

WFP News Video: Syrian Refugees in Lebanon Struggle to Fight Hunger as WFP Food Vouchers are Reduced

WFP News Video

Shot: 11-12August2015

TRT: 2:47

Location: Beqaa Valley, Lebanon

English/Arabic

Shotlist:

:00-:05

zoom in across Beqaa Valley, Lebanon to Syrian border towards Damascus (20km)

Chtaura, Lebanon

shot: 11Aug15

:05-:18

Syrian refugees living in informal settlements.

There are currently 1.3million registered Syrian refugees living in Lebanon which has a population of around 4.5million people. There are approx.

270thousand Syrian refugees living in the Beqaa Valley-mostly in unfinished buildings or

agricultural fields.

Chtaura,Lebanon

shot: 11Aug15

:18-:29

The Al Talal extended family of 14 have been living in these makeshift shacks next to agricultural fields near Chtaura since they fled Aleppo, Syria 3 years ago. They fled bomb attacks in Aleppo with only the clothes on their back. Their homes have been destroyed. The World Food Programme provides the family with food vouchers enabling them to buy food in local shops but as funding dries up the amount is continuously being reduced.

Chtaura, Lebanon

shot: 11Aug15

:29-:40

10 year old Mohammed Al Talal helps his disabled brother. His father, Ali was injured in a bomb explosion in Halab that killed 3 and injured 20. He still has 6 pieces of shrapnel in his back and cannot work as a result of his injuries.

Mohammed is literally the breadwinner of the family working in a bakery and a vegetable stand. He is given bread, unsellable fruit and vegetables to bring home to his family. More than anything else he misses going to school and playing with his friends.

Chtaura, Lebanon

shot: 11Aug15

:40-:57

SOT: Ali Al Talal (arabic)

"If it weren't for the blue card(WFP food vouchers) I would probably go back to Syria and withstand anything, even death, because here without the card, life is hard. I'm relying on God and the E-card."

Chtaura,Lebanon

shot: 11Aug15

:57-1:05

Ali Al Talal shows the scars from shrapnel in his back.

Chtaura,Lebanon

shot: 11Aug15

1:05-1:33

Mohammed working in the bakery/bringing home bread to his family.

Chtaura,Lebanon

shot: 11Aug15

1:33-1:45

SOT: Mohammed Al Talal (arabic)

"At home,I was living like a king but here they pick on me. Here, there is nothing, nothing at all"

Chtaura,Lebanon

shot: 11Aug15

1:45-1:49

Ext: Food shop were Syrian refugees can redeem

their WFP food vouchers and buy a wide variety of foods. The vouchers also help the local economy. Critical funding shortages have forced WFP to continuously reduce the value of the vouchers by 50% to \$13.50/person. Limited funding means that WFP is prioritizing support to the most vulnerable.

Chtaura, Lebanon

shot: 12Aug15

1:49-1:58

Syrian refugee Yehya El Houssein, his wife Dalal and 15day old baby, Abdulbasat, shop for food with WFP food voucher. Yehya was studying history at a university in Syria before he fled the fighting to Lebanon.

Chtaura, Lebanon

shot: 12Aug15

1:58-2:11

WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin talks to Yehya El Houssein about WFP food voucher(english/arabic)

Cousin: "Is it enough for your to support the food needs of your family?"

Yehya El Houssein: "No its not...at best it lasts for a week"

Chtaura, Lebanon

shot: 12Aug15

2:11-2:34

SOT: Ertharin Cousin, WFP Executive Director(english)

"Until they can go home and go back to school and go back to work, we must help provide the assistance that is required so that no child is lost and everyone has the ability to provide the food for their family that they need to continue to dream that tomorrow is going to be better than today"

**Chtaura, Lebanon
shot: 12Aug15**

2:34-2:47

Al Talal family meal bought with WFP food vouchers supplemented with food provided by 10yr old Mohammed.

ENDS

WFP News Release

13 August 2015

WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IMPLORES GLOBAL COMMUNITY TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

BEIRUT – The Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Ertharin Cousin concluded a visit to Jordan and Lebanon on Thursday by calling upon the international community to continue support Syrian refugees displaced in neighbouring countries and appealing to the world not to forget this crisis.

Major funding shortfalls forced the agency to cut food assistance by up to fifty percent. During her four-day visit, Cousin met with Syrian refugees and government officials, bringing attention to the plight of millions facing extreme hardship as a result of these cuts.

“I met young Syrians who because of the conflict may never realize their incredible potential. This conflict robs them of their education, their childhoods and their dreams,” said Cousin, further stating, “The conflict is pushing families below the poverty line, into desperation.”

“For affected populations in Syria and refugees around the region, WFP food assistance provides stability,” she said. “To provide this assistance, we rely on the generosity of the international community. We simply cannot let them down.”

Since the beginning of the year, WFP has faced critical funding shortages that forced it to reduce the level of the assistance it provides to some 1.5 million Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt.

Families are taking extreme measures to cope with their difficult circumstances, including removing their children from school so that they can work, incurring large debts and cutting back on the nutritional value and quantity of the food they eat.

Cousin visited Syrian refugees living in makeshift shelters in Lebanon’s Bekaa Valley and a family living in an overcrowded apartment in Amman, Jordan. Each of those interviewed told heart-wrenching stories about the increasing difficulties experienced in their everyday attempts to manage with ever shrinking resources. They asked Cousin to remind the world about their suffering, their inability to go home and their need for continued assistance from WFP as well as the international community.

Cousin acknowledged the heavy burden host countries carry. She visited shops where refugees benefit from WFP’s electronic voucher programme (e-cards). Through its e-cards, WFP supports over half a million Syrian refugees in Jordan and 770,000 in Lebanon. The programme has generated income for host communities by injecting over US\$1.1 billion into the local economies of the five neighbouring countries. The programme has also created thousands of local jobs in the food retail sector.

WFP’s regional refugee operation immediately needs US\$163 million to continue to support desperate refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey and Iraq through October.

In 2014, WFP globally received US\$5.38 billion in contributions – 27 percent higher than in 2013. This was in response to an unprecedented number of emergencies in places such as Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, and the West African countries affected by Ebola. However needs are still rising worldwide, outpacing the available funding.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food in emergencies and working with communities to build resilience. Each year, WFP assisted some 80 million people in around 80 countries.

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