



More than USD 14 M were injected into local economy through vouchers/ e-cards since **JANUARY 2016**

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

- September distribution took place from 14 to 19 September 2016, targeting 66,048 beneficiaries (63,126 Syrian refugees and 2,922 Palestinian refugees from Syria).
- In September, 60 beneficiaries have been re-included.
- Since March 2016, the voucher value has returned to its original value of USD 24.2. The transfer value increased to EGP 215 (instead of EGP 200) in September 2016 due to the current UN Exchange Rate.
- The redemption period for September cycle ended on 28 September 2016.
- The Egyptian Vulnerability Assessment for Refugees (EVAR) in collaboration with UNHCR started on 26 April. So far, 61,755 refugees have been visited.



WFP paper food vouchers, Photo/ WFP

HIGHLIGHTED 2

Resilience:

- In October 2015, WFP launched operations to support public primary schools funded by the Government of Canada, to support Syrian refugees and the host population in Alexandria and Damietta.
- Actual implementation of the project started on the second week of the academic year 2015/16, with the daily distribution of nutritious High Energy Biscuits (HEB) in the target of 130 schools hosting Syrian refugee children.
- Distributions were on halt during September due to the summer holidays. WFP will resume distributions in October 2016.

Sector Response Summary:



166,400 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end of 2016, 202,190 assisted in 2016.



Syrian Refugees in EGYPT :



110,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2016, 117,400 currently registered or awaiting registration.



Food Security Sector Funding status:



USD 36.4 million required in 2016, USD 16.7 million received in 2016.



NEEDS ANALYSIS:

- Food insecurity in Egypt remains an issue of household access to food driven by diminishing purchasing power. The average Egyptian household spends more than 40 percent of their income on food, rising to more than 60 percent for the poorest families. The seasonal increase in food prices continues and the gap between inflation rates in producer and consumer prices are growing wider in 2016. The USD exchange rate, which was devalued by 14 percent in March and currently stands at USD/EGP 8.88, is expected to see another devaluation in the coming months. This is reflected in the cost of the minimum expenditure food basket for Syrian refugees which increased to EGP 250.5 (USD 28.2), compared to EGP 213 during February 2016. WFP is closely monitoring the development.
- Monitoring findings:**
 - Second quarterly Food Security Outcome Monitoring Report (FSOM), covering the period from April to June 2016, revealed that 4.3 percent of excluded beneficiary. The respondents were recorded to have a 'poor food consumption score' in comparison to 28 percent of beneficiary respondents. The Diet Diversity Score (DDS) was found to be 'good' for most of interviewed households, for both beneficiaries and excluded beneficiaries, showing diversified diet composed of different nutrients. Compared to the previous quarter, the DDS score increased from 'medium' to 'good'.
 - In the second quarter, a total of 452 interviews (surpassing the targeted sample at 444) were conducted and two Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were held in Obour City and 6th of October city. The discussions in 6th of October FGD, revealed that the top three spending priorities were as follows: food rent and education, while in Obour FGD, participants prioritize rent followed by food and health. In the discussions held with excluded beneficiaries in both these areas, rent followed by food were the main spending priorities. Rent, as a main spending priority on the part of excluded-beneficiaries was also shared in the discussions held with excluded beneficiaries during FSOM Q1.
 - 50 percent of respondents claimed that women make the decisions on the assistance provided, versus 25 percent claimed that men make the decision. A joint 25 percent of both men and women were recorded to have 'made the decision' on how WFP voucher assistance was utilized.
 - WFP monitors continue to face frustrated refugees, who were excluded from the assistance in 2015 and protested that it was better to re-include the refugees whose food assistance was cut, instead of raising the voucher value.
 - In September, 60 beneficiaries have been re-included.
 - WFP EMOP in Egypt currently provides several feedback mechanisms to Syrian refugees through hotline and a dedicated Facebook page. Ad-hoc field surveys and focus group discussions are also organized in connection to any programmatic changes. The majority of registered queries and complaints during September were related to the vulnerability assessment and to the previous removals from WFP food assistance.

EGYPT RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2016

