

SITUATION UPDATE

“SYRIA+5” CRISIS RESPONSE

NOVEMBER 2016

WFP/ Hussam Al Saleh

In numbers

6.3 million Internally displaced in Syria

4.8 million Refugees in the Region

5.6 million Assisted in “Syria+5”

HIGHLIGHTS

- In November 2016, WFP Executive Board approved two Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRROs) – one for inside Syria and another for the region - as the new assistance frameworks for WFP’s response to the Syria regional crisis in 2017 and 2018.
- Together, the PRROs will allow for longer-term planning in the region, enabling WFP to better meet immediate needs and more proactively co-create programmes with our partners that further self-sufficiency and reduce dependency on external assistance.

Funding update

Under the current funding situation WFP will be able to provide assistance to refugees **in the region** for the month of January and partially February 2017. An additional USD 162 million are urgently needed to ensure coverage of assistance throughout the first three months of 2017.

Inside Syria, current resources are sufficient to cover January and February requirements, albeit at a slightly reduced food basket (1,500 kcal). Given the 2-3 months lead time to bring food into country, new funding commitments are urgently needed, with USD 67 million required by January.

2016 in Review

In 2016, WFP provided uninterrupted and crucial lifeline assistance to some 6 million people in Syria and across the region through in-kind food assistance and monthly cash-based transfers (CBT).

Some of WFP's key achievements include: building national safety nets in partnership with governments; implementing a retail strategy; and using common platforms to deliver cash alongside more traditional life-saving activities.

In Turkey, WFP has implemented the **Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN)**, funded by European Union Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), in partnership with the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority of the Turkish Prime Minister (AFAD), the Ministry of Family and Social Policies and the Turkish Red Crescent. Building on existing voucher schemes, the ESSN is a hybrid social assistance endeavor anchored on and aligned with government systems, integrating humanitarian safeguards. The ESSN seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of national social assistance systems for long-term sustainability. It targets vulnerable Syrians residing outside camps while promoting social cohesion and positively impacting host communities with an injection of funds into local economies.

In Lebanon, WFP **integrated the cash-based transfer (CBT) modality into national social safety nets**. Partnering with the National Poverty Targeting Programme, WFP provided technical guidance and CBTs to 43,000 vulnerable Lebanese.

The **Retail Strategy** is a prime example of WFP's engagement with the private sector under WFP's five-year strategic plan, Vision 2020. Within the retail sector, WFP engages with approximately 700 stores in Lebanon and Jordan alone. Since 2012, WFP has transitioned from in-kind assistance to more efficient CBTs, which now account for 99 percent of WFP assistance in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Cash-based assistance empowers beneficiaries while supporting local markets. Where local markets are poorly developed or inefficient, there is an inability to adapt to beneficiaries' needs and inflating prices. As a result, refugees commonly face severe constraints on purchasing.

Recognizing that cash assistance works best when markets operate efficiently, the Retail Strategy is designed to help markets function with higher efficiency and transparency. From supply to point of sale, WFP provides training, technology, and access to crucial consumer spending data. The Retail Strategy helps businesses plan and react to market changes, in turn stimulating competition, increasing market efficiency and beneficiaries' purchasing power alike.

Early results are promising for both beneficiaries and businesses. Retail Strategy efforts have been shown to increase beneficiary purchasing power by 8-12 percent, while helping businesses access an expanded customer base and increase profits. In practical terms, this translates to thousands of extra meals on beneficiaries' plates. There is further potential to develop the retail sector through training and job creation.

In Lebanon, WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR and the Lebanon Cash Consortium signed an agreement on a **first-of-its-kind common card**, unifying the way aid is delivered and simplifying refugee access to humanitarian assistance. With the introduction of the common card, economically vulnerable refugees will benefit from various humanitarian programmes through a single medium. Refugees will have access to food assistance and monthly multi-purpose cash transfers. Children will be encouraged to enroll and stay at school. Winter assistance will be provided from November to March. Using a single card, refugees can redeem their food assistance in any of WFP's 480 contracted shops or withdraw regularly uploaded funds at any ATM machine across Lebanon.

In Jordan, in partnership with UNHCR and IrisGuard, an **iris-scan payment system was rolled out in refugee camps**. The system requires beneficiaries registered with UNHCR to undergo a biometric authentication of their identity before accessing WFP entitlements in partner supermarkets. With enhanced data protection, privacy and efficiency at the check-out, the pilot in Azraq camp has brought notable gains in cost-efficiency. With the introduction of iris-scan payment, the voucher redemption rate by beneficiaries decreased by an average of 14 percent per month. This was likely due to the increased level of identity verification at the point of sale.

WFP's response remained flexible, switching between assistance modalities as the situation dictated. Following a security incident in June 2016, distributions at the Berm between Syria and Jordan were halted. In August, WFP responded by **using two 70-metre cranes to deliver in-kind food assistance** to over 78,000 stranded Syrian refugees. In Syria, WFP continued to meet the food needs of almost 4 million people every month, including those in besieged areas. By the end of November, WFP had completed 156 airdrop rotations, **airdropping sufficient quantities** to provide three-month food rations for all 110,000 people in need in Deir-ez-Zour City, in addition to relief items on behalf of other humanitarian organizations. The first airdrop mission began in February, 2016. This was the first humanitarian assistance for Deir-ez-Zour City since March 2014.

WFP also began implementing livelihood activities to build the self-reliance of refugees, including a skills-exchange project in Jordan and rapid income-generation projects in Lebanon and Syria.

WFP continued to do what it does best: to respond to the fluidity of the situation and deliver the right assistance to the right people, at the right time. We have been able to do so thanks to continued support from our donors, greatly contributing to the stabilization across the region.

Fragile Gains

In 2015, WFP faced a funding crisis, forcing a reduction of transfer values and food rations. As a result, many refugees adopted negative coping behaviours. Children between 6 and 15 years of age were withdrawn from school, sent to work and their health needs neglected.

In early 2016, **thanks to tremendous support from our donors**, WFP was able to provide a full food ration in Syria and restore the full value of the e-voucher for refugees in the region. WFP's most recent Food Security Outcome Trends among Syrian Refugees revealed that food consumption¹ of refugees decreased in early 2016, before improving and stabilizing by September 2016. This improvement was likely associated with consistent levels of full assistance. The use of short-term consumption coping strategies² also decreased compared to 2015 levels. Monitoring findings show that the increase in assistance had a stronger positive impact on food consumption of households headed by women. In Iraq and Egypt, households headed by women with acceptable food consumption increased by more than 20 percentage points relative to early 2016.

Gains are encouraging, but fragile.



WFP/ Mohammad Battah

Our assistance is slowing but not halting the pace of the deterioration witnessed in 2015.

In Syria, the situation is worsening. Between July and August 2016, there was an overall decline in the acceptable food consumption score of 14 percentage points compared to the first quarter of the year, when 72 percent of WFP beneficiaries had an acceptable food consumption score. This deterioration is caused by multiple factors, including the depreciation of the Syrian Pound, an increase in food prices and a lack of livelihood opportunities. During the first two weeks of November, for example, the cost of a standard food basket in eastern Aleppo city was as staggering SYP 62,850 (USD 294) 123 percent higher than the price in June of this year. The cost of wheat flour is currently 6 USD per kg, compared to less than 1 USD per kg in the United States.

As the crisis continues, refugees, IDPs and host communities in Syria and in the region remain vulnerable to food insecurity, deterioration of living conditions and exposure to key protection risks. These challenges have led to inter-community tensions. Syrians remain heavily reliant on international assistance. This situation is of particular concern in light of the coming winter season.



WFP/ Mohammad Battah

Food is Stability

In spite of efforts to secure a political solution to the crisis, since 2011, 12.3 million people have been displaced by the conflict: 6.3 million inside Syria, 4.8 million to neighbouring countries, and 1.2 million applying for asylum in Europe.³

Earlier assessments highlighted that the two primary drivers of displacement/refugee in the Syria context are safety/security and the lack of access to livelihood opportunities, which affect people's access to affordable food.

Food is not only life-saving, but also a source of stability. When families are able to put food on the table, the need to move diminishes.

1 Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a composite score of dietary diversity, food frequency and the relative nutritional importance of the food consumed, and is one factor in assessing overall food security.

2 The consumption-based Coping Strategies Index (CSI) measures the frequency and severity of coping mechanisms adopted to meet basic food needs.

3 See UNHCR website and Humanitarian Needs Overview 2017

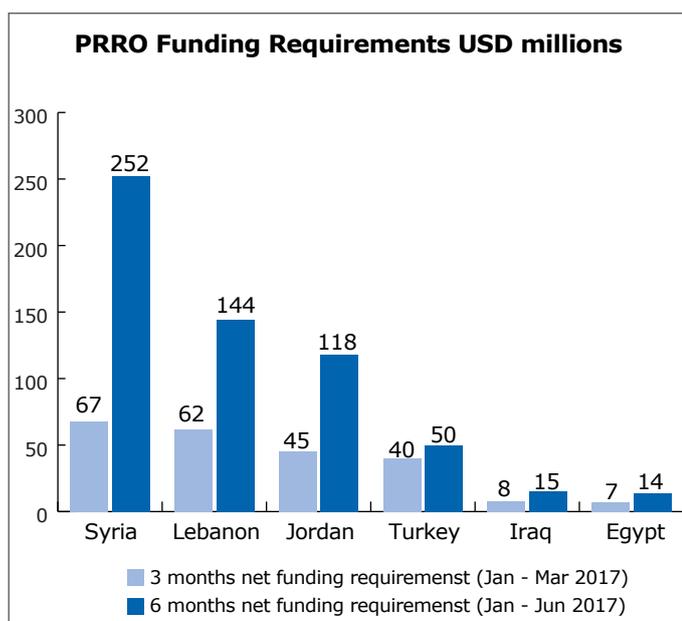
Resources Update

Thanks to the extraordinary contribution from Germany and the continuous and generous support of other donors, in 2016 we were able to deliver uninterrupted and crucial assistance to the most vulnerable from March to December 2016.

The ability to predict funding over the span of 9-12 months – for the first time since the beginning of the crisis - has strengthened WFP’s accountability to affected populations, host governments and donors. Time and resources created space to plan over the longer term and move away from our emergency cycle programming model. As we move to the upcoming Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), we will invest in much-needed relief activities that will see external assistance reduced as families are able in time to provide for themselves.

The Syria PRRO 200988 and the Regional PRRO 200987 approved by WFP’s Executive Board in November 2016 have a total budget of USD 3.9 billion: USD 2 billion in 2017 and USD 1.9 billion in 2018.

The net funding requirements for the first three months (January-March 2017) of the operation stand at USD 229 million, of which USD 68 million are for inside Syria and USD 162 million for response in neighboring countries. For the first six months (January-June 2016), net funding requirements stand at USD 593 million, of which USD 252 million are for inside Syria and USD 341 million for the response in neighboring countries.



Under the current funding situation WFP will be able to provide assistance to refugees in the region for the month of January and partially February 2017. An additional USD 162 million in new commitments are required as early as possible to ensure coverage of assistance throughout the first three months of 2017.

Inside Syria, current resources are sufficient to cover January and February requirements, albeit at a slightly reduced food basket (1,500 kcal). Given the 2-3 months lead time to bring food into country, new funding commitments for inside Syria are urgently needed to avoid any interruption of assistance, with USD 67 million required by January.

In the absence of funding, some 6 million people in vulnerable situations will not receive much-needed food assistance, and more than 300,000 children and nursing women will miss nutrition support. Some 350,000 students will go without the daily food snack. Livelihoods initiatives will be on hold in all countries. Needs are particularly acute in winter.

WFP welcomes contributions in the form of multi-year commitments, enabling WFP to satisfy critical needs while facilitating the move beyond short-term emergency planning cycles towards resilience-building programming.



WFP/ Dina Kassaby

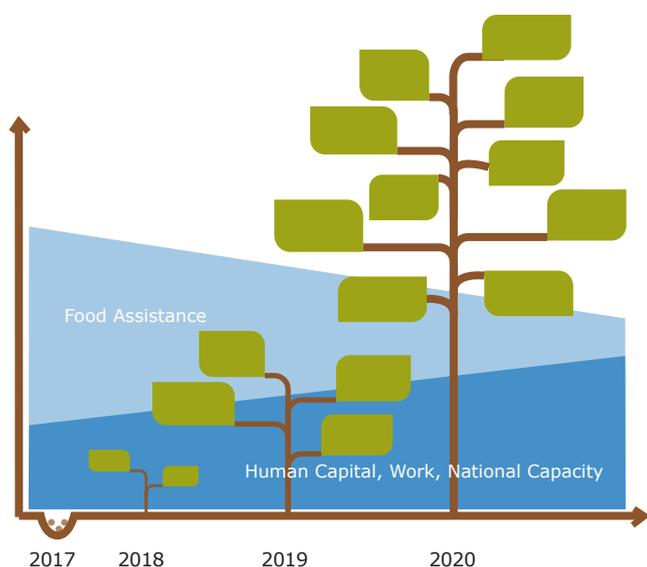
Building Longer-Term Self-Reliance

The extraordinary and predictable support from donors in 2016 allowed WFP the space to develop longer-term solutions that address the root causes of hunger. Co-created from the ground up with key donors, host governments and sister agencies and cooperating partners “**Syria+5**” **Vision 2020 was launched.**

Vision 2020 is WFP’s innovative, flexible and sustainable new strategy, conceived to meet the most pressing needs of today while building a better future for Syria and the region.

Vision 2020 is the result of lessons learned and is developed through internal assessment, institutional learning, co-design with national governments, key donors, and partners, and larger national and regional recommendations from international donor fora.

Vision 2020 will increase efforts to achieve more sustainable solutions through human capital and self-reliance support to vulnerable refugee, host communities and local governments, while continuing to provide life-saving food assistance when needed. Through this approach WFP will better address underlying causes of vulnerability, help enable beneficiary self-reliance, increase long-term value for money, and reduce the need for international assistance over time.



Vision 2020 Objectives:

- VO1- FOOD ASSISTANCE: Maintain a Lifeline to the Hungry
- VO2- HUMAN CAPITAL: Invest in Knowledge, Talent and Skills
- VO3- WORK: Promote Economic Opportunities
- VO4- NATIONAL CAPACITY: Build Resilience and Self-Reliance

2017 Planning

From 1 January 2017, WFP’s operation in the Syria+5 region will be implemented through two complementary Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRRO), one focused inside Syria, and one focused on the neighbouring countries of Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq, and Egypt. Together, the PRROs will allow for longer-term planning in the region, enabling WFP to better meet immediate needs and more proactively co-create programmes with our partners that further self-sufficiency and reduce dependency on external assistance. The PRROs constitute the first two years’ programming under the five-year Syria+5 Vision 2020 strategy. They are fully aligned with WFP’s 2030 Integrated Roadmap.⁴

Co-creation

In 2016, WFP worked with partners to set the stage for new programming. Partnering with UNDP and ILO, a Multi-Country Economic Opportunities Assessment (MCEOA) was undertaken. The aim of the assessment is to strengthen livelihoods of communities and provide support to governments in the region through interventions increasing the employability and economic opportunities of Syrians and host communities. Built on existing research, the assessment is based on wide consultation with various stakeholders.

Private sector partnership

Recognising the importance of accountability, WFP is partnering with Microsoft to expand and improve its beneficiary communication system. The improved system will provide a platform for WFP and beneficiaries to communicate in real time. Beneficiaries, most of whom have access to mobile phones, will receive timely and on-demand information on key aspects of WFP assistance, permitting near real-time reporting of their experiences. WFP will be able to triangulate feedback received from beneficiaries with existing vulnerability mapping, monitoring, and evaluation systems to improve the speed and accuracy of programmatic decision making and delivery.

In Syria, WFP will promote sustainability through the expansion of private-sector partnerships and enhanced local production capacities.

Holistic programming

Under WFP’s GROW initiative, the Healthy Kitchens programme provides nutritious meals to schoolchildren in public schools. Syrian men and women are employed to cook and pack meals, using ingredients from local suppliers. This expansion builds on the existing project already implemented in Jordanian schools, which seeks to enhance local agricultural practices and outputs, while building a more efficient supply chain in agricultural markets. Through Healthy Kitchens, WFP is setting the stage towards the recognition of school meals as an

⁴ Integrated Roadmap aligns development of the Strategic Plan (2017-2021), Country Strategic Planning approach, Corporate Results Framework and Financial Framework Review

effective social safety net programme that confers multi-dimensional benefits, whether nutritional, educational, social or economic.

In Lebanon, income-generating opportunities are aiming to improve agricultural infrastructure through the rehabilitation of irrigation canals and land reclamation projects. WFP and its partners have adopted a participatory, community-led approach, engaging with affected communities and the Government of Lebanon (GoL) at the municipal level. Partners identified needed agricultural infrastructure assets, maximization of immediate income generation and impact on long-term food supply chain improvement.

Throughout 2017, we will continue to expand upon and co-create holistic programmes that address long-term causes of hunger. ***Our success will be determined by our ability to work together in new and better ways and to build programmes that link short-term assistance with long-term outcomes.***



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SYRIA +5 REGIONAL RESPONSE UPDATE - NOVEMBER DISTRIBUTIONS

	IDPs/ Registered Refugees	Targeted Beneficiaries*	Assisted Beneficiaries*	%	Money Injected in Local Economies**	Modalities Used	Cash Based Transfer Value (USD)
SYRIA	6,300,000	4,000,000	3,918,680***	97%	USD 31 m****	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Food Basket, Supplementary feeding Cash Based Transfers -using paper vouchers School Feeding Snacks 	Pregnant and nursing women 30 Due to the fluctuation of the exchange rate this value is approximate
LEBANON	1,017,433	829,815	728,832	88%	USD 798 m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash Based Transfers -using E-cards and Cash School Feeding Snacks 	Vulnerable 27
JORDAN	655,404	686,000	536,737	78% <i>low due to no distributions at the berm</i>	USD 640 m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash Based Transfers -using E-cards and paper vouchers In-kind food at the berm School Feeding Snacks 	Vulnerable 14.1 Extremely Vulnerable 28.2 Jordan Camps 28.2
TURKEY	2,764,500	735,000	284,785	39% <i>low due to delayed scale-up of off-camp refugees</i>	USD 598m*****	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash Based Transfers - using E-cards 	inside camps 18.2 host communities 22.5 Government of Turkey provides 50 TL (USD18.1) 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	115,204	70,877	75,432	106%	USD 120 m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash Based Transfers - using E-cards and paper vouchers 	Vulnerable 24.2 Voucher value changes due to fluctuations in exchange rate. Accordingly, in September, the value increased- to original value.
IRAQ	228,894	57,350	63,685	111%	USD 68 m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash Based Transfers -using SCOPE 	Vulnerable 19 Extremely Vulnerable 28.2

* Targeted and assisted figures only cover food assistance activities.

**Includes local food procurements and CBT transfers.

*** 3,858,680 were provided with food baskets. The rest were provided with wheat flour.

**** 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 USD178 million since 2011.

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



Livelihoods and Resilience

Rehabilitation of bakeries

Early Recovery Support on Food Security and Livelihood in Al-Hasakeh

Enhancing Food Security, Nutrition, and Resilience in Dar'a Governorate

The Road to Food Security

Bee keeping value chain

Agricultural support

Cash for work rural roads rehabilitation

Digital Skills and Impact Sourcing Pilot



6.3 million
IDPs inside Syria

5,608,151
Assisted in Syria and the Region

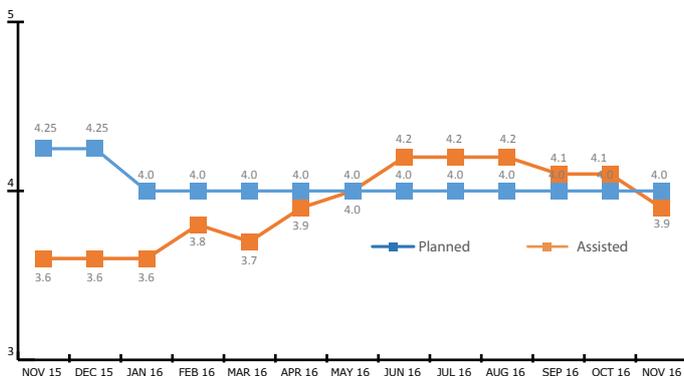
4.8 million
Refugees in the Region

40
Partners in Syria

USD 2.3 billion
Money Injected in the Region

20
Partners in the Region

NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED IN SYRIA



NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED IN THE REGION

