

# WFP LEBANON

## FOOD SECURITY OUTCOME MONITORING

ROUND 7: AUGUST 2017



### Highlights

- WFP assisted 665,996 displaced Syrians in August 2017, of which 20 percent were female-headed and 65 percent were households with children under the age of five;
- Food consumption for assisted households improved significantly in 2017 and increased in August to reach 66 percent of households having an acceptable food consumption, the highest in 2017.
- On average, WFP assisted households were more food secure than non-assisted households. Assisted households had higher food consumption, consumed more diverse diets and relied on the use of coping strategies as compared to non-assisted households;
- Male headed households were more food secure as compared to the Female headed households;
- Non-assisted households more often had lower food consumption and less diverse diets, adopted coping strategies to meet basic food needs and accumulated debts;
- Overall satisfaction with WFP assistance continued to increase. The satisfaction on the overall WFP assistance reached the highest value since the start of the FSOM showing programme quality improvements in addressing beneficiaries' needs;
- Preparations are underway for upcoming cash for food assistance including increase in sample size of FSOM survey and adjustment of monitoring.

## DISPLACED SYRIAN BENEFICIARIES

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. As part of the regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200987 WFP Lebanon is providing life-saving food assistance to vulnerable UNHCR-registered Displaced Syrians through an electronic food voucher (e-card) system. The Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM), started in 2016, measures food security outcome trends among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries households on a quarterly basis to inform WFP programme.

The seventh quarterly FSOM round was conducted in August 2017 when WFP provided food assistance to 665,996 displaced Syrians, equivalent to 124,903 households. Of those, 20 percent were households headed by a female and 65 percent were households with children under the age of five. The programme ability to reach beneficiaries remained high with 99 percent of food voucher redeemed.

	NOV 2016	JAN 2017	APR 2017	AUG 2017
<b>BENEFICIARIES REACHED</b>	606,019	656,651	673,038	665,996
<b>HOUSEHOLDS REACHED</b>	118,636	126,160	128,255	124,903
<b>% REDEEMED VOUCHERS</b>	93%	95%	97%	99%
<b>% HOUSEHOLD HEADED BY FEMALE</b>	20%	22%	23%	20%
<b>% OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN BELOW 5</b>	67%	65%	66%	65%

## MONITORING OUTCOME RESULTS

WFP analyses three core food security outcome indicators to monitor outcome results of WFP assistance: the Food Consumption Score (FCS), the Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) and the Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI).

All outcome indicators showed that assisted households are more likely to be food secure compared to the non-assisted households.

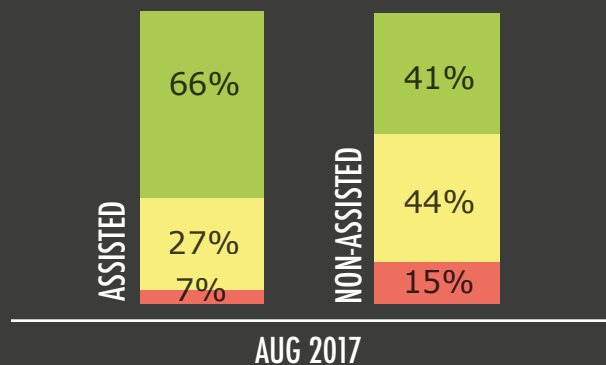


Figure 1: Food consumption groups by assisted and non-assisted households

The percentage of households having an acceptable food consumption continued to be higher for WFP-assisted households than for non-assisted households (66 vs 41 percent).

Food consumption in assisted households significantly improved in 2017 and the percentage of households with acceptable food consumption reached the highest in August 2017. While the overall food consumption score improved, a slight deterioration in poor food consumption for assisted households was recorded in August. Female headed households are worse off than male headed households. For instance, 16% of assisted female headed households fall under the poor food consumption compared to 4% of the assisted male headed households. This is in line with the results of the dietary diversity score which is lower among female headed households as compared to male headed households (5.5 and 5.9).

In August 2017 acceptable food consumption for non-assisted households continued to deteriorate to reach 41 percent, the lowest record since the beginning of the FSOM. Similarly, 15% of non-assisted households recorded poor food consumption.

## FOOD CONSUMPTION ASSISTED

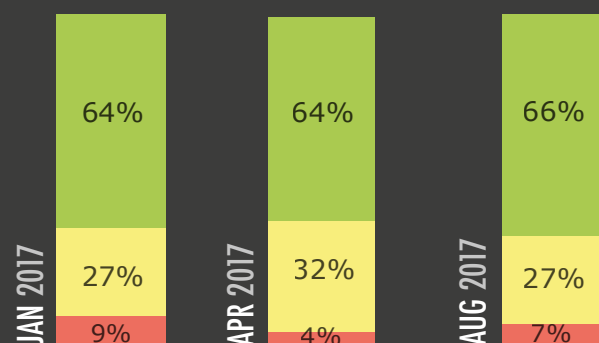


Figure 2: Food consumption trends for assisted households

## FOOD CONSUMPTION NON-ASSISTED

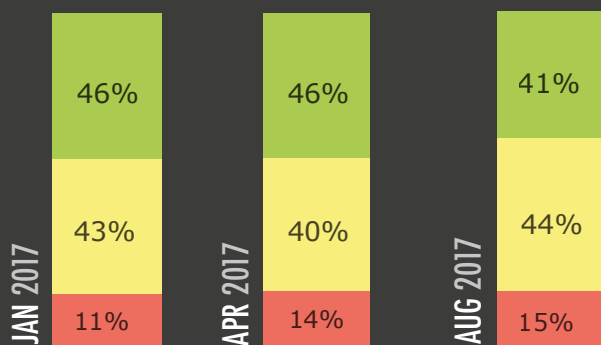


Figure 3: Food consumption trends for non-assisted households

Households were asked to express their perception on the food security status of other displaced Syrians living in their community compared with the year before. Around half of the interviewed displaced Syrians perceived that food security among their community improved compared to last year, around 32 percent considered that it remained the same and 22 percent thought it had worsened.

## HOUSEHOLD PERCEPTION OF FOOD SECURITY OF COMMUNITY

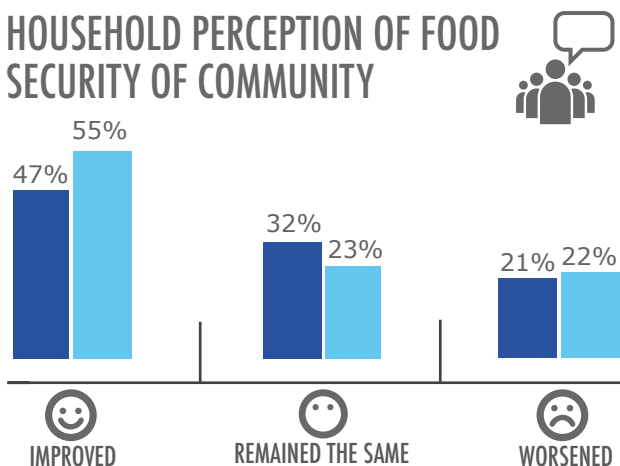
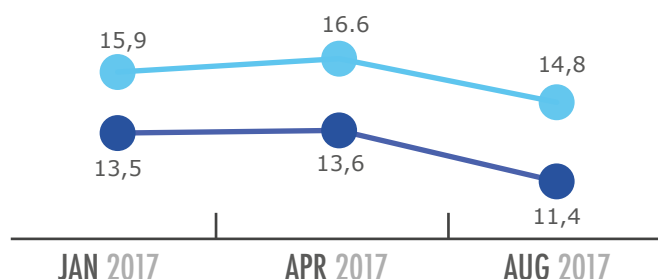


Figure 4: household perception of food security of community

Assisted households adopted less coping strategies than non-assisted ones. Assisted households are adopting less food related coping strategies such as relying on less preferred food, borrowing money, and reducing number of meals.

## REDUCED COPING STRATEGY INDEX



Assisted and non-assisted households resorted to the use of livelihoods based coping strategy as a long term coping capacity. Non-assisted household adopted more crisis and stress coping strategies compared to assisted households. The most common crisis coping strategies are reducing health expenses and selling productive assets. Moreover, female headed households are relying more on the use of negative coping strategies as compared to male headed households.

## LIVELIHOOD BASED COPING STRATEGIES

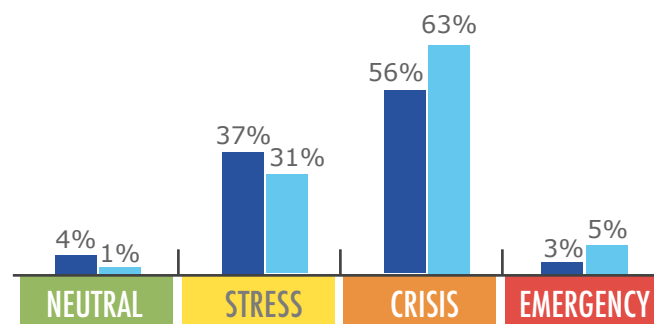


Figure 5: Adopted livelihood coping strategies

## EXPENDITURES & DEBTS

On average, the total household expenditure for assisted and non-assisted households increased compared to April 2017. In August, assisted households spent on average USD 590 per month. Among the non-assisted households, the estimated average monthly expenditure was USD 491.

Food represented the largest expenditure share for both assisted and non-assisted groups (45 percent and 32 percent respectively). The Food expenditure share among the assisted is higher than the non-assisted, meaning assisted households are spending more on food than non-assisted households. In August 30 percent of the assisted households are spending more than 65 percent of their expenditure on food. While 16 percent of the non-assisted are spending more than 65 percent of their expenditure on food.

Debts remain a constant burden for displaced Syrian households. Both assisted and non-assisted increased their debts in August to reach their highest on an average of USD 1,032 and USD 1,121 respectively.

● Assisted  
● Non-Assisted

## OTHER ASSISTANCE & INCOME

Seasonal winterization assistance from UNHCR and UNICEF stopped in March 2017. As a consequence, the percentage of household receiving other assistance dropped considerably for both assisted and non-assisted households recording similar results to April 2017.

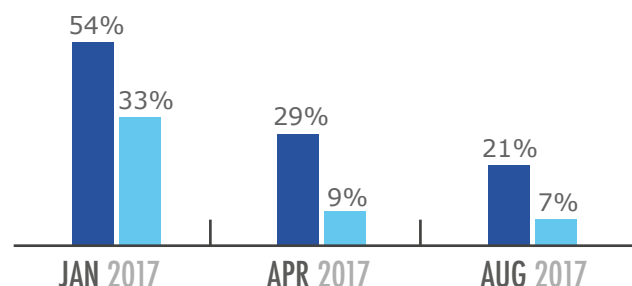


Figure 6: Households receiving non-WFP assistance

E-cards remained the main source of income for 70 percent of the assisted households, followed by unskilled labour (32 percent). The main source of income for non-assisted households during August was unskilled labour at 43 percent followed by credits and borrowing at 30 percent. While the percentage of households relying on labor and debts has increased, the sources of income for both assisted and non-assisted remained stable.

Households that relied on unskilled and skilled labor as main income source reported a better food consumption.

## CROSS-CUTTING THEME & SATISFACTION

Beneficiaries provided feedback rating their satisfaction with WFP assistance on a scale of 1-10. Satisfaction with WFP assistance is steadily increasing from the beginning of the year and in August 2017 overall satisfaction was rated 7.9/10, the highest rating since the beginning of the monitoring. The satisfaction with the methods of WFP assistance was similar to ratings in January 2017 with 8.3/10 points. The satisfaction with the quantity of WFP assistance remained stable with a score of 6.5/10. There was no difference between male and female headed households when it comes to satisfaction with WFP programme.

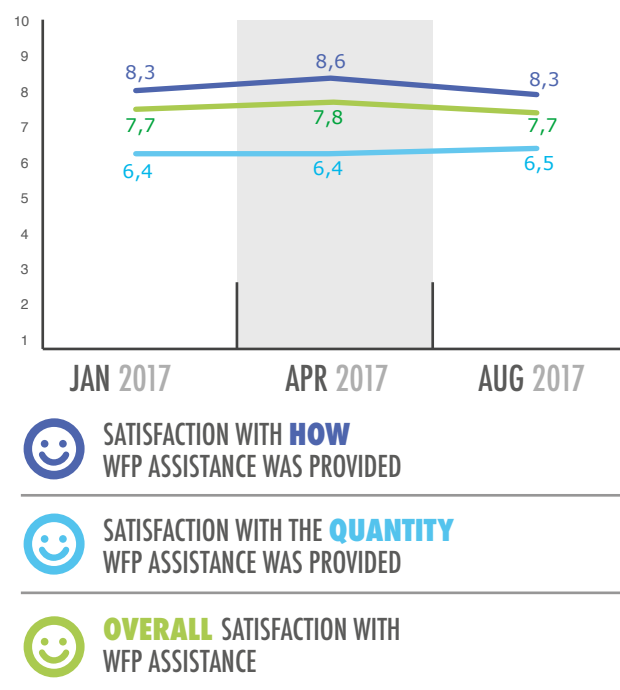


Figure 7: Beneficiary satisfaction

The WFP operating environment remains safe for those receiving food assistance with only one safety incident reported in August 2017 with a male headed household.

Households were asked about the decision maker in the households, 46 percent of households reported that females are the main decision makers over how the e-card is spent.

● Assisted  
● Non-Assisted

## RESULTS OF FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Based on the focus group discussions (FGDs) conducted following the FSOM in September 2017, the results showed that the majority of the beneficiaries are facing problems related to lack of cash due to limited job opportunities and high expenditures on rent, schools fees, medical expenses and other household needs. Women reported feeling empowered, as they are the decision makers when it comes to food expenditures. One female stated that “the e-card helped her to get stronger and to strengthen her personality”. The

participants said that no discrimination from WFP side was ever noticed between men and women. None of the women participating in the FGDs faced any discrimination or security issues at WFP shops or WFP distribution sites. Slight tension is arising in some areas between excluded beneficiaries and WFP assisted households due to assistance. The main recommendations from the focus groups were related to receiving other kinds of assistances on top of the food assistance and to having educational trainings for kids.

## METHODOLOGY

FSOM allows for comparisons between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries to inform programme adjustments and decision-making. The questionnaire included close-ended questions to evaluate food security, expenditure and processes. A random sampling approach was used to select a representative sample of assisted and non-assisted households. In August 2017, 500 assisted and 254 non-assisted households were interviewed. An increase in the sample was done in order to capture more detailed information on beneficiaries who will be shifting modalities to cash. Beneficiaries were contacted before the visit and informed of FSOM and its aim. The FSOM survey was coupled with a qualitative component of focus group discussions (FGDs) conducted to triangulate quantitative FSOM findings. Twelve gender sensitive FGDs were conducted to understand the perspectives of beneficiaries by gender.

## DEFINITIONS:

### **Assisted Households:**

Displaced Syrian households registered with UNHCR and assisted by WFP

### **Non-assisted Households:**

Syrian refugee households that are registered with UNHCR but not receiving WFP assistance