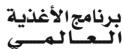


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WFP News Video

LIVING IN THE RUBBLE, RATION CUTS ADD TO DESPAIR IN SYRIA

Location: Syria, Lebanon TRT 02:14 Shot: 16-17 September 2015 Language: English, Arabic

Shotlist 00:00-00:36 Old City of Homs, Syria Shot 16 September 2015

Various destruction shots. %60-%70 of the city of Homs has been destroyed. Around %30 of the population have had to leave their homes.

00:36-00:47 Zahira (Damascus) Syria Shot 17 September 2015

Um Jihad, receives her family's WFP food ration. She and her family fled Hassakeh and are living now in the Tadamoun neighbourhood of Damascus. She has 3 school age children but cannot afford to send them to school because they can't find work. She can no longer afford to buy medication to control her blood pressure and diabetes.

00:47-01:04

Zahira (Damascus), Syria Shot 17 September 2015 SOT (Arabic): Um Jihad responding to cuts of WFP food ration

"It will affect us a lot. It will be very bad. Especially since we don't have work. It will affect the diet of the whole family, especially the children. They need to eat or they will starve."

01:04-01:20 Homs, Syria Shot 17 September 2015

Once a restaurant, this war damaged building is now home to the former doorman and his family.

01:20-01:43 Homs, Syria SOT (English): Abeer Etefa, WFP Spokesperson Shot 17 September 2015



"The conflict in Syria started 5 years ago, and lead to the displacement of over half the population; that is over 12 million people.

This month WFP has had to reduce the level of assistance for families inside Syria by almost a quarter families are receiving less food. In the neighbouring countries almost all refugees have had the value of their vouchers reduced by 50%."

01:43-1:55 Chtaura, Lebanon shot: 11August 2015

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.

1:55-2:14 Chtaura, Lebanon shot: 12August2015

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.

ENDS

WFP News Release

INFO:

- Inside Syria, WFP has received only a fraction of its funding requirements so far in 2015. This has resulted in a significant decrease of the food ration to only 74% of its intended size, meaning that families have to eat smaller meals, less frequently.
- Critical funding shortages have forced WFP to halve the level of assistance provided to almost 1.3 million vulnerable Syrian refugees in the region. With the value of food vouchers reduced, most refugees are now living on around 50 cents a day.
- In September, over 360,000 Syrian refugees in countries neighboring on Syria stopped receiving food assistance in a measure to continue to focus on the extremely vulnerable families amid a bleak funding outlook. This includes 229,000 refugees in Jordan and more than 131,000 in Lebanon.



- Millions of Syrian refugees need help and we have an obligation to ensure that their basic needs are met. Syrians in despair are now taking extreme measures to cope including returning to Syria or leaving host countries for elsewhere. Those in the most difficult and vulnerable situations in neighbouring countries are unable to move because they cannot afford it.
- WFP is committed to the millions of Syrians caught up in a conflict in its fifth year. Needs are growing and the resources for the humanitarian response are stretched ever tighter. More than 4 million displaced people inside Syria receive WFP food rations. The rations include staple food items like rice, vegetable oil, canned food, lentils, bulgur, salt and sugar.
- WFP immediately needs US\$278 million to continue providing a lifeline to Syrians affected by the conflict until the end of the year. Sustainable and predictable funding is needed to ensure that WFP assistance continues. Despite positive indications from some donors, WFP's funding level remains far from adequate.
- The suffering of the millions affected by the Syria crisis will only be alleviated when a viable political solution to the conflict is reached, allowing families to return safely to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

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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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