

EGYPT MONTHLY UPDATE - JUNE 2015



FOOD SECURITY



USD 1,214,406 were injected into local economy through vouchers/ e-cards in June 2015

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Total of 77,216 beneficiaries were reached during June distribution (74,399 Syrian and 2,817 Syrian Palestinian Refugees), meeting almost 99% of the month's target.
- The reduced voucher value will continue to be US\$17 per person per month instead of planned US\$24.2, applying 30% reduction.
- Shift from geographic to vulnerability targeting of registered Syrian refugees started in May 2015. The targeting approach is being adopted based on vulnerability categorization ranking from 1 to 4, deriving from a combination of socio-economic and food security factors that are assessed at each registered household level and resulted in exclusion of 6,800 low vulnerability individuals.
- Shift from geographic to vulnerability targeting of registered Syrian refugees continued in June 2015: a total of 2.795 individuals were removed from distribution list based on vulnerability targeting scores (in Greater Cairo). The targeting methodology is based on combination of food consumption score, severe coping strategies, and food MEB. Refugees excluded from WFP food assistance were informed via SMS, and also given the possibility to appeal to this decision
- There have been to date no restriction on access to any of the total six distribution sites, however, the Government is not giving clearance for home visits to conduct vulnerability re-assessments and monitoring of impact of reduced level of assistance.
- Distribution of e-cards (electronic gift cards) with Fathallah supermarket chains, launched in May, was finalized in Alexandria and Marsa Matrouh. Introduction of the e-card modality with Fathallah supermarkets chain, in addition to already in use Carrefour e-vouchers, leaves only 15 percent use of food paper vouchers (Hyper supermarkets chain, in Damietta).

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

- In June, headline annual inflation has increased to 13.5 percent, the highest reached since January 2010. Prices are 1.3 percent higher than the previous month.
- Food prices are the main contributor to the inflation in June, whereas food price index increased by 15.1 percent since May 2014. Food prices are 2.5 percent higher in June compared to May (CAPMAS). Prices of vegetables are the main trigger, having increased by 7.7 percent since May, and 43.3 percent from their 2014 level. Prices of meat and poultry have also increased since April 2015, while prices of cereal, seafood, milk products and eggs, oils, fruits and sugars remained relatively stable in June (CAPMAS).
- · While international food prices have reached their lowest level since 2009, food prices in Egypt are rising. News reports show that most of Egyptians are concerned about the rising food prices, especially during Ramadan, the time of the year with the highest food consumption which also causes a demand driven increase in food prices.
- · To understand the impact of prolonged reduction of vouchers' value and in view of foreseen further cuts in the assistance, in June 2015 WFP conducted rapid field surveys of beneficiaries at the distribution sites. The main findings show that:
 - If food voucher value is reduced to \$12, 17 percent of interviewed would consider immigration to another country, 2 percent would attempt return to Syria;
 - If food assistance is suspended, 28 percent would consider emigration to another country, and 5 percent - repatriation;
 - Close to 30 percent of Refugees who would remain in Egypt stated that the have "no other choice" as they have no means to travel abroad (lack funds, visa restrictions, etc);



WFP Food voucher distribution in Egypt, Photo @WFF

(I) SYRIA CRISIS WFP Assistance to Refugees June 2015 Cycle - Egypt MINISTERNATIONS CO.

Kev Figures:

Planned Sector Response: Status:

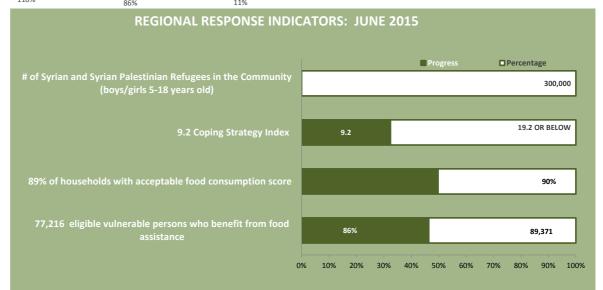






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