

1 DOLLAR
for Syrian
Refugees

"All it takes is US\$1 from 64 million people."

WFP launches 72-hour social media campaign to raise urgently needed funds

wfp.org/forsyrianrefugees

HIGHLIGHTS

- Funding shortfalls force WFP to cut assistance to Syrian refugees in December
- Inter-agency convoy delivers food for 5,000 people in Syria's west Harasta for the first time in almost two years
- WFP delivers food supplies across lines of conflict to 35,000 civilians in rural Aleppo, northern Syria
- Inter-agency targeting tool finalized in Lebanon
- Pilot areas for non-camp voucher assistance identified in Turkey
- Voucher distributions to begin in Iraq's Darashakran and Arbat camps in December

Eight year-old Bija and six year-old Ali from Damascus, Syria, Al Za'atri camp, Jordan.

WFP/Joelle Eid



FUNDING AND SHORTFALLS

Funding shortages force WFP to halt food assistance in December

Despite significant advocacy efforts and the generous support from our donors, insufficient funding is finally forcing WFP to cut its assistance to millions of Syrian refugees throughout the region in December, when winter hits the region.

As a result, we are suspending our response in Lebanon - only new arrivals will receive food parcels; cutting our programme in Jordan by 85 percent by only assisting camp refugees and suspending our support to urban refugees; and cutting our programmes in Turkey and Egypt by providing vouchers of a much lower value than their regular entitlements.

With the onset of winter around the corner, the suspension of activities will affect refugees when they are at their most vulnerable. Not only will this jeopardise the food security of those affected. Without sufficient support, refugees will be forced to resort to negative coping strategies, such as reducing the number of meals consumed per day, borrowing money or using up savings, taking on informal, often exploitative jobs, and removing children from school to help generate additional income.

The reductions are also likely to increase the already significant tensions that exist between Syrian refugees and host populations – possibly leading to demonstrations, violence and increased insecurity – while leaving refugees more vulnerable to the influence of extremist groups. Meanwhile, host countries will be forced to carry an even higher burden, compromising their capacity to cope with the crisis and - particularly so in Lebanon and Jordan - possibly impacting border policies and their willingness to continue hosting refugees.

A total of *US\$64 million are immediately required to continue supporting Syrian refugees living in neighbouring countries in December alone.*

For the next three months (December - February), WFP requires US\$353 million to support operations in Syria and the five neighbouring countries – US\$92 million for Syria and US\$261 million for operations throughout the region.

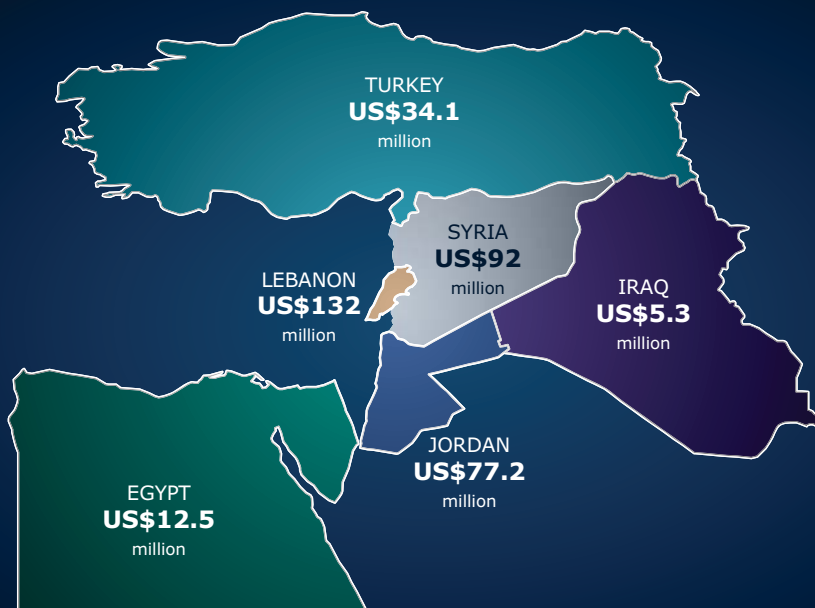
WFP LAUNCHES 72-HOUR SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

To reinstate Syrian refugees' food vouchers in December, WFP has launched a 72-hour campaign to raise the US\$64million required until the end of the year. The three-day campaign – starting today – asks members of the public to donate one US\$1 dollar towards WFP's food aid for Syrian Refugees.

"Even one dollar can make a difference. We're saying to people: 'For you it's a dollar, for them it's a lifeline.' We know that people care – and we're asking them to show it, by giving even this small amount to Syrians in need," said WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin. "All it takes is US\$1 from 64 million people."

People around the world are being asked to follow this link: wfp.org/forsyrianrefugees and visit WFP's website wfp.org to donate online.

WFP FUNDING REQUIREMENTS DECEMBER 2014 - FEBRUARY 2015



November food dispatches hit the 94 percent mark but insecurity continues to restrict coverage in many areas

Food dispatches under the November cycle accomplished 94 percent of the monthly plan, with rations for over four million people safely offloaded in partner warehouses across 12 governorates. However, worsening security continued to hinder food deliveries in many areas, particularly to the north-east where road access remains interrupted since May. In Hama, fighting in the western and eastern countryside are slowing the movement of trucks as drivers are increasingly unwilling to travel those routes. Similar constraints were faced in the southern governorates, where deliveries in many parts of rural Quneitra and Dar'a could not take place due to intense fighting.

Meanwhile, over 3.85 million people received a food ration under the recently concluded October cycle, representing 91 percent of the overall target. This included over 287,000 civilians assisted in opposition or contested areas of Syria where access is often irregular.

WFP food reaches 5,000 civilians in Western Harasta for the first time in almost two years -

For the first time in almost two years, food and other urgent relief items were delivered in support of 5,000 people in western Harasta, Rural Damascus. WFP food was delivered as part of an inter-agency convoy, accompanied by UN staff, on 27 and 30 November. Located in Eastern Ghouta, western Harasta is similar to many locations in Rural Damascus that have received limited or no humanitarian assistance since the start of the crisis, owing to insecurity and extended blockades. A recent cease-fire deal in place since January 2014 has eased restrictions and enabled limited movement, particularly for women and children.

Households interviewed by UN teams during the mission reported a poor food security situation, as families have insufficient food supplies to meet their needs. For instance, the town receives 300 bundles of bread per day, covering only 15 percent of the needs. The community continues to rely on small-scale agriculture produce - parsley, spinach, green onion, chard leaf and beans - which have helped them survive the blockade.

- but concerns grow over worsening food security of besieged civilians in other parts of Eastern Ghouta

Elsewhere in Eastern Ghouta, almost two years of siege has taken a severe toll on the estimated 600,000 civilians trapped inside. Local markets register widespread food shortages, particularly of essential dietary staples such as bread, rice, milk and meat. Inflation has reached record levels, with goods sold at over 600 percent their original price, making them unaffordable to most households who have already expended most of their assets. Recent reports indicate that the most vulnerable residents are resorting to extreme coping strategies, such as filtering through garbage, while clinics are registering an increasing number of malnutrition cases. With WFP remaining unable to deliver assistance to residents, concerns are growing over worsening conditions, particularly given the insufficient flow of commercial supplies into these suburbs and the high prices of goods that do enter. Since October 2012, WFP has only been able to deliver assistance on two occasions, reaching 10,000 people in Douma with food supplies.

While the recent delivery to west Harasta will be sufficient to cover barely three percent of total estimated needs, it is hoped that this first entry will lead to further openings in the coming future. Through a series of inter-agency convoys conducted over a period of three weeks, WFP and other humanitarian actors plan to deliver additional humanitarian supplies to cover the needs of up to 20,000 people in Mada, Az-Zabadani, Douma and Harasta.

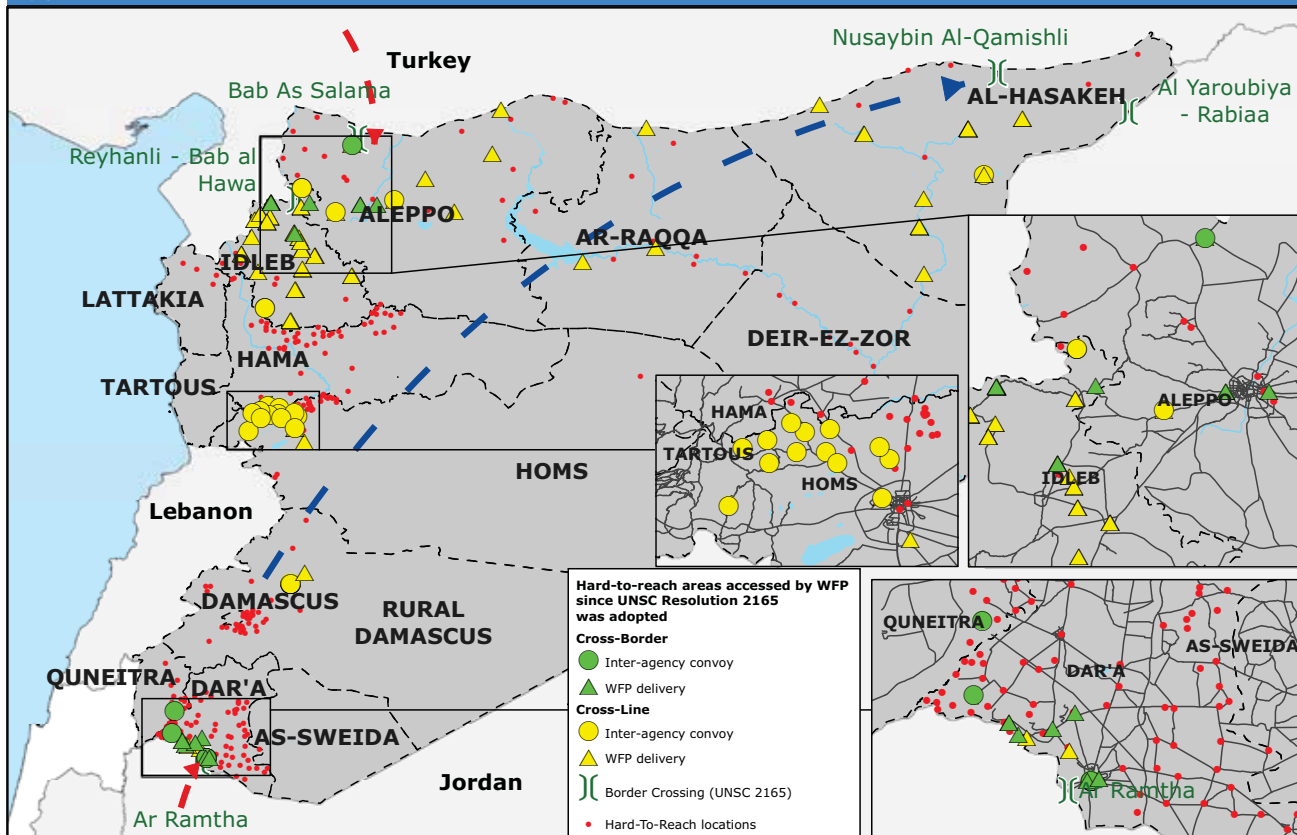


WFP/Mahmoud Zaza



WFP/Hussam Al Saleh

WFP managed to access Western Harasta for the first time in almost two years



WFP delivers food supplies across lines of conflict to 35,000 civilians in rural Aleppo -

A cross-line inter-agency convoy delivered urgently needed humanitarian supplies in hard-to-reach areas of western rural Aleppo on 23 November. A total of 5,833 WFP rations were safely offloaded in partner warehouses in Kafr Hamra, Maaret Elartiq, Anadan, A'zaz, Tal Riffat, sufficient to support over 29,000 civilians who have not received any food assistance for the past three months. Distributions, handled by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent branch in Aleppo are ongoing since 25 November.

Intense shelling, bombing and heavy fighting continues to devastate the rural areas of the governorate, severely restricting the outreach of WFP's response amidst growing humanitarian needs. Similarly, conditions remain challenging in the opposition-held eastern districts of Aleppo city. These are accessible only from one rural route, which is heavily damaged, subject to frequent security incidents and where an escalation of fighting in recent months threatens to completely cut it off.

As part of recent advocacy efforts to improve access, negotiations are underway to open direct corridors to East Aleppo city from the western part of the city. This would allow WFP to deliver 15,000 rations on a monthly basis to support up to 75,000 besieged civilians.

- while cross-border deliveries from Turkey reach IDPs in northern Idlib

Complementing cross-line deliveries from within Syria, cross-border consignments from southern Turkey have contributed to further improving coverage in hard-to-reach areas in the northern provinces of the country.

A trail of 23 trucks transhipped 4,800 food rations across Bab-al Hawa on 19 and 20 November, one of the four border crossings approved under Security Council Resolution 2165. This assistance will support up to 24,000 IDPs living in 25 camps in Harim in northern Idlib for a period of one month.

Harim camps consist of some 87 formal and informal settlements that have sprung up as a direct consequence of the conflict and are occupying the area near the border with Turkey. Since the beginning of the crisis, volatile security and a recent escalation of violence in the area have been preventing regular access to the camps, where an estimated 75,000 IDPs face harsh living conditions, including a general lack of clean water and sanitary services. Conditions are expected to further deteriorate with the onset of the winter season and severe drops in temperature.

WFP and partners lay the groundwork for a further expansion of cross-border operations

WFP and food sector partners are implementing a three-month joint operational plan to coordinate food deliveries from within and outside Syria, maximise outreach of the response and reduce duplications in the same intervention areas. Under this plan, WFP aims to provide monthly assistance to 250,000 civilians in Aleppo and Idleb through shipments from southern Turkey and to 50,000 civilians in the southern governorates with deliveries across the Jordanian border.

Efforts are underway to strengthen capacities to sustain the scale-up of cross-border operations, while new partners are being contracted to support food distribution. In November, WFP signed an agreement with an INGO operating from southern Turkey, who will support the delivery and distribution of 4,800 food parcels to a targeted 24,000 IDPs in northern Idleb over the next two months. While this brings the total number of partners to seven, further agreements – expected to be finalised before the end of the month – are underway with three additional partners.

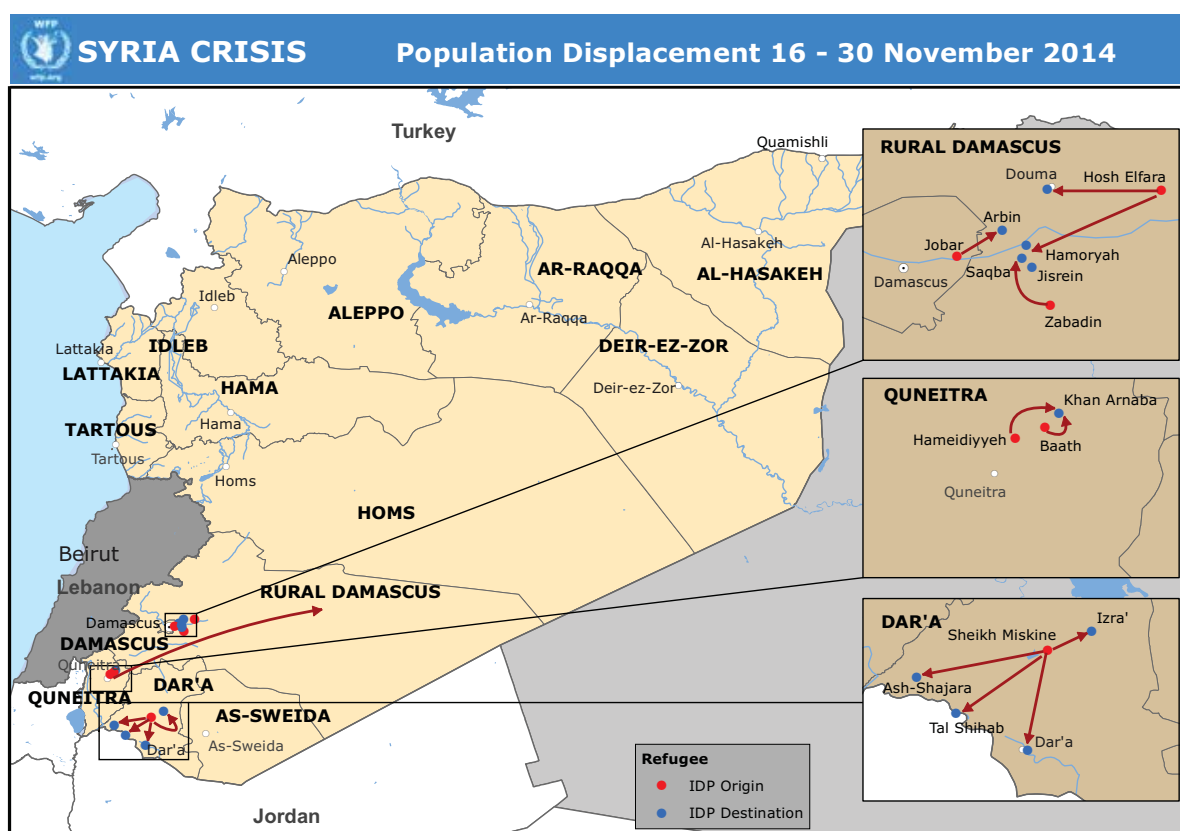
Escalating violence in southern Syria forces thousands to flee

Renewed outbreak of heavy fighting and mounting insecurity has forced thousands of civilians from their homes in Rural Damascus, Quneitra and Dar'a to seek refuge in relatively safer areas.

Large scale military advances on Al Hamedieh and Al-Baath cities in north-western Quneitra have forced significant displacements, with preliminary partner registration reports indicating that some 7,500 people have fled to surrounding rural locations and to areas of Rural Damascus. Further population movements are expected in the coming weeks as fighting continues to escalate, particularly as military operations threaten to close in on neighbouring Khan Arnabah, a main urban centre home to 30,000 people – most of whom are IDPs. In response, WFP has re-allocated 2,500 food rations that could not reach Deir-ez-Zor to the SARC branch in Quneitra. This assistance will be sufficient to meet the immediate needs of 12,500 recently displaced civilians.

Over 40,000 civilians fled Sheikh Meskin in western rural Dar'a over the last week, where shelling and heavy clashes continued to intensify. Most families were displaced to surrounding rural villages including Al-Deli, Barka and Al-Sakeia, as well as Izra, Dar'a city, Ash-Shajara and Tel Shihab. IDPs are being hosted in temporary shelters, including schools or among hosting families and some ready-to-eat rations have been distributed to meet the most immediate needs. As SARC and NGO partners continue to assess humanitarian needs on the ground, WFP stands ready to provide additional assistance.

In the meantime, fighting continues unabated in many areas of Rural Damascus. During the reporting period, thousands of civilians fled clashes in Jobar, Zabadeen and Housh Al-Farah, seeking refuge in neighbouring locations, including Douma, Jsreen, Erbeen, Hamoluria and Saqab. Breaking a recently established truce deal, shelling and bombardments resumed in Beit Sahem, where thousands of civilians are expected to be displaced should fighting continue. To date, the number of civilians affected remains unavailable, while SARC and partners continue to closely monitor the situation on the ground and assess needs.





WFP sustains assistance despite persistent security risks

WFP reached 917,419 beneficiaries in November, with the highest concentration in the Akkar region of North Lebanon, as well as northern and central Bekaa Valley, due to the close proximity of these areas to the Syrian border.

The proximity of the working areas to Syria and internal clashes means that WFP has to operate in an environment where violence and associated security risks are a regular occurrence. Parts of the working areas in the Bekaa Valley and North Lebanon have been categorized under a UN-designated security 'red zone', which allows for critical missions only (see map). Tensions and clashes in and around the red zone and a subsequent intensification of search operations by the Lebanon Armed Forces (LAF) often disrupt WFP operations.

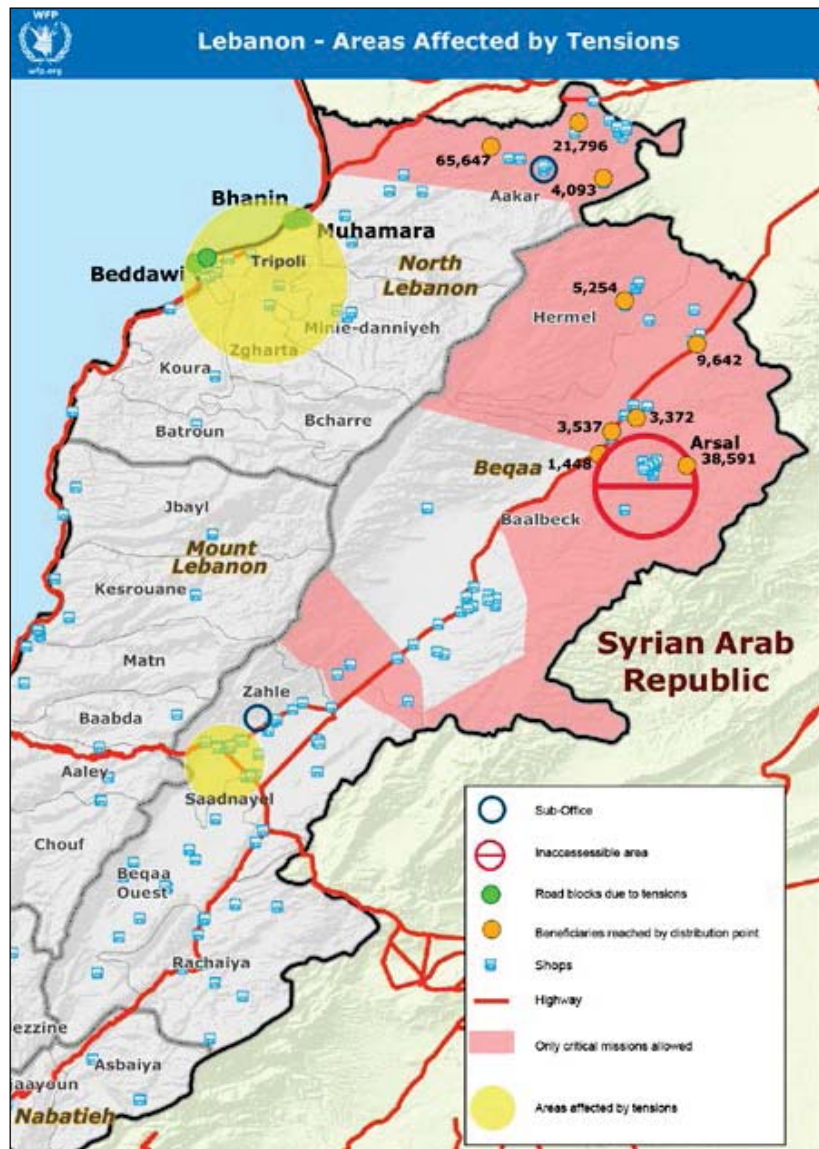
Earlier this month, clashes in Tripoli restricted access into the area, temporarily disrupting monitoring activities. Blockages on the highway used by WFP to deliver food to Syria were also reported—an issue that was resolved by rerouting the cargo via alternative roads, allowing the delivery of food as planned. Monitoring activities planned to take place in and around the red zone were also postponed earlier this month, as roads into Saadnayel village in central Bekaa were blocked due to ongoing LAF search operations following a bomb threat.

Despite such operational challenges, WFP has managed to sustain assistance to almost 153,000 Syrian refugees residing within the red zone (see map for breakdown of beneficiaries by locations). This is partly because WFP's voucher programme is designed to allow beneficiaries to continue receiving their monthly voucher entitlements of US\$30 – which are automatically uploaded onto their cards, even when physical access is restricted. Beneficiaries are then able to redeem their voucher values for food at any of the 415 WFP-contracted shops around the country—even within completely inaccessible areas such as Aarsal, which currently has 13 WFP-contracted shops (see map for location of shops).

Inter-agency targeting tool finalized

The Targeting Task Force, of which WFP is a member, has finalized a harmonized household profiling questionnaire. This brings consensus on a common targeting approach amongst humanitarian agencies for multi-sector cash and food assistance. The questionnaire is currently being field-tested, and a training package, including guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures, is currently under development.

WFP will use the household profiling questionnaire to reduce its caseload from 75 to 55 percent of the total registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon by the end of 2015. The questionnaire will provide an extra layer of validation of beneficiary food security levels, ensuring exclusion and inclusion errors are minimized.





E-voucher rollout in Azraq Camp completed, Al Za'atri ongoing

The e-card rollout in Azraq camp was completed and e-cards were loaded on 4 November for the November entitlement. WFP loaded e-cards for 6,362 individuals and continues to distribute e-cards to those who missed prior distributions, given many are on short term leave permits in communities to visit relatives. In Al Za'atri camp, WFP has now reached some 65 percent of the camp with e-cards and continues to distribute an average of 800 e-cards per day, with plans to complete the transition from paper to e-cards by the end of November.

More than 3,000 mt of Saudi Dates dispatched

Over 98 percent of the 3,410 mt of dates received as a generous contribution from Saudi Arabia during the first and second quarter of 2014 have now been distributed. Through nine partners in camps, communities, informal tented settlements and border regions of Jordan, an estimated million Syrian refugees and Jordanians in need have benefited from the distributions.

Al Za'atri camp – the face of the Syrian crisis

In early November, the Jordan EMOP received its 200th donor, media or HQ mission since the start of 2014 – averaging nearly a visit per working day. The Syrian Refugee Affairs Directorate (SRAD), a governmental entity governing Al Za'atri camp, has counted more than 6,000 missions to the camp since its opening in July 2012. Al Za'atri has since become the face of the Syrian crisis for the region.

TURKEY

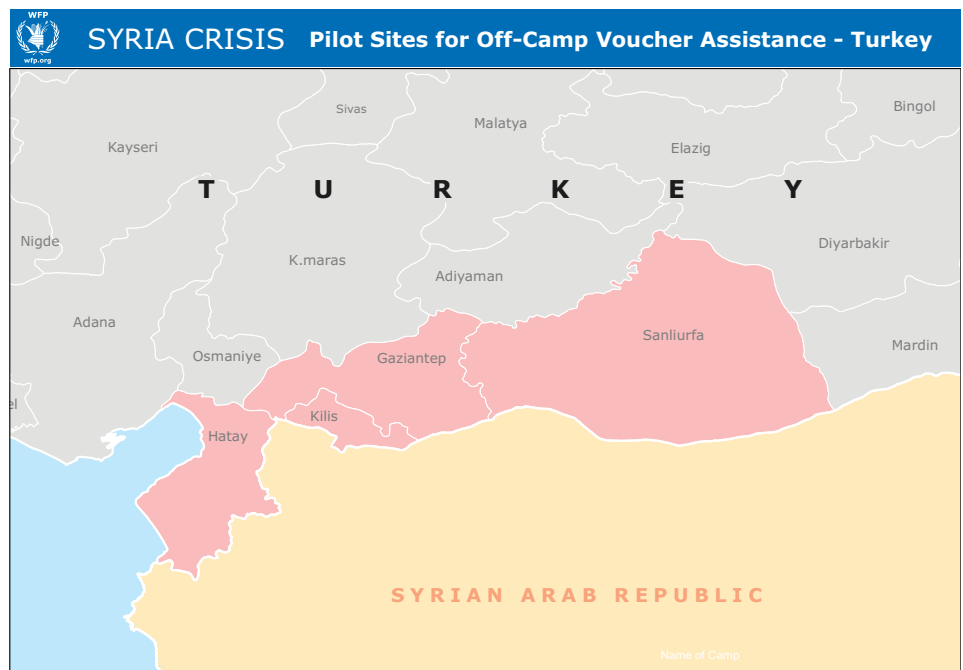


WFP plans to expand to non-camp areas underway

The Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) has requested WFP to expand its e-voucher assistance to Syrian refugees living outside camps.

With a tight deadline to begin off-camp assistance before the end of the year, WFP has held initial talks with AFAD and identified four provinces to launch e-voucher assistance - Gaziantep, Kilis, Sanliurfa and Hatay (see map). Meetings with local authorities from the selected areas are underway, to ensure local ownership and participation in the expansion process.

The targeting process for this expansion is being done through the Food Security Working Group, which is chaired by WFP and has the participation of UNHCR, IOM, Support to Life, Danish Refugee Council, CONCERN and others. The group is developing a vulnerability tool to allow humanitarian actors to identify off-camp Syrian refugees most in need. To date, WFP has shared the food security components to be included in the tool, while a follow-up training on food security concepts, data collection and harmonization of vulnerability criteria is expected to be held in the coming weeks. WFP is also meeting potential cooperating partners with extensive experience working with refugees in host communities to support the expansion.





Refugees from Kobane exceed 20,000 mark

Over 20,000 refugees from Kobane and the surrounding areas have now entered the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, following the opening of the Ibrahim Khalil border crossing between Turkey and Iraq. Although new arrivals are initially transferred from the border to different camps, the majority of families have left camp settings, preferring instead to reside in host communities. WFP is coordinating immediate assistance to newly-arrived refugees with other food sector partners

and is working to include families that choose to remain in camps into its regular monthly food assistance.

Shops begin to stock for voucher transition

WFP continues to prepare for the transition to vouchers in Darashakran and Akre camps. Retailers and cooperating partners have been selected and shops are beginning to prepare stocks for the expected additional demand. Voucher distributions in both camps will take place in the second week of December, with each family receiving two household vouchers, valued – in total – at U\$31/person.

Distributions delayed in Darashakran and Arbat due to pipeline break

In-kind food distributions in Darashakran and Arbat camps have been postponed for the month of November and will likely take place in the first week of December, following the late arrival of commodities. WFP is working with its supplier as well as its procurement teams in the region and at its headquarters to ensure that commodities arrive on time for distribution. UNHCR, camp management and refugee representatives have been informed accordingly and beneficiaries across both camps – some 12,000 people – are aware of the delay.

WFP reaches Al Obaidi for a fourth month as security conditions worsen

Despite ongoing military operations across Anbar governorate, WFP delivered 1,200 individual food parcels to Al Obaidi camp on 16 November to complement existing stocks. As a result, WFP's partner, Islamic Relief Worldwide – Iraq, was able to distribute food assistance to the camp's entire population of 1,300 people, meeting their food requirements for the month of November. WFP plans to dispatch additional food parcels for distribution in December as soon as commodities are available and security conditions on the roads allow.

EGYPT



November distributions target over 100,000 beneficiaries

November distributions started on 23 November in six distribution sites across Egypt, located mainly in Greater Cairo and the Nile delta region. Distributions are currently ongoing, with beneficiaries able to redeem their vouchers in 46 selected shops until the first week of December. Following reconciliation of previous months' distributions and a review of beneficiary lists by UNHCR based on no-shows and a verification exercise, WFP is targeting 96,491 Syrian refugees and 3,590 Palestinian refugees from Syria, to reach a total of 100,081 beneficiaries in November.

WFP has finalised the preliminary results of the anti-fraud verification process for Carrefour e-card holders in greater Cairo. With over 60 percent of WFP's caseload assisted with Carrefour e-cards in the area, the anti-fraud exercise has been an important exercise to find out whether eligible beneficiaries are still physically present in the country. The verification methodology compared beneficiaries' personal information on their UNHCR yellow cards (case numbers and pictures) with the case numbers on Carrefour cards. Results of the verification process show that 88 percent of cases are physically present in the country and have been verified. These cases are also being cross-checked with UNHCR, as part of the on-going iris verification process, where iris scans are collected. WFP was not able to reach the remaining 12 percent of cases, which could mean they have left the country or that their contact information has changed without notifying UNHCR or WFP. If beneficiaries do not use food assistance during two consecutive months, it is assumed they have left the country and will be excluded from food assistance.

Socio-economic assessment for vulnerability targeting exclusively allowed inside UNHCR offices

WFP and UNHCR's ongoing vulnerability assessment – through which over 5,000 households have been interviewed so far – was recently halted following a notification by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the survey would no longer be allowed to take place at household level. Instead, the socio-economic assessment is only allowed to be conducted inside UNHCR premises. As a result, office interviews at UNHCR's offices in greater Cairo started during the week of 17 November. WFP and UNHCR are currently discussing possible options to address the matter and to also include interviews at UNHCR community centres and WFP distribution sites in each of the targeted governorates. WFP expects that the assessment timeline will be delayed to mid-February 2015 to allow adequate time for data collection and analysis. The original assessment was specifically designed for data collection at household level, including the capturing of data through physical observations, such as living conditions and assets. Now that this is no longer possible, WFP and UNHCR are revising questionnaires and scoring methodology to ensure that the alternative data collection does not affect the results and reliability of the assessment.

WFP is grateful for the critical support provided by multilateral donors in response to the Syria crisis, as well as that of Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States and private donors.



Donors are represented in alphabetical order.

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