

## Situation Update

6 – 20 November 2013

SYRIA JORDAN LEBANON TURKEY IRAQ EGYPT

### Highlights

- 2,000 WFP food rations reached Al-Otaiba in Rural Damascus for the first time in 15 months.
- WFP began its e-voucher pilot in Jordan on 12 November by distributing e-cards to 135 households in Amman, Mafraq and Zarqa governorates.
- WFP responded to the rapid influx of refugees in Arsal, Lebanon by providing food parcels to over 13,000 new arrivals.
- In Egypt, WFP and UNHCR are working on transitioning to an e-voucher platform.



# SYRIA

In November, WFP plans to provide food assistance to 4 million people in all 14 governorates of Syria. The food basket, sufficient for a family of five for one month, consists of rice, bulgur wheat, pasta, lentils, canned beans, vegetable oil, salt, sugar, and wheat flour. Wheat flour is only provided to beneficiaries in areas where there are notable shortages of bread (70 percent of planned beneficiaries).

Food dispatches have been particularly challenging this month and, thus far, food deliveries have only been possible to 12 governorates. Insecure road access to the northeast has prevented food dispatches to Al-Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor, with limited amounts to Ar-Raqqa. Furthermore, the closure of the Damascus – Homs highway has suspended all movement to the central part of the country, affecting food deliveries to Homs and Hama governorates. In spite of these constraints, WFP is seeking alternative routes and access solutions to deliver food in difficult to reach areas. The pace of food deliveries is expected to accelerate within the last week of the month to Deir-ez-Zor, following safe passage arrangements negotiated by partners, and to Homs and Hama supplied through Tartous.

November Cycle Food Basket	
Food Item	Kg
Rice	7.0
Bulgur wheat	4.0
Pasta	4.0
Lentils	6.0
Canned beans	2.0
Vegetable oil	4.6
Sugar	5.0
Wheat flour	25.0
Salt	0.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58.1</b>

## POPULATION DISPLACEMENT

Further population displacement was registered in Syria during the past weeks due to escalating fighting, increasing the need for humanitarian assistance to the affected population. In Quneitra governorate, SARC reported that an estimated 10,000 people fled the southwestern locations of Al-Rafed, Al-Ma'alak, Al-Heran, Al-Jamousa due to heavy fighting, seeking refuge mainly in the eastern and central areas of the governorate. As a result, SARC re-prioritized food assistance to these locations, to ensure that all affected families were reached.

Conflict intensified in Rural Damascus during the reporting period. Prior to this, most of the civilian population in the areas of Hajera, Sbeneh Akraba, parts of Hajar Aswad and Beit Sahim were forced to evacuate to Yarmouk camp. As a result, by 14 November the entire population of Sbeineh and Hajera were displaced and relocated within the camp. Although it has not been possible to establish the exact number of people displaced, SARC estimates that over 30,000 additional vulnerable people are now residing in Yarmouk, indicating the need to broaden the scope of humanitarian assistance in the area.

## INTER-AGENCY ASSESSMENTS



WFP/Hussam Al-Saleh

Following the conclusion of the fieldwork exercise on 10 November, all data collected for the WFP/FAO Joint Rapid Food and Agriculture Assessment is currently being processed and analysed. The final report is expected to be released at the end of November.

The OCHA-led Joint Humanitarian Assessment (JHA) was granted approval by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 12 November. Over 120 teams will be organized to collect data on humanitarian needs in all 14 Syrian governorates. Training of enumerators is expected to start on 25 November in Tartous and Damascus, to be followed by fieldwork.

The Nutrition Working Group is currently finalising preparations for a national rapid nutrition assessment. Questionnaires were pretested in Damascus and Rural Damascus between 19 and 21 November, while an adequate sample size is also being determined among participating UN agencies and the National Bureau of Statistics. The data collection exercise will be launched in December and the results are expected to be published by the end of 2013.

## FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Sector-wide plans for the development of the 2014 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (SHARP) are being consolidated. Preliminary sector estimates indicate that over 6 million people in Syria are in need of food assistance and agricultural support. As

a result, the sector plans to assist approximately 5.25 million people in all 14 governorates, with additional agricultural support planned for approximately 600,000 people living in rural areas.

## MARKET ANALYSIS

During the first half of November, WFP market price monitoring registered a general decline in commodity prices across the country, mainly owing to an improved value of the Syrian Pound (SYP) against the US Dollar.

In particular, the re-opening of the Khanasser road to Aleppo also contributed to the commodity price reductions in combination with the effect of the improved value of the Syrian currency. The re-opening of this main access point has allowed the entry of market goods into the governorate from the end of October. As a result, the improved availability of wheat flour has led to a 90 percent reduction in the price of bread from 150 SYP to 15 SYP in monitored markets.

Commodity price reductions have also been observed in the northeastern governorates despite severe deterioration of the security situation. In Al-Hasakeh, prices of commodities such as wheat flour, rice, sugar, oil and diesel registered reductions ranging from 25 to 37 percent. Similarly, in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, prices of commodities such as rice, sugar, lentils, oil and diesel registered reductions ranging from 13 to 23 percent. As revealed by WFP price monitoring and discussions with traders, this is mainly the result of a growing informal security business, where different armed groups offer safe passage to the northeastern governorates at discounted rates, thus improving the flow of goods into the previously cut-off governorates.

## FEATURED UPDATE

### ACCESS

In the past few weeks intensified advocacy efforts have enabled cross-line humanitarian convoys to besieged areas in parts of rural Homs, Rural Damascus and Dar'a. These cross-line missions have resulted in improvements in the provision of humanitarian assistance to some areas which had not been accessed for a period of time.

Between 10 October and 14 November, WFP provided a total of 54,750 family food rations to support an approximate 274,000 people living in 13 locations where access had been severely restricted for a protracted period of time, up to 15 months in one case. Of these, eight locations were accessed through joint humanitarian convoys, while four were reached through regular WFP dispatches. Aleppo was reached through both channels.

Access remains a challenge in other parts of the country, particularly in the northeastern governorates of Al-Hasakeh, Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa, as well as rural Aleppo. Access solutions are being sought to address the prolonged impasse to parts of the north east. WFP has secured approval from the Syrian Government to utilize the Yaroubiyah crossing point on the Syria – Iraq border. In anticipation of approval from Iraqi authorities, WFP is enhancing its logistics capacity to fully utilize this corridor. An initial 50,000 family food rations are now being pre-positioned in Iraq for immediate delivery to Al-Hasakeh. It is expected that this new corridor will allow more regular assistance to reach this previously cut-off governorate and eventually Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor.

## INCREASED ACCESS

During the reporting period, WFP accessed a total of six hard-to-reach locations in Homs, Rural Damascus and Dar'a governorates, assisting almost 137,000 conflict-affected people residing in those areas.

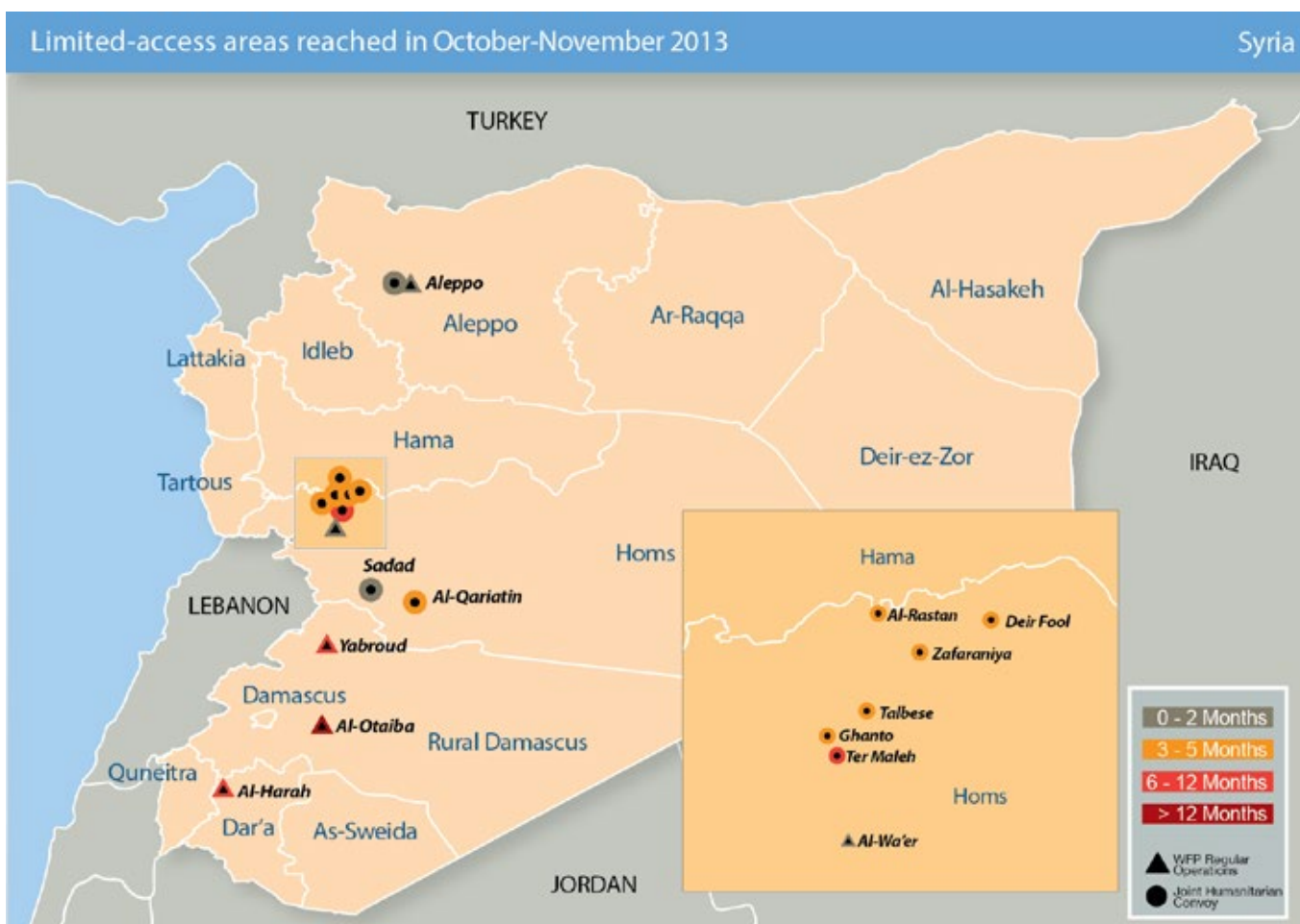
**Joint Humanitarian Convoys:** During the reporting period, three consecutive inter-agency convoys on 8, 14 and 17 November reached the towns of Al-Rastan, Zafaraniya, Deir Fool and surrounding villages in rural Homs, enabling WFP to dispatch a total 12,000 family food rations, 288 mt of wheat flour and 5 mt of high energy biscuits in support of approximately 60,000 people.

The convoy to Zafaraniya had originally been sent on 11 November, but was held at the final checkpoint and was unable to reach its destination. The UN Country team contacted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who facilitated the release of the trucks and supplies, as well as their safe return to Homs.

**WFP dispatches:** The village of Al-Otaiba in eastern Ghouta (Rural Damascus) was reached for the first time since July 2012 on 6 November. SARC distributed 2,000 of WFP family food rations to assist approximately 10,000 people.

On 10 November, 1400 WFP family food rations were delivered to the town of Al-Wa'er in rural Homs, where all humanitarian access has been severely restricted since 15 October due to an ongoing siege. An additional 6,350 family rations reached the location on 20 November and were delivered to two WFP NGO partners, bringing to 38,750 the number of people assisted through WFP food parcels. However, access to the location continues to be challenging, hindering the provision of continued and sustained life-saving assistance to the entire the affected population, estimated at approximately 400,000 people by SARC

In Dar'a governorate, WFP succeeded in accessing Al-Harah on 16 November for the first time since February 2013, delivering 5,600 family food rations for approximately 28,000 people.



Limited-access areas reached by WFP in October - November 2013			
Governorate	Location and Date	Assistance Provided	Previously Accessed
Homs	Ter Maleh 10 Oct	1,500 family rations, enough for 7,500 people for one month	March 2013
	Ghanto 13 Oct	1,000 family rations, enough for 5,000 people for one month	April 2013
	Talbese 24 Oct	4,000 family rations, enough for 20,000 people for one month	April 2013
	Al-Qariatn 29 Oct	4,800 family rations, enough for 24,000 people for one month	April 2013
	Sadad 2 Nov	1,100 family rations, enough for 5,500 people for one month	Subject to an attack by armed groups on 22 October
	Al-Rastan and surrounding villages 8 Nov	7,000 family rations and 155 mt of waeat flour, enough for 35,000 people for one month	June 2013
	Al-Wa'er 10 and 20 Nov	1,400 family rations and 6,350 family rations enough for a total of 38,750 people for one month	No access since 15 October
	Zafaraniya and surrounding villages 14 Nov	3,500 family rations and 95 mt of wheat flour, enough for 17,500 people for one month	June 2013
	Deir Fool and surrounding villages 17 Nov	1,500 family rations, 37.5 mt of wheat flour and 5 mt of high-energy biscuits, enough for 7,500 people for one month	June 2013
Aleppo	Aleppo 15 Oct	8,200 family rations, enough for 41,000 people for one month	August 2013
	Aleppo 26 Oct	5,300 family rations, enough for 26,500 people for one month	August 2013
Rural Damascus	Yabroud 14 Oct	1,500 family rations, enough for 7,500 people for one month	March 2013
	Al-Otaiba 6 Nov	2,000 family rations, enough for 10,000 people for one month	July 2013
Dar'a	Al-Harah 16 Nov	5,600 family rations, enough for 28,000 people for one month	February 2013

Joint Humanitarian Convoy
  WFP Regular Operations

## ACCESS CHALLENGES

Ongoing fighting and shifting lines of control within Syria continue to affect WFP ability to reach conflict-affected population in various governorates, hindering the provision of food assistance to an estimated 500,000 to 800,000 people.

### Al-Hasakeh, Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa

In particular, access restrictions have severely disrupted the provision of food assistance to the northeastern governorates of Al-Hasakeh, Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa. In Al-Hasakeh, October cycle dispatches could not take place as a result of controlled access by armed groups, while heavy fighting in Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa prevented the dispatch of the total planned number of rations. The restrictions continue to partly or entirely prevent planned

food allocations from reaching the governorates during the November cycle. To date, none of the planned November cycle food allocations have reached Al-Hasakeh, while in Ar-Raqqa WFP dispatched only a limited amount of the food rations planned for the governorate. In Deir-ez-Zor, intensified conflict led to a temporary closure of all roads leading into the city on 14 November, thus limiting dispatches. The closure also affected the dispatch of 4,150 family food rations to the Al-Mayadeen area of southwest Deir-ez-Zor, as WFP trucks could not proceed further than Palmyra, in rural Homs, and had to return to Damascus on 13 November.

### Aleppo

In Aleppo, regular food dispatches were able to resume following the opening of the Khanassar passage in October. However November cycle food dispatches have only reached Aleppo city thus far, as access to rural areas of the governorate remains difficult. The governorate had received sporadic assistance during the previous cycles due to heavy fighting along transport routes.

### Rural Homs

SARC estimates suggest that 400,000 people remain trapped in the besieged city of Al-Wa'er, in Homs governorate. Since 15 October, all humanitarian access to the location was denied and the movement of people and goods into and out of the area severely restricted. An easing of these restrictions allowed the delivery of a total of 7750 family rations between 10 and 20 November.

### Rural Damascus

On 13 November, all humanitarian access to Yarmouk camp was suspended amid intensification of clashes in nearby areas, hindering humanitarian assistance to the people residing in the camp. The camp population includes thousands of IDPs who were forced to flee to Yarmouk from surrounding villages, as heavy fighting for the control of the area took place between government and opposition forces.

## LEBANON

Since the outbreak of the violence in Syria, the Lebanese Government has maintained an open-border policy, welcoming an increasing number of Syrian refugees. As of 20 November 2013, there are over 824,200 Syrian refugees now living in Lebanon. In the region, Lebanon is hosting the highest number of Syrian refugees (over 36 percent) and as a small country, Lebanon's refugee density is now over 70 refugees per sq km.

Upon the request of the Government of Lebanon, WFP has responded to the current influx of Syrian refugees in Lebanon since 2012. WFP food assistance started in June 2012 assisting over 7,000 refugees and increased its capacity to reach over 100,000 by December 2012. Since then, the programme has expanded to assist over 500,000 Syrian refugees.



WFP/ Laure Chadraoui

Due to heavy fighting in the Syrian town of Qarah specifically and in the Qalamoun mountain region generally, thousands of people have fled their homes over the past few days, making their way over the border into eastern Lebanon. Most of the newly arrived refugees are seeking shelter and safety in the Bekaa Valley town of Arsal. Latest estimations indicate that some 3,020 families (approximately 15,100 individuals) have moved into Arsal and surrounding villages since 15 November.

Arsal, located in northeastern Lebanon near the border with Syria, is home to a population of some 54,000 people, including – prior to the latest influx – almost 20,000 registered refugees. Since 15 November, the entire population of Arsal has risen to over 67,000, putting a strain on existing resources. In response, WFP has so far assisted approximately 13,270 new arrivals with food parcels for one month. An additional 1,000 food parcels were dispatched to the area on 21 November.

There are indications that ongoing violence in the vicinity of Qarah and central Qalamoun towns will force more refugees to flee Syria into the already overstretched east-Bekaa area. WFP and its partners have contingency stocks in place to assist influxes of refugees.

## NOVEMBER ASSISTANCE

The November food cycle is underway in all areas and WFP is planning to reach over 556,000 refugees by the end of the cycle. WFP is administering three types of assistance this month. Most beneficiaries, around 70 percent, are now being assisted through e-cards, while a smaller number, 27 percent, are being assisted with paper vouchers. The remaining percentage, three percent, is assisted through food parcels which are exclusively for refugees who are awaiting registration with UNHCR as well as vulnerable newly arrived refugees.

In Beirut, Mount Lebanon and southern Lebanon, most beneficiaries do not need to attend distributions as their e-cards are automatically reloaded. In the Bekaa Valley, beneficiaries received their e-cards for the first time; these e-cards were activated on 15 November. In northern Lebanon, beneficiaries are receiving paper vouchers for the last time before the transition to e-cards, which will take place during the December cycle.

## TARGETING

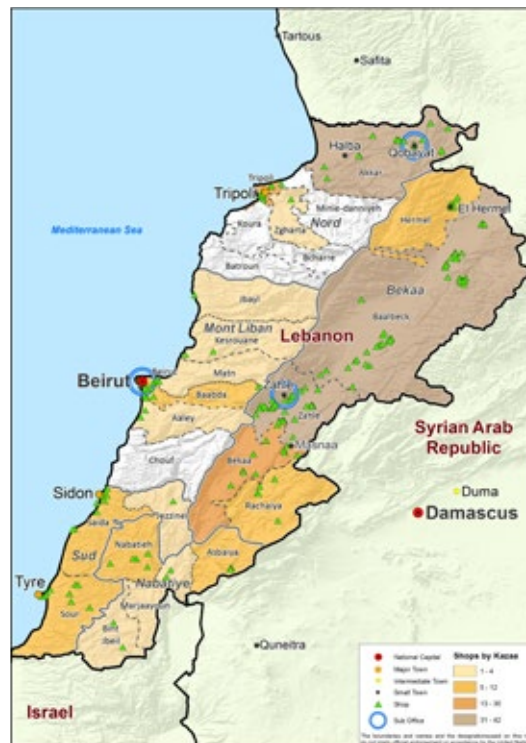
Targeted distributions began in northern Lebanon on 1 November. WFP is now providing targeted assistance across the entire country. In order to ensure that all vulnerable individuals are assisted, WFP, together with UNHCR, has established a robust appeal process. Each household that has appealed is visited by a verification team in order to collect objective household data through a questionnaire. The questionnaire covers criteria across many sectors, including family composition, type of housing, source of income, food consumption habits, debt, coping strategies, etc. This data is then analyzed and filtered through a scoring system to determine the vulnerability of the household and hence its eligibility or need for assistance.



WFP through its partners have begun conducting verification visits at a rate of around 1,000 household visits per day. Thus far, WFP/UNHCR received 26,600 appeals, of which nearly 70 percent (18,000 household) have already been visited by verification teams.

## PARTNER SHOPS

WFP is gradually adding more partner shops to the programme in order to cope with an increasing refugee population. Since July 2013, WFP has increased the number of contracted shops from 221 to 247 shops. All selected retailers meet WFP and partner criteria with regard to their capacity, financial liquidity, range of products and willingness to comply with WFP rules and regulations. The shops are required to maintain adequate records and fair market prices, as well as ensure the quality and availability of food items, including fresh fruits and vegetables.



## SECURITY

In recent weeks, an increasing number of security incidents have occurred indicating growing sectarian tensions in the country. The situation in Tripoli in particular remains unpredictable, with frequent sectarian clashes and reports of violence spreading to other neighbourhoods including Jabal Mohsain and Bab Al-Tabbaneh. Thus far, violence has not impacted WFP's operations as the distribution site in Tripoli is located a few kilometres from the city centre. WFP continues to monitor the security situation closely.

Furthermore, there has been a spike in criminality across Lebanon, especially kidnappings. There has been no specific threat to the humanitarian community thus far.

Incidents of cross border shelling also continued during the reporting period in particular along the northern and eastern borders, notably on 10 and 14 November when large areas of Akkar and north Bekaa (respectively) experienced prolonged shelling. WFP regularly works in all of these areas but has so far not been affected.

# JORDAN

## TARGETING

WFP, along with sister-agencies UNHCR and UNICEF are jointly developing multi-sectorial vulnerability criteria for Syrian Refugees in Jordan. WFP's contribution will include a Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise (CFSME), which will inform targeting based on vulnerability criteria obtained through the exercise. WFP's cooperating partner ACTED will conduct a national representative exercise starting on 24 November with the aim of completing the data collection phase by the end of 2013. By early 2014, it is anticipated that the humanitarian response in Jordan will target those most in need. Lessons learned from the Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon will be used in determining the most effective exercise as well as future targeting modalities.



## E-CARDS

WFP began its e-voucher pilot on 12 November by distributing e-cards to 135 households in Amman, Mafraq and Zarqa governorates. As part of the pilot, the partner bank, Jordan Ahli Bank, uploaded JOD24 (US\$34) per person to the household e-card for the November cycle. WFP and the bank also conducted beneficiary sensitization on the use of e-cards at distribution centres prior to distribution. WFP provided an e-voucher leaflet that beneficiaries can refer to if they have questions. The e-voucher pilot will allow WFP to test the system of the e-card and to ensure that programme and financial processes are in place and effective before transition from paper vouchers to e-cards commences in December.

WFP and the partner bank also plan to conduct a full distribution of e-cards in the King Abdullah Park (KAP) transit centre by the last week of November and e-cards will be provided to all registered beneficiaries in KAP (210 families).

## AL ZA'ATRI CAMP

UNHCR recently finalized a 'shelter by shelter' sweep of Al Za'atri camp, which recorded around 75,000 individuals in the camp (compared with the current UNHCR manifest of over 109,000 individuals). This discrepancy has occurred because of the continued informal departures from the camp and the inability to compare the two UNHCR databases used in the camp and the communities.

During the sweep, every beneficiary household received a unique Verification Assistance Card (VAC). This VAC data has been entered into a UNHCR database that is linked with UNHCR's Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS) database, allowing for agencies to screen beneficiaries using both their VAC and their UNHCR beneficiary ration card during distributions in the camp. This additional screening measure will reduce the number of beneficiaries currently registered and therefore decrease the number of beneficiaries receiving food assistance in the camp. Thus, WFP expects dry ration and voucher distribution figures in Al Za'atri camp to be lower starting the second cycle of November. Communication with refugees about the need to bring the VAC as well as the usual ration card to the distribution is ongoing.

Despite some delays, WFP hopes to have both camp supermarkets in Al Za'atri camp operational by December. Currently, WFP continues to distribute individual vouchers valued at JOD6 (US\$8.50) twice per month with reduced food basket. Once the supermarkets have opened and can accommodate full vouchers across the camp, WFP will then continue to transition fully to vouchers in Al Za'atri.

## AZRAQ CAMP

The humanitarian community has agreed to complete the current level of preparedness and be ready to open the camp on two weeks' notice given the low rate of refugee arrivals in Jordan. WFP has completed all construction work for distribution and storage and is now using partner ACTED's staff for the vulnerability profiling exercise (see above).

## MONITORING

ACTED completed all third-party monitoring activities on 5 November, reaching 55 partner shops, more than 350 households with post-distribution monitoring and collecting prices from more than 100 partner and non-partner shops in all governorates of Jordan.

Monitors found that all WFP partner shops were, for the most part, clean and well organized, and stocked the required basic commodities including grains, beans, oil, sugar, canned meat, and dairy products.

Programme monitoring also found that some shop owners have had issues with increasing capacity and overcrowding in their shops due to participation in the voucher programme. However, 96 percent of all shop owners were either satisfied or very satisfied with the programme and 80 percent of shop owners noted having employed more Jordanian staff due to the increase in customers from the voucher programme.

Thus far in November, WFP has transferred two instalments totalling to 80TL per beneficiary per month (approximately US\$40 under the current exchange rate) to Syrian refugees across 14 camps in Turkey. By providing two instalments spread across the month, WFP ensures more effective programme and financial monitoring.

## MONITORING

During the reporting period, WFP staff visited all fourteen camps which are implementing the WFP/TRC programme, at least once. Overall, beneficiaries were pleased with market conditions and reported that markets are generally tidy and clean, and provide a good variety of fruits and vegetables. Beneficiaries across camps stressed the need for bread distribution as buying or baking Syrian-style flat bread proves costly and reportedly requires up to half of the monthly allotment.

WFP is currently working on a “Food Security Situation and Needs Update” employing data collected by its monitoring teams from November 2012 through August 2013, as well as the findings of the recent “Syrian Refugees in Turkey, 2013 Field Survey Results” report released by the Government of Turkey. Through programme monitoring activities conducted during the November 2012 – August 2013 time period, WFP has been able to monitor the adequacy of food assistance provided in WFP-assisted camps. Such monitoring has allowed for the calculation of food consumption scores (FCS) which measure both the quantity and variety of beneficiary diets. The findings show that 99 percent of Syrians in camps where the e-Food Card Programme is operational consume an adequate diet (with either borderline or acceptable FCS). There was no significant variation between male and female headed households and no camp had higher than two percent of households with poor consumption.

According to the “Food Security Situation and Needs Update”, 15 percent of households surveyed employed coping strategies. The most common mechanism was to rely on less preferred foods, resulting in reduced consumptions of meat and more costly items. However, the FCS across the camps shows that households were still consuming an adequate diet in terms of quantity and variety. Female beneficiaries were more likely to cope by reducing their consumption of least preferred foods compared to men who were more likely to rely on assistance from family members or friends or to purchase food with credit.

# IRAQ

## ASSISTANCE TO NON-CAMP REFUGEES

The Governor of Dohuk has formally requested WFP support to assist refugees in the host community. WFP is planning on conducting a general vulnerability assessment in all three governorates of Kurdistan, together with local authorities and humanitarian partner, to determine which non-camp refugees are vulnerable and in need of food assistance .

Despite the formal request of the Government of Dohuk, Kurdistan Regional Authorities continue to insist that all assistance to Syrian refugees be channelled through seven camps located across the Kurdistan Region. Assistance to non-camp refugees will be considered on a case-to-case basis, but preference will be given to community based projects to ensure sustainability in host communities.

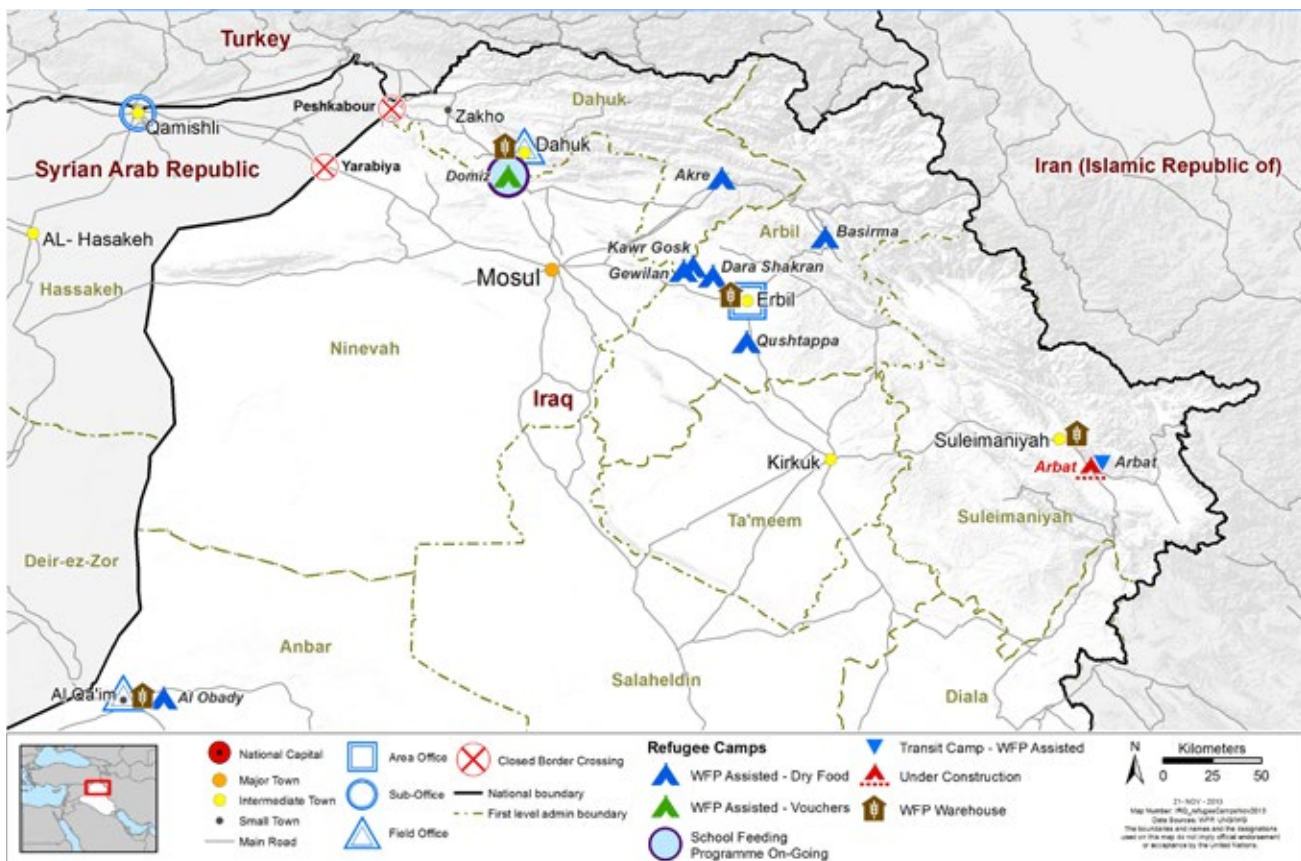
## ASSESSMENTS

WFP completed a supply chain and retail market assessment across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to determine the feasibility of providing voucher and electronic voucher assistance to refugees in camps outside of Domiz camp. In Suleimaniyah, the assessment were also conducted as part of ongoing preparations to launch a common platform for assistance to be implemented jointly with UNCHR in 2014 to assist non-camp refugees in Suleimaniyah governorate. WFP met with various local authorities including representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor of Khabat and Deputy Mayor of Arbat as well as various retailers and Syrian refugees as part of the assessment. Assessment findings will be available in the coming weeks.

## FOOD ASSISTANCE IN THE KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ

WFP is providing food assistance, across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq which hosts over 95 percent of all Syrian refugees in the country. Thus far in the month of November, WFP has distributed vouchers to over 44,000 Syrian refugees residing in Domiz camp. Furthermore, almost 17,000 Syrian refugees residing in camps across Dohuk, Suleimaniyah and Erbil governorates have also received WFP in-kind food assistance. November distributions are ongoing.

WFP works closely with UNHCR to ensure that up-to-date information regarding camp populations is available for planning purposes. There are regular fluctuations due to relocation of refugees from camp to camp and as some of the refugees leave camps to settle in host communities or return to their places of origin in Syria. As a result, calculating the exact number of camp refugees across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq is a challenge. In Kawr Gosk for example, the number of beneficiaries targeted through WFP November food distribution figures exceed the capacity of camp.



## DOHUK GOVERNORATE



WFP/Nelly Opiyo

Food voucher distributions in Domiz camp, where Syrian refugees receive two monthly vouchers valued at a total of US\$31 per month, started on 3 November. WFP has reached 44,189 Syrian refugees during the November cycle which is still in progress. Thus far, 17,842 vouchers valued at over US\$1.3 million have been distributed. Seven mini-trucks provided by the participating retail shops are now deployed to provide free transportation for Syrian refugees between the camp and the three shops.

In addition to the distribution of food vouchers, 149 cartons of Plumpy'Doz have been distributed to 1,656 boys and girls between 6 and 23 months old in Domiz camp. This supplementary feeding programme is being conducted through the public health clinic in the camp.

Elsewhere in Dohuk governorate, refugees residing in the temporary settlements of Bardarash, Qasruk and Zakho were transferred to Akre and Gewilan camps. Thus far, 3,768 refugees in these two camps have received in-kind food assistance. Furthermore, 502 families with children under 5 received high-energy biscuits in the two camps.

## SULEIMANIYAH GOVERNORATE

In Arbat transit camp, 486 WFP monthly family food rations have been distributed targeting 1,490 beneficiaries in 368 households; 260 families with children between 6 and 59 months have also received high-energy biscuits donated by UNICEF. Planning is underway to start school feeding in December in the camp school where 380 students are already registered and ready to start classes.

In addition to WFP's food assistance, Suleimaniyah municipal authorities are providing food parcels to new arrivals in the Arbat transit camp. The international NGO, Samaritan's Purse, is also distributing complementary rations of 10kg of fruit and vegetables. Furthermore, UNHCR has started to provide support to the municipality of Arbat to distribute food donations from the local community through a local NGO. The distribution started on 14 November and will cover some 2,200 Syrians refugees living outside the camp. WFP has provided technical guidance on calculating rations and advice on stock management.



WFP/Marion Cezard

## ERBIL GOVERNORATE

In Erbil governorate, WFP is providing food assistance through the distribution of monthly family food rations in Kawr Gosk, Dara Shakran, Basirma and Qushtapa camps and hopes to reach 22,000 beneficiaries in November. In addition, over 5,000 boys and girls registered in schools in these camps receive a daily snack of high-energy biscuits (HEBs). Prior to the establishment of these schools, HEBs were provided to families with children under 5 year of age to complement the monthly family food ration.

## MONITORING

Starting in November, each household in Domiz camp was issued with two vouchers of equal value instead of one single voucher encompassing the entire monthly entitlement. The vouchers were divided in order to allow for redemption across the month, helping to ensure that refugees with limited storage capacity would be able to purchase food items over a longer redemption period across the month. However, despite meetings with camp sector leaders in Domiz camp concerning the distribution of two vouchers per household, most households opted to redeem both vouchers at one go. Thus far, only five households have redeemed one voucher at a time.

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION WORKING GROUP – DOHUK

This month, WFP will begin coordinating the Food Distribution Working Group in Dohuk governorate. Food distribution coordination was previously organized by the Distribution Working Group, which oversees both food and non-food items distributions. The main role of WFP will be to ensure that there is no overlap in the provision of food assistance to refugees in the governorate. WFP will also provide guidance to the humanitarian community regarding the quality of food items to be distributed to refugees.

# EGYPT

On 14 November, the Government confirmed that the state of emergency and curfew have been officially lifted. Egyptian security forces will remain in key locations as required. WFP operations operated unhindered during the state of emergency and curfew and are expected to continue as normal.

Voucher distributions are ongoing in Egypt, where Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria residing in Alexandria, Damietta and poorer neighbourhoods of Cairo receive US\$30 per person per month. WFP plans to reach 70,000 Syrian refugees in Egypt and 2,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria in November.



## TARGETING

WFP is currently transitioning from geographic targeting to household vulnerability targeting in order to reach all Syrian refugees in need of food assistance. Food security questions have been included in UNHCR partners' household vulnerability assessments. Furthermore, WFP provided training and assistance regarding food security questions to Islamic Relief, who is carrying out these assessments in greater Cairo. Assistance and training will also be provided to Caritas in Alexandria.

## MONITORING

WFP Egypt is currently piloting electronic data collection for programme monitoring and evaluation. Field monitors have been trained in using tablets and are now training local NGO cooperating partners. The

monitoring questionnaires have been created in Arabic in order to enable the full participation of local NGO staff. Electronic data collection is expected to reduce paper usage and increase program efficiency.

## MARKETS

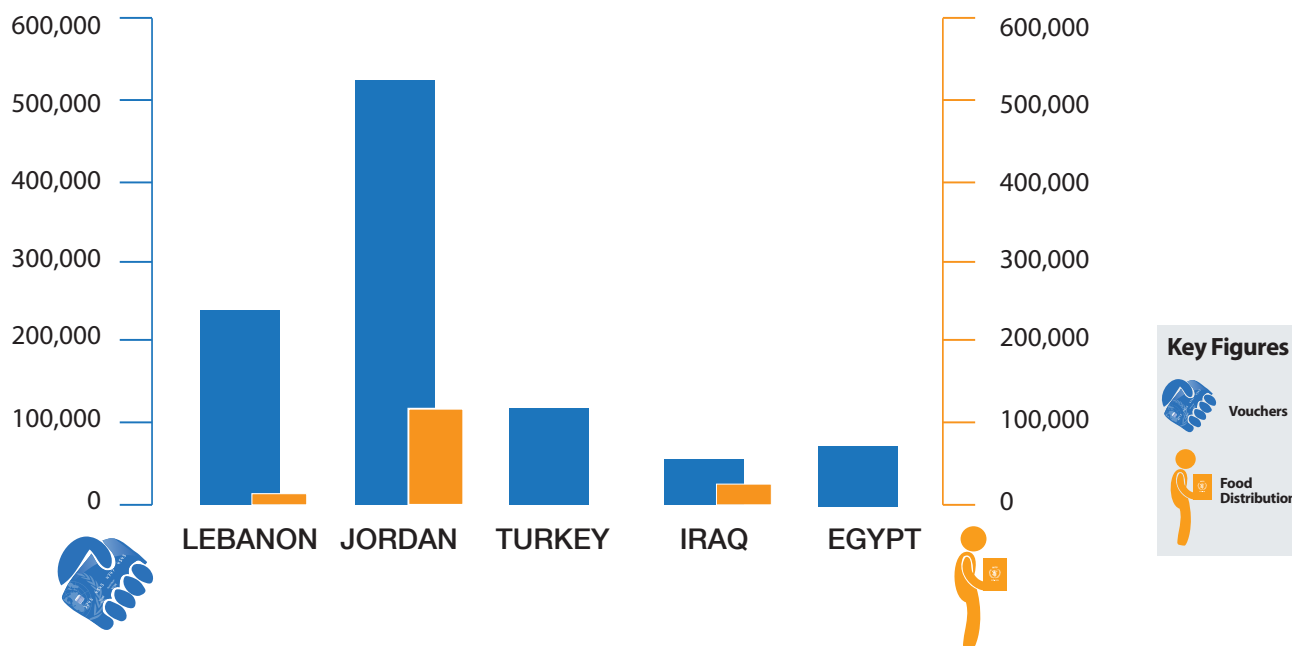
The Egyptian pound depreciated throughout the first 6 months of 2013, reaching as low as LE/US\$7.0304 on 1 July but has begun to appreciate, reaching LE/US\$ 6.8891 at the end of October 2013, mainly due to loan support from some Arab Gulf countries.

Consumer price indices published by the government's statistical agency CAPMAS show that food prices have shown significant increases since beginning of 2013; during Jan-Oct 2013 food prices increased by 20.5 percent. Comparatively, FAO's food price index shows that international food prices have slightly increased during October 2013, by some 1.3 percent compared to September 2013.

The current economic slowdown, rising unemployment and increasing costs of living are challenging the ability of vulnerable Egyptian households to withstand shocks and cope to fulfil their basic needs. According to the recent Egyptian Food Observatory (EFO), a joint Government/WFP quarterly food security monitoring report, poor households (surveyed in 10 governorates) are now more vulnerable to shocks and specifically food-price shocks, with nearly 67 percent of their total expenditure going to food, compared to a national average of 40.6 percent. In addition, 58 percent of vulnerable households surveyed for the EFO in September 2013 have reported unstable sources of income and the unemployment rate among them has increased to 18.9 percent compared to a national rate of 13.3 percent.

## WFP REGIONAL OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

### November Distributions



Jordan voucher figures include partial voucher distributions in Al Za'atri camp, where beneficiaries also receive reduced in-kind food rations. Distributions are ongoing.

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Donors are represented in alphabetical order.

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