

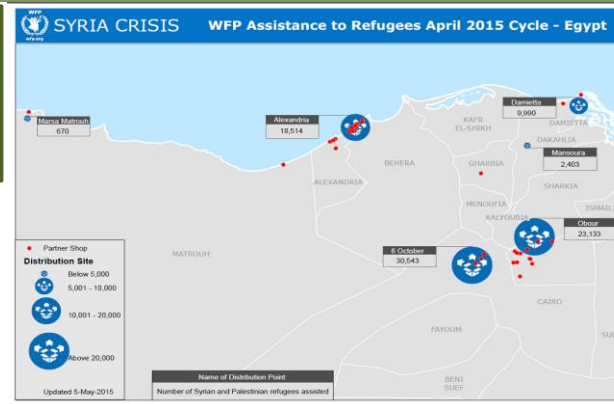
**USD 1,340,073** were injected into local economy through vouchers/e-cards in April 2015

### APRIL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Total of **85,251** beneficiaries were reached during March distribution (**82,404** Syrian and **2,847** Syrian Palestinian Refugees), meeting almost **99%** of the target.
- March beneficiaries have been derived from results of the UNHCR biometric verification exercise (IRIS scan) and removal of closed cases and no-shows.
- Until vulnerability-based targeting criteria are finalized, the reduced voucher value will continue to be US\$17 per person per month instead of planned US\$24.2, applying 30% reduction.
- The joint WFP/UNHCR Vulnerability Assessment of the Syrian refugees is on-going in Greater Cairo (Save the Children), Alexandria (Caritas) and Damietta (Resala) with close to 70% of household data collection done.
- Methodology to define four levels of vulnerability and eligibility to the food assistance was finalized. For each of the four categories, households are classified into one out of the four vulnerability categories and then assigned a weight with being **1: low vulnerability; 2: mild vulnerability; 3: moderate/high vulnerability; and 4: severe vulnerability**, whereby as a result only the two categories of moderate/high and severe vulnerability will be considered for further food assistance.
- WFP is in the process to introduce e-vouchers with Fathallah supermarket chains with a pilot testing planned in Alexandria for April distribution cycle. E-vouchers (*electronic gift cards*) will be distributed to WFP beneficiaries based in Alexandria and Marsa Matruh. WFP is currently using Carrefour electronic shop gift cards in Greater Cairo to cover 60% of the caseload. Upon launch of cards with Fathallah, additional 25% of the caseload is planned to be reached by May. This would leave only 15% use of paper vouchers (*Hyper supermarkets chain, in Damietta*)

### NEEDS ANALYSIS:

- Analysis of the post-distribution monitoring data collected in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter compared to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2014 showed deterioration of the over-all food consumption scores (FCS) amongst beneficiaries, from 96 to 89 percent. However, dietary diversity remained stabilized at 5.4, whereas there is a negative trend in the following consumption-based strategies: more beneficiaries decrease size of meals (from 19 to 31 percent) and restrict food consumption by adults in order for small children to eat (from 12 to 22 percent), as well as restrict consumption of females.
- Comparative analysis between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters showed that the main source income remains casual labor, followed by assistance from humanitarian organizations. These two variables experienced increase from 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Moreover, PDM monitoring results and beneficiaries feed-back mechanisms showed that main geographic area of concern is Damietta governorate.
- Vegetable prices remain seasonally high while housing prices rise: Month-on-month inflation in food prices stayed around 2.5 percent during March, which is consistent with the seasonal pattern but indicates further increases in April. Annual inflation in the consumer price index and food price index rose to 11.8 percent and 9.4 percent respectively. 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. Meanwhile, the housing price index saw a 3.7 percent jump in March, mainly attributed to the



### Key Figures:

Planned Sector Response:

Status:

120,000  
Refugees

89,371  
Direct beneficiaries

134,329  
111%

85,521  
95%

### HIGHLIGHTS on Resilience :

Assessment of the impact of the Syria crisis in Egyptian primary schools:

- In light of the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis and its impact upon Egyptian schools, WFP held a two-day assessment implementation workshop followed by a practical assessment of primary schools in Alexandria and Damietta. Representatives from the Ministry of Education, UNHCR, and WFP participated in rapid assessment design training before visiting public primary schools to assess the key factors affecting the schooling and integration of Syrian children. The results will guide two-year school feeding programmes, funded by the Government of Canada, to support Syrian refugees and the host population.
- The practical assessment had the goals of
  - Estimating the target number of schools and the caseload,
  - Estimating the average attendance rate of Syrians in public schools,
  - Observing the physical status of schools
  - Identifying the most essential needs of the schools
- Number of schools that should be targeted are 96: 76 in Alexandria, and 20 in Damietta. These schools host a total of 3,482 Syrian children: 1,982 in Alexandria and 1,500 in Damietta. Total caseload of children (Syrians and Egyptians) was estimated to be 91,257: 77,581 in Alexandria, and 13,676 in Damietta. In Alexandria, most Syrian children are concentrated in the district of Montazah, and in Damietta most are concentrated in the district New Damietta.
- Attendance rates were significantly lower among Syrian children compared to their Egyptian peers. Preliminary findings estimate an average attendance rate for Syrian children to be around 57 percent in Alexandria and 75 percent in Damietta, compared to attendance rates of over 80 percent for Egyptian children.
- The final report is being finalized.

### REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: APRIL 2015

# of Syrian and Syrian Palestinian Refugees in the Community (boys/girls 5-18 years old)

Coping Strategy Index

89% of households with acceptable food consumption score

85,251 eligible vulnerable persons who benefit from food assistance

