



World Food Programme

Programme Alimentaire Mondial

Programa Mundial de Alimentos

برنامج الأغذية العالمي

WFP Video News Release + 2 Press Releases

WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VISITS SYRIAN REFUGEES IN JORDAN AND LEBANON
TRT 2' 53"

Released 9, Nov 2012

(names of refugees have been withheld to protect their identities)

Zaatari refugee camp, Jordan shot 8 November 2012

00:00-00:27

Various of the camp
Syrian family inside the tent

00:27-00:37

SOT of Syrian refugee, she and her family of four left Homs 3 months ago'.
"we arrived in the camp 3 months ago when my house was burnt. We came to protect my children from the shelling we saw in Homs."

00:37-00:51 WFP food distribution

The monthly food basket includes rice, bulgur wheat, pulses (yellow split peas), sugar and salt in addition to a daily bread distribution to the refugees.

WFP tent, Syrian refugees getting food

00:51-01:28

Various of WFP's Executive Director, Ertharin Cousin visiting the food distribution point
WFP's Executive Director visiting the camp and the kitchens

(WFP and UNHCR have set up over 100 communal kitchens around the camp to allow the refugees to prepare their own meals from WFP food basket as per their local taste).

Baalbek, Bekaa Valley, Lebanon shot 6/7 November 2012

In Lebanon, WFP has assisted more than 65,500 Syrian refugees in the North and in the Bekaa Valley during the month of October, mainly through food vouchers (over 60,000)

01:28-01:48

Road traffic
Syrian family entering their temporary home
(She her husband and four children left their home in rural Homs 9 months ago')

01:48-02:00

WFP's Executive Director, visiting Syrian family

02:00-02:17

SOT WFP Executive Director, Ertharin Cousin
"they don't have anything here they are losing everything, but what they have is safety.
I asked her what she wanted most, she said "peace" and in the meantime she has the opportunity though to feed her children, because of the generosity of so many who are giving us the ability to provide food vouchers"

02:17-02:53

Syrian refugees buying food in a local shop using the WFP Food vouchers

The vouchers can be redeemed against a list of items including fresh produce such as dairy products (cheese, milk and yogurt) and eggs.

WFP News Release

9 November 2012

WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VISITS SYRIAN REFUGEES IN ZAATARI REFUGEE CAMP IN JORDAN

AMMAN – The Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme (WFP), Ertharin Cousin, concluded a three-day visit to Lebanon and Jordan by visiting Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan, home to tens of thousands of Syrian refugees.

During her visit to the camp, Syrian women told Cousin about fleeing from their homes in Syria, taking cover at night, until they reached safety in Jordan. Many of the refugees travelled for two days with nothing to eat until they arrived at Zaatari camp.

“We recognize the difficult living conditions that Syrian refugees are facing away from home and we are committed to working together with our NGO partners and sister UN agencies to improve these conditions,” Cousin told journalists during a news conference in the camp.

WFP provides ready-to-eat food to Syrians arriving at the camp, and, once they have settled in, supplies them with dry food rations to cook in communal kitchens.



Elsewhere in Jordan, WFP provides food vouchers to Syrian refugees living with host communities. Vouchers are used when food is available in the market but people do not have enough money to buy it. As people spend in local shops, they boost the local economy.

“The humanitarian situation is evolving on a daily basis and we must ensure that we can continue to meet the food needs of those affected by the conflict,” said Cousin. “Together with our UN and NGO partners, we are strengthening our response capacity to address any escalation in need should the situation further deteriorate leading to more displacement from Syria.”

Earlier, Cousin met top Jordanian officials, expressing gratitude for the generosity of the Jordanian people and the Government of Jordan for welcoming displaced Syrians and extending support to people fleeing violence during difficult times.

Jordan is the second stop of a three-day visit to the region, the first for Cousin to the Middle East since she assumed the office of the Executive Director in April. Earlier in the week she visited Syrian refugees in the Bekaa Valley and met Lebanese officials.

WFP has launched a regional emergency operation to cover the food needs of Syrians who have fled to Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. About 350,000 Syrians have registered, or are awaiting registration with office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in neighbouring countries. Needs assessments in these countries showed that food was a top priority and WFP is scaling up to provide food assistance to as many as 460,000 people by the end of the year should the numbers increase.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Each year, on average, WFP feeds more than 90 million people in more than 70 countries.

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WFP News Release

7 November 2012

WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN LEBANON TO SEE SYRIAN REFUGEES

BEIRUT – The Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme (WFP), Ertharin Cousin, completed a visit to Lebanon today on the first stop of a three-day regional trip to see the increasing humanitarian needs of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries.

In her first official visit to the Middle East since she assumed the office of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Cousin held talks in the morning with Lebanese President Michel Suleiman and Prime Minister Najib Mikati on the situation and challenges facing Lebanon and the humanitarian response from WFP and partners.

Cousin hailed the efforts of the Lebanese Government in supporting Syrian refugees in the country. “We are grateful for the generosity of the Lebanese people and their government for keeping an open door policy to displaced Syrians in search of safety and for facilitating WFP’s work in Lebanon to assist Syrian refugees,” said Cousin.

In the afternoon, Cousin travelled to the Bekaa Valley and visited a distribution centre where refugees receive WFP food vouchers. She went to a grocery shop in the town of Britel in Baalbek and met Syrian families redeeming their vouchers.

Cousin also visited a Syrian family in their temporary accommodation in Baalbek where they shared with her their story of how they left their home in Rural Homs. “We left our home and fled with only the clothes on our backs as bombing and shelling hit our neighbourhood nine

months ago and our home was totally destroyed,” said Abeer, a 35-year-old wife and mother of four daughters. “We left everything behind and are struggling to make ends meet. The food vouchers that we receive from WFP are giving us a break and we don’t have to worry about feeding our children.”

WFP aims to reach more than 85,000 refugees with food vouchers in Lebanon this month. The innovative voucher system is often used by WFP in urban settings where beneficiaries can buy their own groceries, including fresh food, from local shops, which also helps boost the local economy.

“My responsibility is to provide a voice to the humanitarian needs of the displaced Syrians whom I met today and to work with the international community to ensure that we continue to address the basic needs of Syrians whether still inside Syria or in neighbouring countries,” said Cousin in a press conference in Beirut.

WFP has launched a regional emergency operation to cover the food needs of Syrians who have fled to Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Tomorrow Cousin will visit Jordan.

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