



USD 1,388,194 were injected into local economy through vouchers/e-cards in **February 2015**

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Total of **87,838** beneficiaries were reached during February distribution (**84,409** Syrian and **3,429** Syrian Palestinian Refugees), meeting almost **99%** of the target.
- Given available funds region-wide, Egypt operations decreased the value of food voucher to US\$17 instead of US\$24, applying 30% reduction. In addition to the reduced case-load derived from results of the UNHCR biometric verification exercise (IRIS), which is being conducted since April 2014, were as well as in line with the WFP current level of funding.
- WFP is in the process to introduce e-vouchers with Fathallah supermarket chains with a pilot testing planned for April. E-vouchers (electronic cards) will be distributed to an additional 25 percent of WFP beneficiaries, who reside in Alexandria and Marsa Matrouh, reaching a total of 85 % of beneficiaries by the electronic gift card system.
- In Alexandria and Damietta, the joint WFP/UNHCR Vulnerability Assessment of the Syrian refugees has started in January 2015 and is on-going with data collection at household level. The implementing partners are, respectively, Caritas and Resala.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

- In order to provide beneficiaries with a longer term outlook, WFP is laying grounds to ensure a high level of prioritization and tighter vulnerability targeting of its assistance. As per the *prioritization and targeting plan, discussed and established* in coordination with WFP REC. The increased targeting is planned to commence in April by applying results of the UNHCR biometric verification exercise and partial data from the ongoing vulnerability assessment (expected to be fully completed by latest June), which will progressively reduce the caseload by approximately 30 percent by June 2015.
- During the month of February, WFP received and addressed 132 inquiries on its Facebook page. The majority of inquiries and complains (29 percent) were related to UNHCR, followed by the lists-related issues (20 percent) and inquiries on the cut of the assistance (19 percent). Moreover, following temporary suspension of the Vulnerability Assessment and disconnection of the implementing partner's hotline, beneficiaries continue to inquire on the status of the assessment and timelines for announcement of its results.
- Verification and cleaning of WFP/UNHCR Vulnerability Assessment data collected in 2014 in Greater Cairo, totaling nearly 38,000 individuals, are on-going. The vulnerability criteria, deriving from this analysis and scoring, are planned to be applied for targeting food assistance to Syrian refugees in Greater Cairo in April 2015.
- Egypt has been hit by Russia's decision to curb its grain exports by applying a tax (approx. \$40 per ton) on exported Russian wheat, meaning that supplies intended to be procured by the Egyptian General Authority for Supply Commodities (GASC) have not been met. Egypt is negotiating with Russia on removing the export taxes on supplies sold to GASC. Negotiations will be finalized in April 2015.

Leading Agencies: WFP, Hans Vikoler, Emergency Coordinator Syria EMOP EGYPT
Email: hans.vikoler@wfp.org



WFP Food voucher distribution in Egypt, Photo ©WFP

Key Figures:

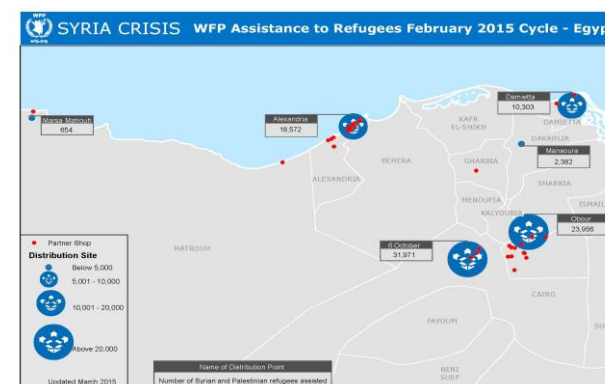
Planned Sector Response:



SURVEY

A quick field survey was conducted in Alexandria during food vouchers 'distribution to assess who within the household makes decision on the use of cash and food vouchers, and their feed-back on the reduction 30 percent of the voucher. A total of 50 beneficiaries were interviewed. Following are the main questions/stats:

- Who in your household decides what to do with the cash? **22 percent are male, 44 percent female and 34 percent jointly;**
- Who in your household decides what to do with the food voucher received from WFP? **66 percent female, 8 percent male and male and 26 jointly;**
- What the impact of reduced food voucher value on your Household: **0 percent none, 18 percent manageable and 82 percent are severe.**
- The fourth question aimed to measure the level of satisfaction with the quality of WFP services: **0 percent highly satisfied, 72 percent are satisfied and 28 are unsatisfied.**



REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: FEBRUARY 2015

