



WFP Syria Crisis Regional Response Situation Report

July 2017

In Numbers

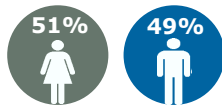
5 million refugees from Syria
(UNHCR)

2.5 million people assisted by WFP
in July

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.

People assisted July 2017



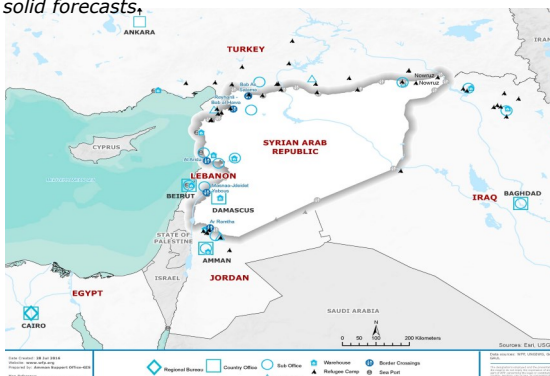
GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200987

Global Humanitarian Funding
Overall: USD 4.68 billion
WFP share: USD 1.33 billion

WFP Net Funding Requirements* (Sep-Dec 2017)

Regional PRRO 200987	USD 99.5 million
Egypt	USD 8.4 million
Iraq	USD 3.1 million
Jordan	USD 34.7 million
Lebanon	USD 48.0 million
Turkey	USD 5.3 million

*September-December 2017, including confirmed pledges and solid forecasts.



Regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO 200987)

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 Aarsal'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).

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

Arts and Development” are organizing several psychodrama workshops in different governorates including Alexandria and Damietta. Through therapeutic drama, applied theatre and other arts based processes, this program will cultivate creative, relational spaces that encourage refugee and host communities to understand and appreciate each other’s culture and identity. Upon this foundation participants will be invited to collectively map, analyse and address issues of collective concern. Proposals for collaborative, cross-community action will be encouraged.

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.
- In addition, 100 Syrians in Arbat refugee camp began a digital skills training. Taking place at the American University of Iraq – Sulaymaniyah, these WFP beneficiaries are receiving training for two months in order to improve their chances of finding employment.

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.
- In July, another high level consultation session was held with the Ministry of Education with representation from relevant ministries and sectors. Based on the request from the Ministry of Education to explore other sustainable school feeding models, two additional models, relying on the private sector were presented. These models will be tested in 2018. A review for the piloted models will inform the way forward for the expansion plan of the National School Meals Programme. The Ministry of Education requested technical support from WFP and other stakeholders to prepare an action plan to test the new models.

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, in nutrition-inspired activities.
- Preparations for the introduction of unrestricted cash in September 2017 is ongoing. Building on the BCG cash pilot study conducted in 2016, WFP in Lebanon will transition

approximately 160,000 Syrian refugees from the e-voucher to unrestricted cash assistance. Targeted households will be able to redeem their USD 27/per person at any ATM to purchase food items.

- UNHCR and WFP are finalizing the results of the targeting revision conducted by the American University of Beirut, building on 2016 targeting and the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR). The revision will provide an update to the household vulnerability targeting formula in order to proceed with a joint targeting approach. The approach will ensure that the severely vulnerable households receive a harmonized package of assistance to meet their survival needs.
- The second cycle of the digital skills training for Beirut was concluded with the graduation ceremony held at the AUB campus on 19 July.

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

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WFP Operation					
	Total Requirements (in USD)	Net Funding Requirements* (in USD)	People Assisted** (July 2017)	Female	Male
Regional PRRO (2017-2018) TOTAL	2.312 billion	107 million	2,513,371	1,281,819	1,231,552
Egypt	69.2 million	8 million	74,471	36,491	37,980
Iraq	58 million	1 million	55,817	27,350	28,467
Jordan	549 million	47 million	632,907	322,783	310,124
Lebanon	641 million	46 million	743,755	386,753	357,002
Turkey	481 million	6 million	1,006,421	523,339	483,082

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