



World Food Programme

wfp.org



# Syria Crisis Regional Response

## Situation Report

February 2017

### In Numbers

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

**2 million** Assisted by WFP in February



<b>Regional Refugee &amp; Resilience Plan (3RP) 2017-2018</b>	<b>Overall:</b>
	<b>USD 4.68b</b>
	<b>WFP share:</b>
	<b>USD 1.33b</b>

### Regional PRRO 200987 Six-Month Net Funding Requirements:

(April - September 2017)\*

**USD 121 million**

\* Including confirmed contributions and solid forecasts

### Highlights

Overall food consumption in the region was found to be stable through 2016 4th quarter monitoring exercises, with 78 percent of households surveyed having 'acceptable' food consumption following WFP assistance.

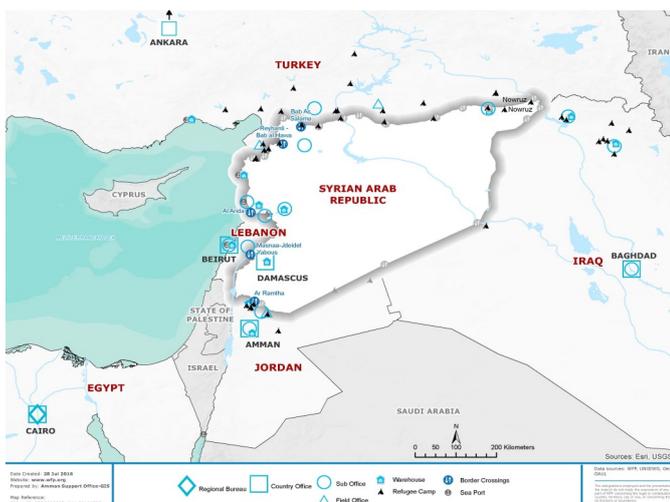
In partnership with UN Women and the Royal Health Awareness Society, WFP expanded its Healthy Kitchen activity in refugee camps in Jordan. Syrian refugees, 50 percent women, have been recruited and are being trained to operate the kitchens.

The Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) progressed all across Turkey in full coordination and partnership with the Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP) and the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC). Over a quarter of a million vulnerable refugees has received an ESSN payment by the end of February, 2017, marking a new milestone since the programme rolled out nationwide at the end of November 2016.

### Situation Update

#### Supporting the future of Syria and the region - Brussels Conference Spring 2017

The humanitarian community will come together in Brussels, Belgium this spring, marking the one-year anniversary of the 2016 Supporting Syria and the Region conference in London. Brussels offers a chance to take stock of progress achieved against the outcomes of the London conference, while looking for areas to improve the impact of international aid especially in the domains of education and livelihoods (including job creation) for Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities. WFP continues to advocate for the role of food security as a foundation and enabler for achieving better outcomes in livelihood and education. Crucial is the continuation of the partnership-based approach that focuses on building joint programming from the design phase, harnessing the comparative advantages of various stakeholders, avoiding overlap in programmes and improving cost-efficiency and accountability. Vital for achieving these outcomes is a continuation of the exemplary pledges from donors witnessed in London last year, and an increase in multi-year, flexible funding that allows for longer-term planning.



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

Photo: Gaziantep, Turkey card distribution, 25 February WFP/Deniz Akkus.

## Political Update

The escalation of conflict in southern Syria, particularly north of **Jordan's Ramtha border**, suspended the delivery of cross-border humanitarian assistance in February. Alternate options are being discussed to supply United Nations warehouses located east and west of Dara'a.

On 16 February, the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) in **Turkey** conducted an information session for UN agencies and NGOs on the DGMM registration verification exercise. The exercise, the first of this kind in Turkey, aims to update and obtain missing information for registered Syrian refugees, and to identify, record and refer persons with specific needs. UNHCR is supporting DGMM in designing and carrying out the exercise. The outcome will provide the Government of Turkey, UNHCR, WFP and other appropriate stakeholders with updated data that can be used to design evidence-based programmes for targeted assistance, as well as identify and assist persons with specific needs.

Following a surge in attacks by the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL), all UN missions to eastern Mosul in **Iraq** were put on temporary hold. The United Nations Department of Safety and Security permitted access on 19 February, following an assessment of the situation. Areas where Syrian refugees are residing in camps are currently secure.

Inflation in **Egypt** continues to negatively affect the cost of the minimum expenditure food basket for Syrian refugees.

## Food Security Outcome Trends of Syrian Refugees (2016 Quarter 4)

*Based on Post-distribution Monitoring data collected in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt in Quarter 4 (October – December 2016).*

Over the reporting period (October – December 2016) 2,224 beneficiary and 1,128 non-beneficiary households were surveyed across the region hosting Syrian refugees to measure the food security outcomes of WFP assistance. Overall food consumption in the region was stable compared to the previous quarter: 78 percent of households surveyed had 'acceptable' food consumption scores following WFP assistance.

Jordan and Lebanon continue to have the highest proportion of beneficiaries in the 'poor' or 'borderline' food consumption groups. Food consumption in Turkey, Iraq and Egypt were stable compared to the previous quarter.

In Lebanon, acceptable food consumption improved by 6 percentage points. Beneficiaries with 'acceptable' food consumption in Jordan, however, declined by 23 percentage points; non-beneficiaries saw a decline of 37 percentage points. Further analysis on how and why this may have happened is ongoing. One reason may be the data collection

method: remote post distribution monitoring was conducted in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, whereas data was collected face-to-face during the previous three quarters. Other external factors may also have influenced results. The Jordan country office is examining the issue further.

Following the large scale-up in WFP assistance to vulnerable populations in Turkey, post-distribution monitoring shows those residing in camps and off-camps have similar food consumption. This is a very positive finding given the rapid, ongoing scale-up for off-camp refugees, and is likely the result of regular WFP assistance at the planned values. However, those residing off-camp were three times more likely than those living in camps to use credit for purchases, borrow money, or sell household assets to buy food.

## WFP Response

**Lebanon:** In February, WFP reached 759,414 people: 690,644 Syrian refugees, 15,975 Palestinian refugees from Syria, and 52,795 vulnerable Lebanese through the Government of Lebanon's National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP).

Resilience and livelihoods projects were not carried out in February due to breaks in the funding pipeline. The school meals activity recommenced in late February, following administrative delays and operational challenges.

WFP Lebanon is exploring partnerships at the national level to inform the development of the 2017 livelihoods programmes. Potential partners include the Lebanese American University's Institute on Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) and the Resource Centre for Gender Equality (ABAAD).

**Turkey:** In February, 41,478 refugee families (259,022 people) received ESSN payments. Under the ESSN, WFP, TRC, MOSP and ECHO are partnering to deliver unrestricted cash assistance of 100 Turkish Lira (USD 36). In 2017, WFP aims to assist one million refugees in Turkey under the ESSN program. All refugees (not only Syrians) are eligible to apply for ESSN assistance. Since the start of the ESSN roll-out in November 2016, WFP field staff monitored 74 of 81 provinces covering 298 districts. WFP visited 283 Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation offices and 14 TRC Service Centres. ESSN partners continue working closely together to address issues arising. For example, solutions are being fine-tuned to ensure that vulnerable refugees can register with the necessary government databases, a prerequisite to their ESSN application.

In parallel, 216,640 off-camp refugees received 100 Turkish Lira (USD 36) to help them cover their basic needs and avoid a break in assistance while they apply for the ESSN. 143,170 Syrian refugees living inside 11 camps in the south-east of Turkey

received 50 Turkish Liras (USD 18) per person per month to be spent on food, complemented by assistance provided by the Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD).

Off-camp refugees still receiving WFP assistance received SMS to remind them that this assistance will end and that they should apply for the ESSN.

The [ESSN Facebook page](#) is functional. It will be advertised in the sensitization material to be printed and via SMS as part of a wider awareness-raising campaign for the ESSN.

In collaboration with the TRC, collection of ESSN Pre-Assistance baseline (PAB) data was initiated with telephone interviews to approximately 1,000 households identified as eligible for ESSN assistance. Once data collection is completed, another set of interviews for ineligible households will be conducted. The PAB will serve as a reference point to evaluate the ESSN outcomes for the mid-term review and end-of-project implementation.

In February, the first focus group discussion took place with Syrian refugees who received ESSN assistance, with separate male and female groups. The discussion helped the team to identify refugees' problems, demographic and socioeconomic status, and to get direct feedback from the groups about ESSN assistance.

**Jordan:** In February, WFP reached 531,999 people with e-cards and paper vouchers: 423,650 people in communities and 108,349 people inside camps. Inside camps, 25,431 children received date bars as part of the school meals programme.

The next distribution at the berm is pending engagement of third party monitoring. WFP is working with partners to ensure monitoring of distribution is carried out effectively without compromising the security measures enforced by the Jordanian Armed Forces.

In partnership with UNDP, WFP continued Food for Training (FFT) under the joint skills exchange activity. Eligible Jordanians received training from Syrian refugees on different skills required to start market-demanded microbusinesses, such as food production, light construction, and carpentry. Over 700 Jordanian and Syrian participants in Mafraq and Irbid governorates benefited from the skill exchange activity, half of whom were women.

Under the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activity, Jordanian participants received USD 14.1 for each day of attendance. In February, 400 participants benefited from the activity, half of whom were women. The emergency employment activity aims to provide short-term employment through conditional cash assistance for the rapid improvement of community infrastructure and basic services delivery.

In collaboration with UN Women and the Royal Health Awareness Society, WFP started the

implementation of its FFA activity, Healthy Kitchens. In February, 154 Syrians participated in trainings, of whom 50 percent are women, in Azraq and Za'atri camps and received USD 14.1 per household against each day of attendance.

Post-distribution monitoring data collected by former World Vision International monitors living at the berm during December and January 2016 has been analyzed and shared with stakeholders. Key findings were:

- 99 percent of households reported receiving a food entitlement;
- 48 percent of respondents indicated receiving partial family food entitlements during the December/January cycle;
- 97 percent of households reported receiving all of the eight commodities provided in the family food entitlement;
- 43 percent estimated that the monthly food entitlement would last for one week only; 34 percent that it would last for two weeks; and 23 percent believed the entitlement would last three or four weeks.

**Egypt:** WFP reached 75,650 refugees in February (72,840 Syrian refugees and 2,810 Palestinian refugees from Syria).

As a result of the current funding situation, the voucher value was reduced in the implementation plan from USD 24.2 to USD 15.9 (EGP 300) to cover first quarter requirements.

**Iraq:** WFP assisted 54,203 Syrians in nine refugee camps, of whom 1,018 people received unrestricted cash.

Since the start of the regional emergency operation, **USD 2.6 billion has been injected into local economies** in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt and Turkey, through the voucher transfer value and local procurement.

**Please see last page for detailed figures on the operation during the reporting period.**

### Resourcing Update

Funding for the Regional PRROs is covered through June for inside Syria (albeit at slightly reduced basket till April) and through July for the general food assistance through CBT in the region (shortfalls start in August in Lebanon and Jordan, in September in Egypt and Iraq). Turkey is fully covered until the end of 2017. This is based on confirmed contributions and solid forecasts, against which WFP has advanced funding to avert immediate pipeline breaks.

To ensure continued assistance through the next six months (April-September), WFP needs an additional USD 351 million in new contributions; USD 230 million for inside Syria and USD 121 million for the region.

## Beneficiary Story:

Ahmad is a 35-year-old Jordanian from the southern governorate of Ma'an, Jordan. He currently lives with his wife and five children in a tent located in the small village of Giza. A month ago, Ahmad who lost his job as a guard, was struggling to find work against a grinding economic crisis that left hundreds of thousands of people jobless. As a result, the young father was unable to enrol his children in schools or purchase sufficient food to alleviate their hunger. "I tried so hard but could not find any job that would enable me to support my family," he told WFP.



Photo: Ahmad and his family WFP/ Mohammad Batah

However, things took a turn for the better when Ahmad was selected to participate in WFP food assistance-for-assets activity in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture. After enrolling in the project which provided him with four months of extensive training on tree planting, the young father was employed by the Ministry of Agriculture as a regular employee. The Ministry was so impressed with his performance that they recruited him to train new participants on tree planting under the very same project. "As soon as I had a regular income, my first priority was to put food on the table and buy school supplies and clothes for my children so that they could go to school," he said. "The skills and knowledge I gained through this training have not only allowed me to meet my family's basic needs but also to share my knowledge with people from my neighbourhood." Ahmad is now hoping to save enough money in the next year to move out of his tent and rent a flat.

As for Ahmad's family, his wife Muna says that ever since her husband participated in the project he became a different man: "Ahmad was always tense around the house because he felt helpless and that he was failing his children. Now he's much more relaxed and always finds time to help me around the house and play with the children."

The FFA activity was implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture in all governorates of Jordan. Participants receive direct cash assistance to the value of USD 14 per household against each day of attendance. The purpose of the activity, which targeted 1,500 beneficiaries, was to provide economic opportunities for Jordanians vulnerable to food insecurity in rural areas in the field of tree planting and pruning, forestry, irrigation, and dairy production. The activities were identified and implemented by Ministry of Agriculture based on the country priorities with the support and oversight of WFP throughout the entire process.

## Contacts

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

Sub Regional Office/Regional Bureau for the Middle East & North Africa– Reporting Unit:: **Marah Khayyat**—[marah.khayyat@wfp.org](mailto:marah.khayyat@wfp.org)

PRRO200987 TOTAL (Jan 2017-Dec 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	6 Months* Net Funding Requirements (in USD)	People Assisted (February 2017)	Female	Male
	2,310,288,097	121 million	2,041,076	1,040,949	1,000,127

\*April-September 2017

**Syria Crisis Regional Response** [wfp.org/syriainfo](http://wfp.org/syriainfo)

# SYRIA +5 REGIONAL RESPONSE UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2017 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	3,542,070	88.5%	USD 252 m	Family Food Basket, Supplementary feeding Cash Based Transfers -using paper vouchers School Feeding Snacks	Pregnant and nursing <b>30</b> women <sup>[4]</sup>
LEBANON	1,011,366	772,015	759,414	85%	USD 921 m	Cash Based Transfers -using E-cards and Cash School Feeding Snacks	Vulnerable <b>27</b>
JORDAN	656,170	531,932	531,999	100%	USD 746 m	Cash Based Transfers -using E-cards and paper vouchers School Feeding Snacks	Vulnerable <b>14.1</b> Extremely Vulnerable <b>28.2</b> Jordan Camps <b>28.2</b>
TURKEY	2,910,281	692,000	619,810	90%	USD 698 m <sup>[3]</sup>	Cash Based Transfers - using E-cards	Inside camps <b>18 (TL 50)</b> Off-camp <b>36 (TL 100)</b> ESSN <b>36 (TL 100)</b> <sup>[4]</sup> Government of Turkey provides another USD 14 on a separate card to meet complementary food and non-food needs inside camps
EGYPT	117,591	75,798	75,650	100%	USD 129 m	Cash Based Transfers - using E-cards and paper vouchers	Vulnerable <b>15.9</b> <sup>[4]</sup> Voucher value reduced due to fluctuations in the exchange rate and funding constraints
IRAQ	233,224	54,819	54,203	99%	USD 89 m	Cash Based Transfers -using SCOPE and cash	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] Includes local food procurements, CBT transfers and other expenditures since the start of operation

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

[4] Due to fluctuation of the exchange rate, USD values are approximations only.

Syrian in communities

Syrian refugees in camps

Palestinian refugees from Syria

Vulnerable Lebanese

IDPs

## LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE - 10,580 reached in Syria 6,435 reached in the region

Rehabilitation of bakeries

Women Empowerment for Food Security Project

Enhancing Food Security, Nutrition, and Resilience

The Road to Food Security

Bee keeping value chain

Agricultural support

Cash for work rural roads rehabilitation

Digital Skills and Impact Sourcing Pilot

Healthy Kitchen

Skills Exchange

Emergency Employment

**6.3 million**  
IDPs inside Syria

**5,583,146**  
Assisted in Syria and the Region

**4.9 million**  
Refugees in the Region

**50**  
Partners in Syria

**USD 2.8 billion**  
Money Injected in Syria and the Region

**25**  
Partners in the Region

