will be entitled to only EGP 25. This will apply to about 68.8 million Egyptians (Reuters).

Highlights

- In Iraq, WFP began a digital skills training for 100 Syrians in Arbat refugee camp. These beneficiaries are receiving training in order to improve their chances of finding employment.

- WFP made transfers to more than one million beneficiaries in Turkey. 863,000 vulnerable refugees received multi-purpose cash assistance through the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) and 142,000 Syrians received e-food voucher assistance in camps. The ESSN aims to assist more than one million people in 2017.

WFP Response

Food Assistance

Egypt:

- In Egypt, WFP reached 74,471 people with general food assistance. WFP’s food voucher value remained at 400 EGP (USD 22).

- Through its focus on resilience and enhancement of social cohesion between Syrian refugees and Egyptians, WFP jointly with *Dawar for
Lebanon:
• A 10-day nutrition summer camp was held in six schools during the month of July. 1,000 children between the ages of 11-13 from the school snack programme were selected to participate. The summer camp aims to bring together school snack programme students from both the a.m. and p.m. shifts, participate. The summer camp aims to bring together school snack programme students from both the a.m. and p.m. shifts, and other stakeholders to prepare an action plan to test the expansion plan of the National School Meals Programme. The study showed that cash assistance delivered better or equivalent food security outcomes than food vouchers owing to improved purchasing power of Syrian refugees. Upon review of the pilot, WFP may decide to expand to additional governorates.

Jordan:
• WFP is planning to roll-out a choice mechanism for refugees to use food vouchers as restricted or unrestricted cash assistance, piloting in Madaba. This means that refugees will get to choose whether to use food assistance as unrestricted cash by withdrawing their assistance in cash from Jordan Ahli Bank ATMs, or as a restricted food vouchers redeemable at WFP contracted shops or both. This is based on a study commissioned in 2016, undertaken by Boston Consultancy Group (BCG) to explore which modality is most effective in delivering food security for refugees: electronic food vouchers or unrestricted cash. The study showed that cash assistance delivered better or equivalent food security outcomes than food vouchers owing to improved purchasing power of Syrian refugees. Upon review of the pilot, WFP may decide to expand to additional governorates.

Iraq:
• More than 56,000 Syrian refugees received cash-based transfers through WFP’s SCOPE platform in July 2017. All of those assisted were in camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). All beneficiaries received IQD 22,000 (USD 19) per person per month.

Turkey:
• By 31 July, 322,959 applications to the ESSN had been received, representing more than 1.6 million people. More than 98 percent have been processed and 50 percent have been found eligible for ESSN support, in line with WFP’s plan to reach over one million refugees.

• Whilst applications had slowed down significantly from April, there was an increase in July with 4,000 applications submitted per week on average. Possible reasons include the changed criteria, progress in the local Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) offices’ processing of refugee registration, and translation support to SASFs.

• In July, ESSN payments were transferred to 143,744 households (totaling 862,467 persons), an increase from 108,821 households (totaling 685,577 persons) reached in June.

• WFP is monitoring the effect of the criteria change implemented in June to assist more vulnerable families through regular visits to Social Solidarity and Assistance Foundations (SASF) offices and TRC Service Centres (SCs). The SASFs and SCs implement the criteria, with eligibility reviewed by local Boards of Trustees.

• In addition, 142,097 vulnerable Syrians living in 11 camps in the southeast of Turkey continued to receive 50 Turkish Liras (~USD 18) per person per month to be spent on food. This assistance is complemented by assistance of 50 Turkish Liras provided by AFAD. In-camp price monitoring during July showed the average price of the food basket in different camps varied between 59 and 81 Turkish Liras.

Money injected into the local economy:
• Since 2012, WFP’s regional operation has injected USD 3.0 billion into local economies in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, through the voucher transfer value, local food procurement and other expenditure.

Resourcing Update
• The two-year Regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRRO 200987) has a total budget of USD 2.3 billion for 2017 and 2018.

• WFP needs an additional USD 99.5 million to continue to provide food assistance for refugees in the neighbouring
countries till the end of the year. Without additional funds, over a million people currently being assisted will have their assistance either significantly reduced or completely cut. A reduction in food assistance often causes families to re-prioritise their basic needs expenditure and turn to negative coping strategies in order to save money for food, such as taking children out of school and cutting health costs. These actions have the potential to further exacerbate problems already being addressed by the humanitarian community.

Contacts

- Syria Crisis Info syriacrisis.info@wfp.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WFP Operation</th>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Net Funding Requirements* (in USD)</th>
<th>People Assisted** (July 2017)</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional PRRO (2017-2018) TOTAL</td>
<td>2.312 billion</td>
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<td>Egypt</td>
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<td>Turkey</td>
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</table>

* September-December 2017, including confirmed pledges and solid forecasts ** Totals for Jordan include people assisted through livelihood activities