



More than USD 22 M were injected into local economy through vouchers/ e-cards since **JANUARY 2016**

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

- December distribution took place from 7 to 9 December 2016, targeting 76,020 beneficiaries (73,302 Syrian refugees and 2,718 Palestinian refugees from Syria). The redemption period for December cycle ended on 20 December 2016.
- Starting in November, WFP increased the food voucher value from EGP 215 to EGP 400 as a consequence of the devaluation of the Egyptian currency in early November. EGP 400 is equivalent to the project plan transfer value of USD 24.2.
- The Egyptian Vulnerability Assessment for Refugees (EVAR) in collaboration with UNHCR started on 26 April. Data collection for the food security module started in August 2016 and is still ongoing. The analysis is planned to start in mid-February 2017.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

- Impact of economic reforms on the poorest and most vulnerable populations: Starting in July, the Egyptian Government has implemented a series of economic reforms as a requirement to receive a loan by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) of USD 12 billion. The reforms include the revision of the electricity subsidies, the transition from the sales taxes to the value-added taxes, the floating of the Egyptian currency, and a partial lift of the fuel subsidy. As part of the government's energy subsidy reform plan, fuel prices increased by up to 47 percent.
- Increase in food prices: The annual inflation in the consumer price index (CPI) reached a historic peak of 24.3 percent, while inflation in overall food index increased by 29 percent in December 2016. The price index soared for all sub-groups of food, with annual inflation for staple foods reaching a high of 54 percent for cereals, 47.6 percent for oil and 56.8 percent for sugar. Moreover, prices of non-food groups like health, transportation, electricity, gas and water have also increased. Overall, the annual inflation rate in food prices during December 2016 is 87 percent higher than in December 2015.
- The oil market was facing extreme uncertainty of prices and stocks. Therefore, suppliers were not able to commit to a large quantity at a set price, which prolonged the tendering process. Also, date bar suppliers, who use many imported ingredients, requested increase in prices due to the steep devaluation, which significantly delayed the delivery of commodities throughout November. Moreover, the shortage of paddy rice in the local market due to the current economic volatility impacted WFP operations as the contracted supplier struggled to source paddy rice. The contract was cancelled and a new tender was immediately floated to resume rice deliveries.
- Due to the continued risks faced with the economic turbulence, which affect prices and stock availability in the market for all food commodities, WFP expanded its warehouse capacities and started prepositioning 4 months' of stocks as of December, in order to ensure stocks are secured for the operations.
- The increase in food prices is reflected in the cost of the minimum expenditure food basket for Syrian refugees which increased to EGP 350 in December, compared to EGP 213 during February. On 03 November the Egyptian currency was floated and WFP is closely monitoring the development.
- 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 December were related to the vulnerability assessment.



WFP paper food vouchers, Photo/ WFP

Sector Response Summary:



166,400 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end of 2016, 294,040 assisted in 2016.



Syrian Refugees in EGYPT :



110,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2016, 116,000 currently registered or awaiting registration.



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 146.6 million required in 2016, USD 58.7 million received in 2016.



HIGHLIGHTED 2

Resilience:

- In October 2015, WFP launched operations to support public primary schools hosting Syrian refugee children, funded by the Government of Canada. The project aims to contribute to addressing the constraints faced by both Syrian refugee children and equally vulnerable Egyptian children and associated additional pressures placed on the local education system in areas where most of the Syrian refugees reside.
- During the school year 2015/2016, a total of 964 tons of nutritious high energy biscuits were distributed daily in 158 public primary schools hosting Syrian children in Alexandria and Damietta. During that period, WFP assisted a total of 119,000 school children (3,700 Syrian and 115,300 Egyptian children) out of which 55,000 are boys and 64,000 are girls.
- As of October 2016 to date, WFP also provides assistance to additional schools in Qalyoubeya and Cairo Governorates, increasing the assistance to 218,000 children –6,500 Syrian refugee children and 221,500 Egyptian children in 259 schools in all four governorates.
- WFP plans to start teachers training and the physical upgrading of schools to be implemented in the new school semester that started in October 2016.

EGYPT RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - DECEMBER 2016



*Consolidation is still ongoing for the number of redeemed vouchers