



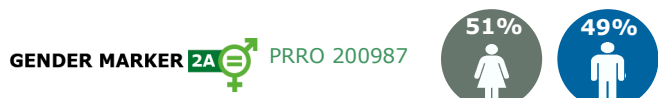
# Syria Crisis Regional Response Situation Report

January 2017

## In Numbers

**4.8 million** Refugees in the Region  
(Source: UNHCR)

**1.9 million** Assisted by WFP in January



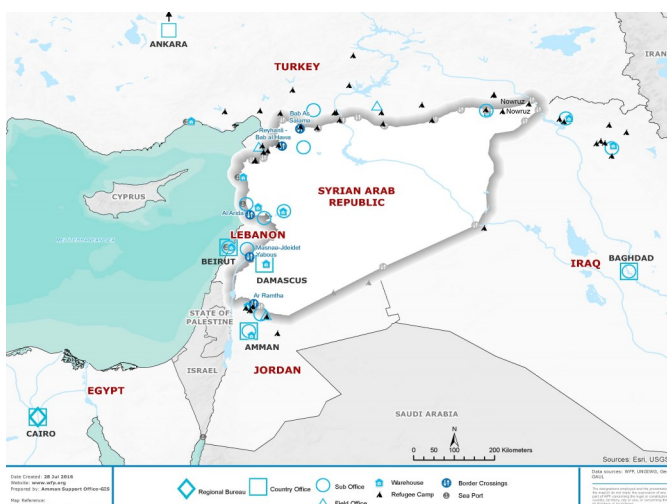
**Regional  
Refugee &  
Resilience Plan  
(3RP) 2017-  
2018**

**Overall:  
USD 4.68b  
WFP share:  
USD 1.33b**

## REGIONAL Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation/PRRO 200987 Net Funding Requirements:

(June 2017-August 2017)\*

\*Operation is covered until end of May, 2017; from March-August, Turkey requires USD 24 million for in-camp refugees



**Regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation/PRRO 200987: Assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees and host communities in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey**

## Highlights

- WFP completed the first distribution at the area between the Jordanian and Syrian border, (the berm), since August, 2016. The distribution, which began 22 November and ended 14 January, delivered life-saving food and other essential items to 15,290 households.
- Due to funding constraints, the monthly transfer value was reduced in Egypt from USD 24.2 (EGP 400) to USD 16.6 (EGP 300) to cover January requirements.
- The Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) rollout continued in full coordination and partnership with the Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP) and the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), across all of Turkey. As of 31 January, applications to the ESSN from 153,543 households (767,700 people) were received. The number of ESSN beneficiaries reached was 121,177.

## Situation Update

The 2017-2018 Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) was launched at the "Helsinki Conference on Supporting Syrians and the Region" in Helsinki, Finland on 24 January. In order to continue urgent work to address the life-saving, protection and resilience needs of Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities, United Nations agencies and 240 NGO partners appealed for USD 4.63 billion in new funding, of which WFP's share is USD 1.33 billion (29 percent) The plan aims to assist over 4.7 million refugees from Syria and 4.4 million people hosting them in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

The devaluation of the Egyptian pound and subsequent spike in food prices has affected the cost of the average food basket for Syrian refugees. It increased to EGP 350 (USD 19) in December, 2016, compared to EGP 213 (USD 11.7) in February 2016. According to a preliminary data analysis draft paper of the Egyptian Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees (EVAR), due to rising food prices, the expenditure on food represents the largest proportion (45 percent) of overall spending by Syrian households. The EVAR preliminary results also point out that in Egypt, 94 percent of Syrian refugees are unable to meet the minimum expenditure for their families, with 61 percent of households being severely vulnerable and a further 29 percent of households being highly vulnerable.

Photo: A cucumber farmer participating in a Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) project in Lebanon.

WFP/Edward Johnson

The 2016 Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise (CFSME) results found that food security levels of Syrian refugees living in the host communities have increased since last year, with 28 percent of households now food secure compared with 15 percent in 2015. This improvement is mainly due to a stabilisation in food assistance, but indicate that refugees are still largely in need of aid. Humanitarian funding remains below 2014 levels though, reflected in the fact that food security has not returned to the 2014 level, when 50 percent of households were food secure. Further, economic vulnerability persists; five percent of households have savings, while 87 percent are in debt. The report was shared with key government stakeholders, UN agencies and INGOs in Jordan. Key findings will be presented to donors at the Cash Comparative Study sounding board meeting on 7 February.

The value of the Turkish Lira declined against the dollar to a historic low of 3.9, compared to a static 2.9 from January to June 2016. Ratings agencies have downgraded Turkey's fiscal ratings. WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping experts are closely tracking macroeconomic factors to determine the impact on household purchasing power and make appropriate recommendations.

Turkey, along with Russia and Iran, presented a united front at the conclusion of the two-day Syria peace talks in Kazakhstan in January involving the Syrian government and some of the armed groups. The three governments pledged support for the ceasefire involving those groups committed to the peace talks.

## WFP Response

**Food Assistance** (targeted vs. reached figures are available on last page)

**Egypt:** WFP reached 76,002 people in January: 73,285 Syrian refugees and 2,717 Palestinian refugees from Syria.

As a result of the current funding situation, the voucher value was reduced in the implementation plan to USD 16.6 (EGP 300) instead of the project plan USD 24.2 (EGP 400) to cover January requirements.

**Iraq:** WFP reached 53,239 Syrian refugees in nine camps, of which 1,002 received unrestricted cash on pre-paid cards.

As of January 2017, the monthly transfer value for refugees will be harmonized and all beneficiaries will receive 22,000 Iraqi Dinar (USD 19) per person, per month. The harmonization of the entitlement replaces the previous tiered approach with varying assistance entitlements. Under the tiered approach, a minor number of people (4 percent), were provided a slightly higher value. WFP monitoring has revealed a stable food security situation with a transfer value of USD 19. This change simplifies WFP's approach to the refugee response, and is in line with the value provided to IDPs in Iraq (USD 17 per person, per month).

WFP funds were confirmed late in January, consequently delaying the start of distribution

until 22 January. Despite the delayed start, WFP's cooperating partner World Vision managed to finish all distributions on time.

**Jordan:** In January, WFP provided assistance to 423,678 Syrian refugees in host communities and 108,268 people inside camps. WFP reached 20,496 students with school meals in refugee camps, and 5,825 people benefitted from Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) and Food Assistance for Training (FFT) activities. In January, at the berm, 5,196 households received food and non-food items. Since the beginning of this distribution cycle in 22 November 2016, WFP reached 15,290 households. The second distribution is set to begin in February. WFP estimates household sizes to be 5 people.

In partnership with UNDP, WFP implemented the FFT joint skills exchange activity. Eligible Jordanians receive training from Syrian refugees in areas where market-demanded microbusinesses can be started (food production, construction, carpentry and agriculture). In January, 735 Jordanian and Syrian participants in Mafraq and Irbid governorates benefited from skills exchange, half of whom are women.

In collaboration with UN Women and the Royal Health Awareness Society, WFP prepared for the implementation of its FFA Healthy Kitchen Project. Under Healthy Kitchens, Syrians are employed to prepare nutritious meals for schoolchildren, using ingredients sourced from local suppliers. Due to become operational in February, the kitchens sites were constructed and equipment was installed. Under Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities, 32 Syrians were hired as guards for the kitchen sites and were paid USD 16 per day under short-term, income-generating activities.

Also under the FFA activity, 398 Jordanians, (50 percent women), received USD 14 per day in exchange for rapid improvement of community infrastructure and basic service deliveries.

**Lebanon:** WFP reached 692,434 Syrian refugees; 52,753 vulnerable Lebanese; 15,950 Palestinian refugees from Syria, and 2,775 Syrians and Lebanese with rapid income-generation activities as part of livelihoods activities. Syrian and Lebanese children did not receive school meals due to the winter holiday.

WFP continued the implementation of FFA agriculture infrastructure projects in January in the Bekaa and South regions of Lebanon for 2,775 Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese. In addition, 90 Syrians and Lebanese youth continued their participation in a digital skills training programme, to enhance marketable skillsets and access to human resources, capital, and productive assets needed for economic growth.

The Common Card distribution continued in January in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and the northern and southern regions of Lebanon. Since October, 2016, 151,000 Common Cards have been distributed. The Common Card is part of the integrated approach launched by WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and Lebanese Cash Consortium (a group of cash NGOs) for a harmonized

delivery of cash-based transfer assistance. It will be enhanced through the Lebanon One Unified System for E-Cards (LOUISE), an innovative CBT management system that allows partners to share information on recipient profiling, targeting and selection of assistance modality.

WFP and UNICEF are preparing winterization assistance for vulnerable Lebanese under the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP). Similar to last year, the project will target around 26,000 NPTP households with cash assistance, allowing people to purchase winter items according to their needs. WFP is supporting the Ministry of Social Affairs with overall planning of the project, including staff training on beneficiary communication and card distribution. WFP is also responsible for loading the transfer value to the cards.

**Turkey:** WFP reached 121,177 people under the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN); 216,641 people transitioning to ESSN through applications; and 143,168 people inside camps. All refugees (not only Syrians) are eligible to apply for ESSN assistance. Refugees received unrestricted cash assistance of USD 36, allowing them to pay for their monthly basic needs such as food and rent.

WFP and the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) are finalizing arrangements to conduct pre-assistance baseline (PAB) data collection through the TRC call center. Once the baseline data sample and staffing of the call center is complete, baseline data collection will start. The PAB survey tool has been developed and tested and is now integrated in the TRC database.

The Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP), TRC, ECHO and WFP agreed to revisit the ESSN targeting to minimize exclusion errors.

At the end of January, WFP piloted a small post-distribution monitoring exercise covering the first ESSN beneficiaries from Ankara and Sivas. WFP went house-to-house and conducted interviews in person. The analysis is ongoing.

WFP and TRC introduced a Joint Management Cell (JMC) to optimize collaboration on project management and foster knowledge exchange. Various functions have been identified and staffed by both organizations. The cell will expedite troubleshooting and decision making related to issues identified during implementation.

## Clusters

### Food Security Sector

**Turkey:** WFP co-chaired the Cash-based Intervention Technical Working Group in Gaziantep. A UNHCR/Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) tool was introduced that captures partner agencies' protection risks and benefits relating to CBT for refugees and host communities in Turkey. The overall aim is to develop recommendations to improve CBT programme design. The CaLP Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool (OCAT) was also introduced to assess the partners' readiness to

deliver CBT in Turkey and to provide concrete suggestions for mitigation measures and further capacity building as required.

## Partnerships

**iTRACK:** iTRACK is a EUR 4 million research project funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020. iTRACK involves 12 different research and private sector organizations, with WFP and IMMAP representing the humanitarian sector. The project aims to develop an open-source system to improve the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers and assets particularly during complex emergencies such as the Syrian conflict. WFP is providing geographic information system (GIS) data layers (roads, rivers, boundaries, risk & threat etc.) through its OpsFeed initiative, with the aim of determining available solutions for the security of humanitarian workers and the wider humanitarian community.

### Regional Food Security Analysis Network (RFSAN):

In collaboration with RFSAN partners FAO and IMMAP, WFP is facilitating Food Security, GIS and data visualization trainings for NGO partners. Under this collaboration, five trainings were conducted in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq. The Food Security Sector is helping facilitate the training, identifying and linking to the partner organizations to be trained.

### Harvard Humanitarian Initiatives (HHI):

Discussions are underway to involve HHI in the existing working relationship with Microsoft to allow for an un-biased partner evaluation of the proposed solutions and run a comparative analysis of available, similar solutions. The discussions also provide an opportunity to explore any further collaboration in common areas of interest.

**Microsoft:** Under the Microsoft partnership, a new data-management system will provide enhanced access to data and allow for triangulation with other data sources, such as shops and retail data. This will lead to informed decision-making process, and has potential to be expanded throughout WFP. Accountability to beneficiaries is also being explored by enhancing the hotline.

Lebanon signed a new agreement with International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). IOCC will begin monitoring snack distribution and conducting nutrition awareness sessions in schools.

## Resourcing Update

2016 has been an exceptional year. Thanks to the extraordinary contribution from Germany and the continuous and generous support from other donors, for the first time, WFP was able to deliver full rations and voucher values beginning in March, 2016.

Even more importantly, having 9-12 months predictability on levels of funding has enabled

WFP to deliver life-saving food assistance to an average 6 million people, to strengthen Accountability to Affected Population and dialogue with communities, while having the resources and space to invest in much needed resilience building activities.

The Syria+5 PRROs were approved at the 2016 second Session of WFP Executive Board in November 2016. They have a total budget of USD 3.923 billion for 2017 and 2018. With contributions confirmed to date and solid forecasts against which we could advance funding, the pipeline is covered inside Syria and in neighboring countries through May [excluding Turkey].

From June to August, WFP requires USD 366 million: USD 214 million for inside Syria by March considering the lead time for the procurement and transport of food, and USD 152 million for the region [excluding Turkey].

In Turkey, WFP has sufficient funding under the ESSN to assist refugees through 2017 and is in negotiations with donors to secure additional support for the in camp population, which requires USD 24 million from March to August 2017.

While some donors announced their pledges and continued support in 2017 and onwards, to date there is limited visibility on our funding levels beyond May. Few donors, such as Canada, confirmed their multi-year commitments and appeal to other donors to follow suit particularly for longer-term resilience building activities.

## Beneficiary Story: Food Insecurity and Child Exploitation

The overwhelming majority of refugees in host countries live well below the poverty line.

Most have limited or non-existent income opportunities. In conjunction with the rising costs of rent and depleted or non-existent savings, severe restrictions on accessing labour markets translate into a struggle to meet the most basic, daily needs. Often, the first to suffer are children.

## Toulyani settlement: Bar Elias, Bekaa, Lebanon

*"One less mouth to feed"*

Yahiya, 16, is the family's main breadwinner. Because adults are not allowed to work in Lebanon, the near-inevitable consequence is that children take their place. Though illegal, child labour is cheaper for farmers, and presents less risk. There is little enforcement, and children desperate for work are an opportunity too tempting to resist. From the families' perspective, taking their children out of school and sending them to work is often a matter of survival. Worldwide, refugees are five times more likely to be out of school than their contemporaries. For Syrians, the situation is even worse. There are approximately 1.6 million school-age children in the five host countries, of whom barely half, around 817,000, attend school. Yahiya's sister Malak, no longer attends school, but nor is she in work. Like many young girls, her family has found a different solution: at 13, she is engaged to be married. If she is lucky, hopes her mother, she will finish 9th grade in an informal school, prior to her wedding. The family looks uncertain at her new status, as does Malak. Next year there will be, says her father, "one less mouth to feed."

## Contacts

Sub Regional Office/Regional Bureau for the Middle East & North Africa- Head of Office: Rebecca Richards—rebecca.richards@wfp.org

Sub Regional Office/Regional Bureau for the Middle East & North Africa- Head of Reporting Unit: Marah Khayyat—marah.khayyat@wfp.org

Logistics Cluster: Alessandra Piccolo—alessandra.piccolo@wfp.org

	Total Requirements (in USD)	3 Months* Net Funding Requirements (in USD)	People Assisted (January 2017)	Female	Male
<b>PRRO 200987 TOTAL</b> (Jan 2017-Dec 2018)	2,310,288,097	152 million	1,937,890	988,324	949,566

\* June-August 2017

# SYRIA +5 REGIONAL RESPONSE UPDATE - JANUARY DISTRIBUTIONS

	IDPs/ Registered Refugees	Targeted Beneficiaries <sup>[1]</sup>	Assisted Beneficiaries <sup>[1]</sup>	%	Money Injected in Local Economies <sup>[2]</sup>	Modalities Used	Cash Based Transfer Value (USD)
SYRIA	6,300,000	4,000,000	3,556,270 <sup>[3]</sup>	89%	USD 48 m <sup>[4]</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family Food Basket, Supplementary feeding</li> <li>Cash Based Transfers - using paper vouchers</li> <li>School Feeding Snacks</li> </ul>	Pregnant and nursing women <b>30</b> Due to the fluctuation of the exchange rate this value is approximate
LEBANON	1,011,366	824,015	763,912	93%	USD 821 m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cash Based Transfers - using E-cards and Cash</li> <li>School Feeding Snacks</li> </ul>	Vulnerable <b>27</b>
JORDAN	655,895	590,000	563,751 (including berm)	96%	USD 651 m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cash Based Transfers - using E-cards and paper vouchers</li> <li>In-kind food at the berm</li> <li>School Feeding Snacks</li> </ul>	Vulnerable <b>14.1</b> Extremely Vulnerable <b>28.2</b> Jordan Camps <b>28.2</b>
TURKEY	2,854,968	670,000	480,986	72% expected to grow rapidly with ESSN rollout	USD 606 m <sup>[5]</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cash Based Transfers - using E-cards</li> </ul>	inside camps <b>18 (TL 50)</b> off-camps <b>36 (TL 100)</b> ESSN <b>36 (TL 100)</b> Government of Turkey provides another USD 14 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	116,013	76,076	76,002	100%	USD 121 m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cash Based Transfers - using E-cards and paper vouchers</li> </ul>	Vulnerable <b>16.6</b> Voucher value reduced due to fluctuations in the exchange rate and funding constraints
IRAQ	233,224	53,547	53,239	100%	USD 69 m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cash Based Transfers - using SCOPE and cash</li> </ul>	Vulnerable <b>19</b> The harmonization of the entitlement replaces the previous tiered approach

[1] Targeted and assisted figures only cover food assistance activities.

[2] As of December 2016. Includes local food procurements and CBT transfers since the start of operation

[3] In addition to Aleppo response covering: 1) Ready-to-eat rations for over 75,000 returnees and IDPs (including evacuees from eastern Aleppo city)

2) Food to support 20,700 IDPs through communal kitchens 3) Daily fresh bread for 50,000 returnees and IDPs

[4] 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 USD256 million since 2011.

[5] Turkey is WFP's top food commodity supplier with \$1.3 billion worth of commodities procured since 2011.



## Livelihoods and Resilience



**6.3 million**

IDPs inside Syria

**5,494,160**

Assisted in Syria and the Region

**4.8 million**

Refugees in the Region



**41**

Partners in Syria



**USD 2.3\***  
billion

Money Injected in the Region

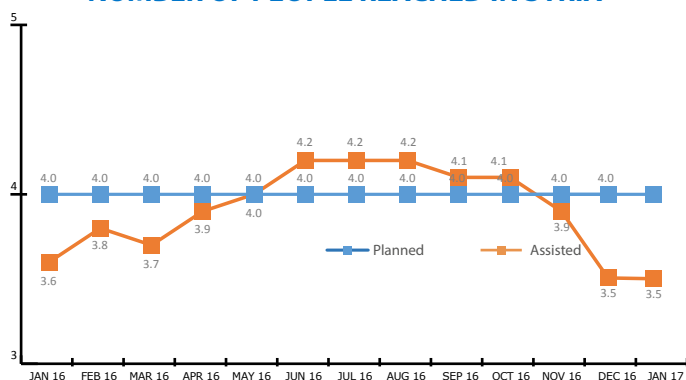
\*as of December 2016



**20**

Partners in the Region

NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED IN SYRIA



NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED IN THE REGION

