



**World Food
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WFP News Video

WFP FORCED TO MAKE DEEPER CUTS IN FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES DUE TO LACK OF FUNDING

Location: Jordan, Lebanon

TRT 02:24

Language: English, Arabic

Shotlist

00:00-00:32

Mafraq, Northern Jordan

Shot 19 June 2015

Very vulnerable refugees in Jordan who cannot afford to pay rent often set up makeshift tents in rural areas where they can live for free, or pay a very small fee to rent the land where they live.

GV people living in makeshift shelters, Um Zaid cooking

00:32-00:40

Mafraq, Northern Jordan

Shot 19 June 2015

SOT (Arabic): Um Zaid from Deraa in southern Syria. Mother of two young boys, she has been in Jordan for three years.

"If there is no assistance, what would we do? We would go home [back to Syria]. I mean that's our last option."

00:40-00:46

Mafraq, Northern Jordan

Shot 19 June 2015

View of the makeshift tents

00:46-01:06

Al Balqaa, Amman, Jordan

Shot 28 June 2015

This neighborhood, Al Balqaa, is actually a Palestinian refugee camp that has existed in Amman since 1948. Several Syrian refugee families have settled in the camp now.

GV of people in the street, vegetable market

01:06-01:31

Cairo

Shot 1 July 2015

SOT Muhannad Hadi, WFP Regional Director for the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe

“When we thought that the situation of the Syrian refugees could not get any worse unfortunately now, with the reduced funding available to support them, we are going to see suspension of programmes reduction of rations and all of this will have a negative effect on the Syrian refugees. We are afraid that the refugees will be resorting to negative coping mechanisms which will have a long term effect on the women children and the rest of the refugees in the neighbouring countries.”

01:31-01:54

Zahle, Bekaa Valley, Lebanon

Shot 17 June 2015

Syrian refugees buying food at the local supermarket using WFP electronic food vouchers.

01:54-02:24

Zahle, Bekaa Valley, Lebanon

Shot 17 June 2015

This informal tented settlement is called Karak and hosts 60 families, some 400 people. All refugees in the camp are very vulnerable and receiving WFP food assistance through the electronic food voucher.

GV of people in the camp

END

WFP News Release

1 July 2015

**WFP FORCED TO MAKE DEEPER CUTS IN
FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES
DUE TO LACK OF FUNDING**

AMMAN – The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is being forced to implement deeper cuts in food assistance for vulnerable Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan because of a severe lack of funding.

“Just when we thought things couldn’t get worse, we are forced yet again to make yet more cuts,” said Muhannad Hadi, WFP Regional Director for the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe. “Refugees were already struggling to cope with what little we could provide.”

In July, WFP will halve the value of food vouchers, or “e-cards,” in Lebanon, providing only US\$13.50 per person per month. In Jordan, WFP fears that if it does not receive immediate funding by August, it will have to suspend all assistance to Syrian refugees living outside camps, leaving some 440,000 people with no food.

WFP is funded entirely by contributions from governments, companies and private individuals. But its regional refugee operation is currently 81 percent underfunded and immediately requires US\$139 million to continue helping desperate refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey and Iraq through September.

Since the beginning of the year, WFP has made concerted efforts to prioritize available funds to ensure continued assistance to families most in need. Limited resources, however, forced WFP already to reduce the assistance to 1.6 million Syrian refugees in the five countries.

The reductions strike at a time when Syrian refugees are spending yet another Ramadan away from their homes and loved ones; the fifth since the start of the conflict in Syria.

“We are extremely concerned about the impact these cuts will have on refugees and the countries that host them,” Hadi added. “Families are taking extreme measures to cope such as pulling their children out of school, skipping meals and getting into debt to survive. The long-term effects of this could be devastating.”

Since the Syria conflict erupted in 2011, WFP succeeded, despite fighting and problems of access, in meeting the food needs of millions of displaced people inside Syria and close to 2 million refugees in the neighbouring countries of Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt.

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 continuing to rise worldwide, outpacing the available funding.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year, WFP assists some 80 million people in around 75 countries.

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