Situation Update

- UNHCR registered around 1.1 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon. It is the world’s largest concentration of refugees compared to its population. The influx is placing significant strain on Lebanese resources and communities.

- As the Syrian crisis continues, WFP - the world’s largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger - is increasingly relied upon to provide life-saving assistance to an extraordinary number of vulnerable refugees.

- The 2015 multi-sectoral Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) in Lebanon shows a continued deterioration of the food security situation among refugees across the country compared to 2014. Specifically:
  - 70 percent of households are below the poverty line (USD 3.84/person/day);
  - 52 percent of households are below the survival minimum expenditure basket (the minimum food required to meet 2,100 kilocalories);
  - 61 percent of households are applying emergency and crisis coping strategies;
  - 11 percent of households are food insecure; and
  - 23 percent of households are moderately food insecure.

- Data collection for the 2016 VASyR started in May and will continue until Ramadan.
- WFP and UNICEF are supporting a UNDP-led rapid poverty assessment of the Lebanese population. The assessment will contribute towards the creation of a food security baseline for Lebanese.

WFP Response

- In Lebanon, WFP provides assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria through e-cards and cash transfers. E-cards are the principle modality of assistance as local markets are capable of providing sufficient food. Additionally, the e-cards allow beneficiaries to buy the food they need when they need it.

In Numbers

722,368 people were assisted by WFP in April

USD 634 million directly injected into the Lebanese economy through the e-card platform since 2012

Funding Update

Regional emergency operation

With funding pledged during the “Supporting Syria and the Region Conference” in London, WFP fully reinstated its food assistance to displaced Syrians in the region in March.

The Lebanon component of WFP’s regional emergency operation (EMOP 200433) has a 2016 budget of USD 237 million.

Highlights

In May, WFP assisted 722,368 beneficiaries: 691,933 Syrian refugees with USD 27 each, 20,435 Palestinian refugees from Syria, and 10,000 Lebanese and Syrian pupils with a school snack. 27,208 vulnerable Lebanese were also assisted through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) to which WFP only provided technical support.
• WFP provides assistance to the Ministry of Social Affairs through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP). Under the programme, 27,000 vulnerable Lebanese receive USD 30 per month using WFP's e-card platform.

• WFP’s 2016 validation exercise is well underway. Despite some security constraints in the north and the Bekaa, the majority of beneficiaries have already completed the process which will conclude by mid-June. WFP and its partners regularly hold such exercises to ensure that the right beneficiaries have the right e-cards. Additionally, it provides an opportunity to meet with all targeted beneficiaries, to ensure that WFP has their correct contact information and to provide them with a refresher training on using the e-card.

• WFP’s ShareTheMeal app continues to focus exclusively on Syrian refugee children in Lebanon. As of 01 June, the fundraising goal of USD 500,000—to support 1,400 3-4 year olds in Beirut for one year—is 40 percent achieved.

• Since the launch of the OneCard platform in January 2015, a number of humanitarian partners in Lebanon have been using WFP e-card platform for cash based assistance while WFP manages entitlement loading and data. So far, Lebanon Cash Consortium, UNHCR, World Vision and UNICEF have joined the platform in addition to NPTP. Since 2012, WFP has injected USD 634 million directly into the Lebanese economy through the e-card platform.

• WFP is developing a new regional intervention strategy that will address resilience, safety nets, and national capacity building while continuing the provision of food assistance to the most vulnerable crisis-affected people. In line with that, WFP is developing a project with FAO for resilience building of the Syria crisis-affected people.

• WFP launched the shop selection component of its retail strategy. Existing and potential new shops are requested to apply through the expression of interest published in May.

Food Security Sector

• The Food Security Sector was involved in two key events in May, namely—the launch of the Lebanon FAO Country Programming Framework 2016-2019 and a presentation on the Strategic Review of Food and Nutrition Security.

• The first Food Security Sector coordination meeting was held in Saida with the aim of exploring field coordination needs for the south and Nabatieh. Such meetings will continue regularly throughout the year.

Partnerships

• WFP celebrity ambassador Hend Sabry visited Lebanon to meet beneficiaries and create promotional material for the ShareTheMeal campaign which will be aired throughout Ramadan.

• WFP works closely with the Lebanese government and has key relationships with the Ministry of Social Affairs. WFP is also strengthening partnerships with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. Maintaining and building upon these relationships is key to WFP’s long-term planning as it looks at diversifying interventions.

• For its e-card activities, WFP works with eight non-governmental organisations: Action Contre La Faim, Danish Refugee Council, InterSOS, Mercy Corps, Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale, Save the Children, SHEILD and World Vision.

Resourcing Update

• WFP Lebanon’s ten biggest donors since 2012 are: Canada, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Kingdom and United States of America.

• WFP Lebanon has a net funding requirement of USD 38 million over the coming six months.

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<tr>
<th>WFP Lebanon’s Operation (part of EMOP 200433)</th>
<th>Total 2016 Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Total Received (in USD)</th>
<th>6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>People Reached (in May)</th>
<th>Female (approx)</th>
<th>Male (approx)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EMOP 200433 (01/07/2012—31/12/2016)</td>
<td>237 m</td>
<td>36 m</td>
<td>38 m</td>
<td>772,368</td>
<td>401,631</td>
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