

# EGYPT COUNTRY: RRP6 MONTHLY UPDATE - May

# FOOD SECURITY



**US\$3 million**  
injected into the local economy through  
vouchers in May

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- WFP provided food voucher assistance to 106,000 Syrian refugees in May and over 4,000 Palestinians from Syria, reaching 94 per cent of the targeted beneficiaries.
- The May voucher distribution cycle started on 17 May and concluded on 22 May, earlier than normal due to presidential elections which were held on 26 – 28 May. Beneficiaries were able to redeem their vouchers in over 34 shops across Egypt.
- On 3 June, the final day to redeem WFP food vouchers for the May cycle in Greater Cairo, some beneficiaries reportedly could not redeem their e-vouchers in Carrefour shops due to a general internet failure among several internet service providers. To rectify the situation, the redemption period was extended to 5 June.
- In May WFP began using its new distribution site in Tanta; Gharbia Governorate. The site was provided by the National Red Crescent and WFP distributed paper voucher to nearly 500 new beneficiaries.

## REFUGEE POPULATION IN EGYPT

137,000

Current Refugee  
Population

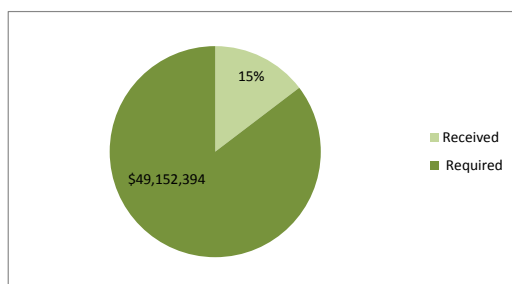
140,000

Expected Refugee  
Population by end-2014



## SECTOR FUNDING STATUS January - December

\* Funds received until May 2014



## NEEDS ANALYSIS:

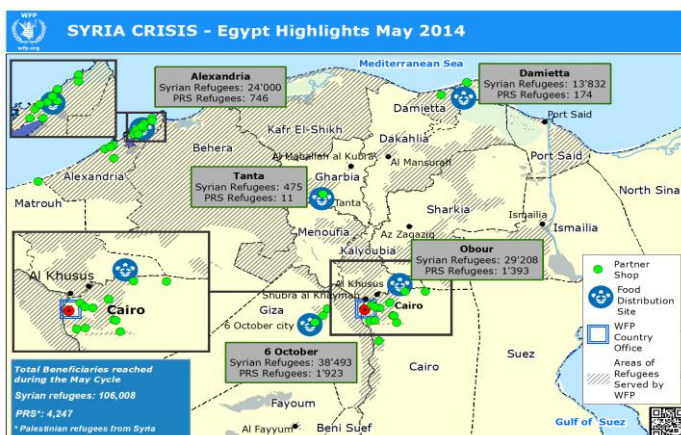
The Joint Assessment for Syrian Refugees in Egypt conducted in September 2013 found that 27 percent of households had insufficient and 46 percent had barely sufficient food availability. High food prices in Egypt continue to make it difficult to access diversified foods and refugee households are resorting to negative coping strategies such as selling assets and purchasing less expensive foods (e.g. no meat or chicken), with 67 percent of households reducing food consumption to two meals per day. Refugees attribute the insufficient or barely sufficient food availability in their households to the lack of livelihood opportunities and high rental costs.

WFP is providing food voucher assistance to registered refugees in poorer neighbourhoods of greater Cairo, Alexandria, Damietta and Tanta in addition to vulnerable households in surrounding areas identified by UNHCR. However, WFP together with UNHCR and partners, are currently preparing a joint multi-sector household-level vulnerability assessments to ensure the most vulnerable and food-insecure refugees are targeted and supported in a sustained manner.

Preparations for the planned shift from geographical targeting to vulnerability targeting are ongoing, where the household-level questionnaire is currently being finalized. Data collection is scheduled to start beginning of July throughout the country. In addition, WFP is working closely with UNHCR and other NGO partners to finalize the communication strategy to inform beneficiaries ahead of the shift to vulnerability targeting.

WFP food assistance is in the form of paper vouchers or e-voucher cards (Greater Cairo only) redeemable at partner supermarkets with a limited validity period and valued at 200 Egyptian pounds (approx. US\$30) per person per month. WFP, together with UNHCR, are working to transition to a OneCard assistance platform. The OneCard system will support voucher and cash assistance by multiple agencies offering greater flexibility, independence and dignity for beneficiaries.

A Food Security Working Group was established to promote effective coordination through quality information management and collaboration.



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Participating Agencies: ODWC, UNRWA, UNHCR

## PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS:

