



In-camp Post Distribution Monitoring Report

Turkiye Q3/2024

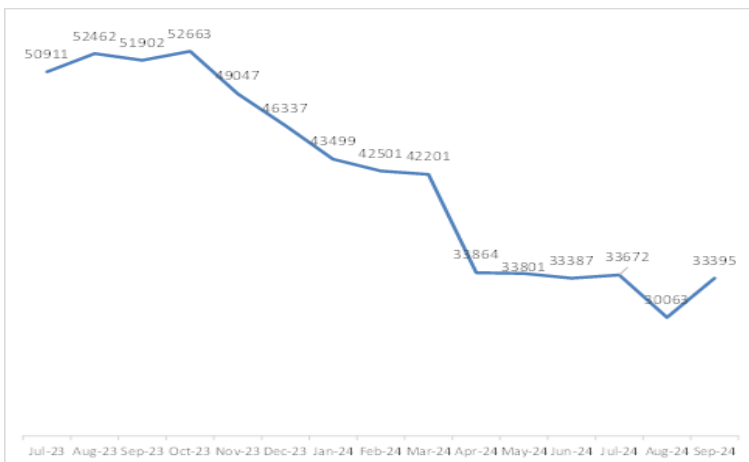
Introduction

Turkiye hosts approximately 3.5 million refugees, the largest refugee population in the world, with the majority being Syrians displaced by more than a decade of conflict. Around 2 percent of this population resides in five camps located in southeastern Turkiye, managed by the Presidency of Migration Management. The Turkish government provides each household with containers, and basic household supplies, such as electrical stoves and utensils.

As of September 2024, the World Food Programme (WFP) partners with the Turkish Red Crescent (Türk Kızılay) to deliver e-voucher assistance to 33,395 refugees living in the camps through the Kizilaykart system. Each card is loaded with TRY 300 per person per month, primarily to cover food needs (80%) but also to support essential non-food items.

However, the prolonged high inflation undermines the effectiveness of the provided assistance. The adequacy ratio that was 44 percent in June 2023 when the transfer value was raised to TRY 300, but it significantly decreased over the last 15 months period. Currently, the assistance only covers 27 percent of the food basket that costs TRY 1,107 as of September 2024,* without excluding the portion for non-food items (22% when excluded). The low adequacy ratio of assistance is often associated with coping mechanisms that beneficiaries resort to meet their basic needs.

Caseload over time

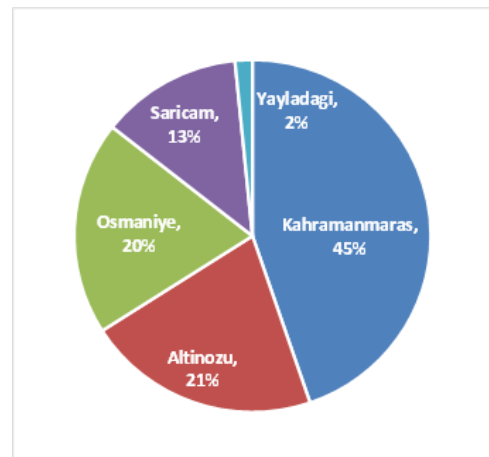


* PMM OSM AAP Report, Q3 2024.

Highlights

- Economic factors continue to be the drivers of food security, with 24 percent of households still facing food insecurity and 71 percent is vulnerable to food insecurity. Households with more members employed tend to experience less food insecurity.
- Female-headed households face disproportionately higher levels of food insecurity (44%) and spend a larger share of their budget on food (67%) compared to male-headed households, underscoring their greater vulnerability.
- The acceptable food score increased in Q3 2024, however, the significant rise in the use of coping mechanisms, such as opting for less preferred food options (91%), reflect that people relied on consumption coping strategies in order to secure their food intake. The majority of households (68%) report worsening financial conditions due to high inflation.
- WFP assistance has shifted from being the primary income source for most beneficiary households (6%) to a secondary support relied upon by 85%. Despite widespread concerns about the insufficiency of the assistance amount, the continued dependence on e-vouchers indicates the critical role of external support in meeting essential needs amidst high inflation.
- Casual, unskilled wage labor has become the main income source for 68% of households, marking progress toward self-reliance and a reduction in livelihood coping strategies. However, this transition raises significant concerns, including the risks of underpaid work, poor workplace safety, and potential child labor.
- Positive trends are observed in accountability and program awareness, with 99 percent reporting respectful treatment and 68 percent adequately informed about the program.

Percent distribution of surveyed beneficiaries by camps



Objectives and Methodology

Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) activities are designed to assess the ability of refugees living in camps to meet their basic needs through the in-camp e-voucher programme, track changes over time, and evaluate how the e-voucher program has supported households to ensure smooth implementation. WFP releases the in-camp PDM report for the Syrian-populated camps bi-annually, in the first and third quarters of the year. These surveys gather data on household food consumption, dietary diversity, coping mechanisms, and spending patterns, which are used to assess the overall well-being of households and support evidence-based program interventions. PDM surveys are conducted as cross-sectional studies, using a single-stage random sample of households receiving e-voucher assistance in the Syrian refugee camps supported by WFP.

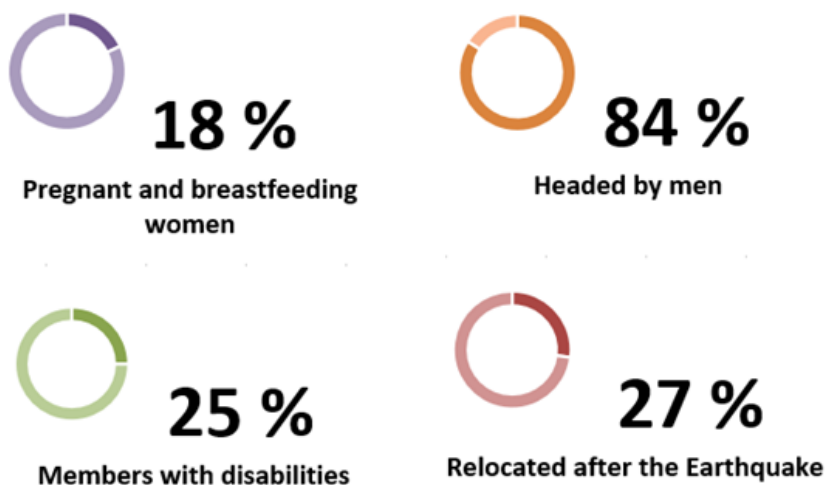
The Q3 2024 PDM report covers the data collected between July and September 2024. WFP Field Monitoring Assistants conducted face-to-face surveys with 382 beneficiary households in the five Syrian-populated refugee camps where the e-voucher programme is implemented. The sample size was based on the total camp population and proportionally distributed across the camps, making the results representative of the entire in-camp refugee population, though not at each camp level.

Demographic Profile

- Household size and composition: An overwhelming majority of the households (84%) were male-headed, while female-headed* households made 16 percent
- 18 percent of the households had at least one pregnant or breastfeeding woman.
- 25 percent of the households had at least one disabled member.
- 37 percent of the households had at least one child under the age of 5.
- 27 percent of the households were relocated into the camps after the 2023 earthquakes.

Household Size

- Average household size is 4.8. Over 56 percent of the households are composed of 5-9 people household, while households that are composed of 1-4 members make up 42 percent of the surveyed population.



* Female-headed households refer to the self-declaration of the household when asked the gender of the head of the household.

Socioeconomic Characteristics

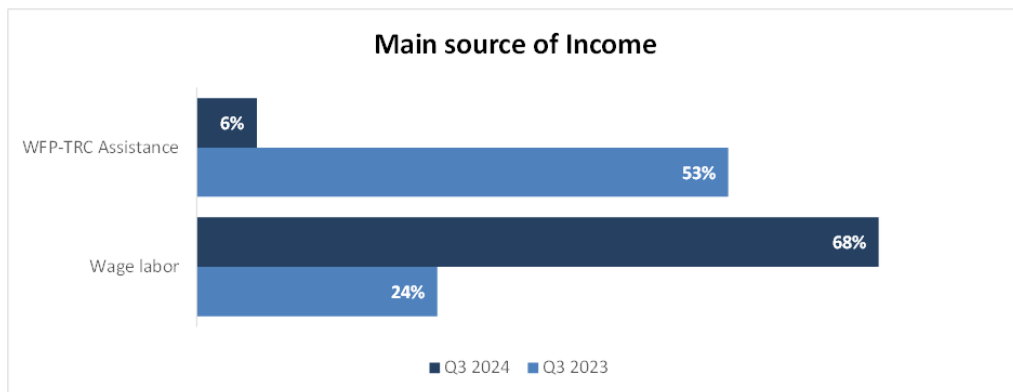
- **Women's Contribution to Household Income:** In 84 percent of households, women do not contribute to household income. In 6 percent of the refugee households, females are the sole breadwinners. Improvement in the opportunities for female employment might strengthen the households economically.

- **Main Source of Income:** Given that the current transfer value (TRY 300) covers less than 30 percent of the food basket cost since March 2024, camp households pursue income-generating activities, which has become the main source of income in Q1 2024. The trend continues in Q3 2024, as only 6 percent of the households reported the WFP e-voucher assistance as their primary income source, which also dropped from 53 percent in Q3 2023 and 12 percent in Q1 2024. 68 percent of the households rely on unskilled wage labour, of which the majority (38%) working in non-agricultural sectors. While labour involvement increases self-reliance, the informality nature of the work indicates that households resort to employment as a coping mechanism.

Such informality increases the risks for under paid labour, work safety, and other rights that are protected under formal employment.

- **Secondary Source of Income:** Despite the decline in reliance on WFP assistance, 85 percent of the households still report it as their second source of income. The figure increased from 42 percent in Q3 2023 (and 75% in Q1 2024), indicating that amidst the decrease in purchasing power, the beneficiaries still rely on WFP contribution to meet their food needs.

- **Debts:** One-third of the households (33%) report having debts, remain unchanged compared to a year ago (34%), indicating a financial burden within the community. However, reflecting the high inflation rates, the median debt increased from TRY 4000 in Q3 2023 to TRY 5000 in Q4 2024 for those households who borrowed money within the month before they were surveyed.



Food Security

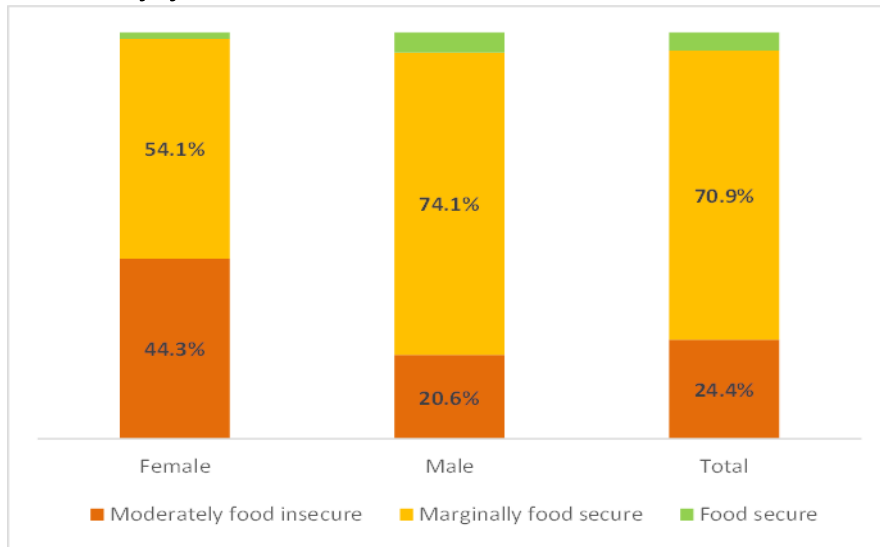
Current Status

Levels of Food Insecurity: Nearly one-fourth (24%) of refugee households are moderately food insecure. Only about 5 percent of camp residents are classified as food secure. However, the majority (71%) of households remain marginally food secure, leaving them at risk of vulnerable to food insecurity. These findings highlight that a significant portion of the households in the camps are facing challenges in sufficient nutritional intake despite benefiting from the monthly e-voucher assistance programme, which has seen a continuous decline in its adequacy. Almost all beneficiaries (99.7%) reported that the insufficiency to cover all food needs is the biggest gap between their needs and the assistance received.

Disparities in Food Security

Gender Disparity: Female-headed households consistently experience higher levels of food insecurity compared to male-headed households. In Q3 2024, food insecurity among female-headed households was 44 percent, compared to the male-headed households at 21 percent. Female-headed households tend to be smaller, averaging 3.9 members compared to 5.2 in male-headed households, and often have fewer working-age adults. The findings suggest that women-headed households have limited access to income in a high-inflation environment (49% as of September 2024), making it increasingly more difficult for them to meet their basic needs, especially in terms of nutrition. With further decrease in purchasing power and insufficient income in the upcoming period is concerning particularly for the female-headed households.

Food Security by Gender



Factors Influencing Food Security

Economic Conditions: The data shows that households with multiple income sources are significantly less likely to experience food insecurity. While 69% of households with only one income source are food insecure, this figure drops significantly

to 23% for households with two income sources and further to 19% for those with three sources of income. Such findings underscore the critical role of diversified livelihoods in reducing food-related risks.

Food Consumption and Expenditures

Food Consumption

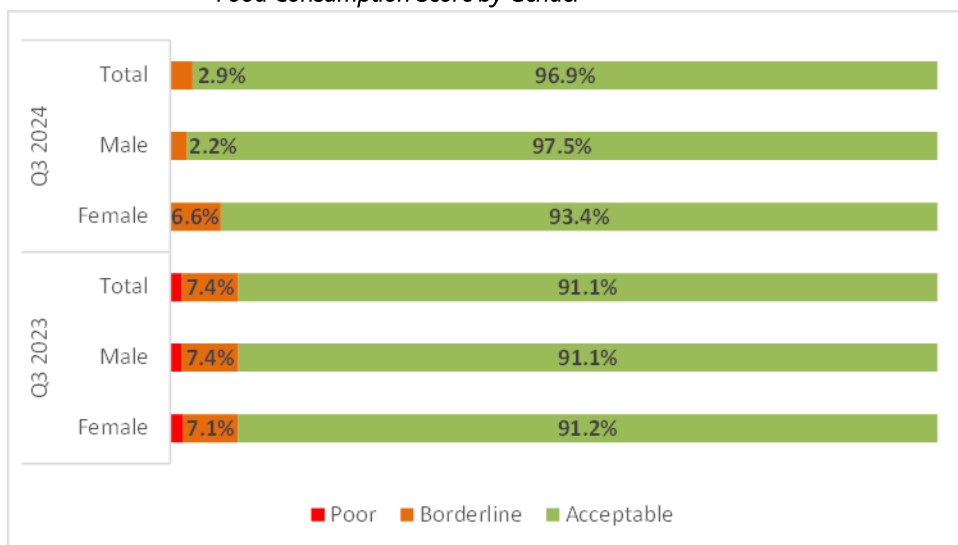
Acceptable Food Consumption: The overall food consumption score indicated an improvement with the acceptable food consumption score increasing from 91 percent to 97 percent between Q3 2023 and Q3 2024.

est improvement during the same period. Notably, there were no households classified as having poor consumption in Q3 2024.

Gender disparity: The increase in acceptable food consumption scores was primarily driven by male-headed households (98%), while female-headed households experienced a mod-

Impact of disability: Households with disabled members have about the same acceptable food consumption scores (95%) compared to those without disabled members (98%).

Food Consumption Score by Gender



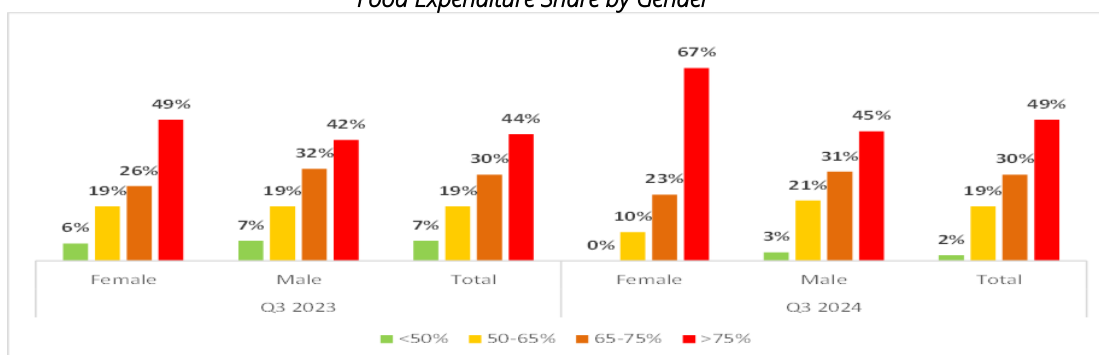
Expenditure on Food

The Budget allocation: Almost half (49%) of households allocate more than 75 percent of their budget to purchasing food, a 4 percent increase from Q3 2023. Given that the food basket at contracted markets, which, despite offering the lowest prices, increased from TRY 805 to TRY 1,107 (38%) during the same period, managing food expenses place a significant financial burden on beneficiaries.

Gender disparity: Female-headed households are disproportionately impacted, with 67% now spending more than 75% of their budget on food—an 18% increase compared to a year ago. In contrast, male-headed households saw a much smaller rise, from 42% to 45% between Q3 2023 and Q3 2024. This gender disparity highlights the greater vulnerability of female-headed households on their budget allocation for their food needs.

Impact of household size: Smaller households allocate a larger share of their budget to food (77%) compared to medium-sized households (5–8 people) and larger households (9+ people), which spend 71% and 68% of their budget on food, respectively. Larger households benefit from economies of scale, meaning they can purchase food in bulk or larger quantities, often reducing the per-unit cost. This advantage allows larger households to reduce the proportion of their total budget spent on food, as they get more value per unit compared to smaller households, which tend to purchase smaller quantities at relatively higher per-unit prices.

Food Expenditure Share by Gender



Coping Strategies

Consumption Coping Strategies

High Utilization: An overwhelming majority (91%) of beneficiary households rely on at least one type of consumption coping strategy, reflecting a 14% increase from last year's figure of 78%. This rise indicates a worsening situation regarding food insecurity, despite the increase in the number of households with other income sources in addition to the e-voucher assistance.

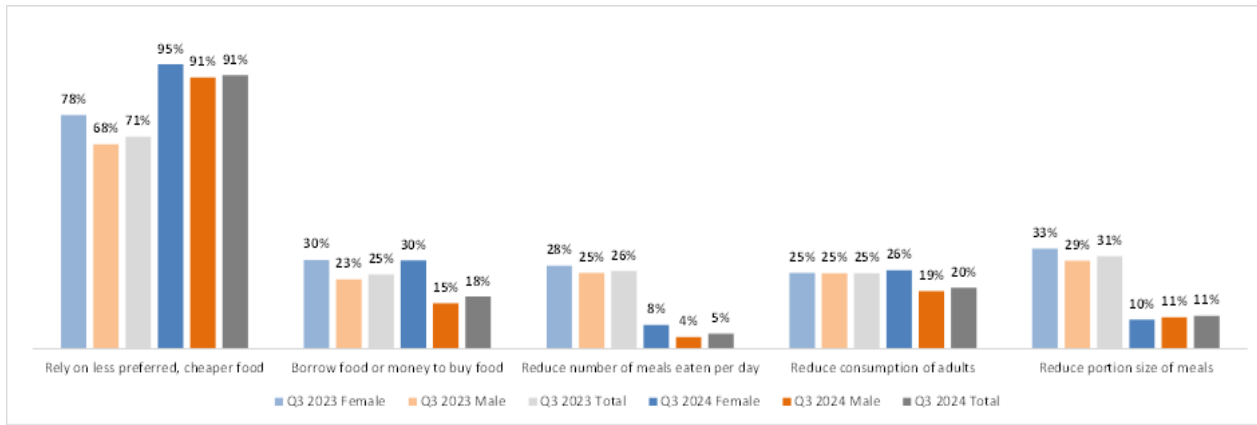
Preference for Cheaper Food: For an extended period, the most common coping strategy among households has been relying on less preferred, lower-cost food options. However, in Q3 2024, this practice became significantly more prevalent, with a 20% increase in the number of households turning to cheaper, less desirable food items compared to the previous year. The growing reliance on these less preferred food options raises concerns about the overall nutritional well-being of the camp refugee households as they struggle with the high cost of food items with their limited budget. Interestingly, a decline has been observed in the use of oth-

er coping strategies, which further investigation might provide better insight. Some strategies, like reducing the number of meals per day, may no longer be feasible as they have been implemented already for a long period of time, and may lie behind the decrease in their adoption.

Gender Disparity: Female-headed households are inclined to use more coping strategies compared to male-headed households. However, the increase in the number of male-headed households resorting to less preferred items is more pronounced (23%) than that of female-headed households (17%) in a year period.

Impact of Disability: Households with members who have disabilities tend to engage in coping behaviours more frequently than those without, particularly, reducing adult consumption. This indicates that the additional socioeconomic challenges linked to disabilities drive a greater dependence on consumption coping strategies.

Consumption Coping Strategies by Gender



Livelihood Coping Strategies

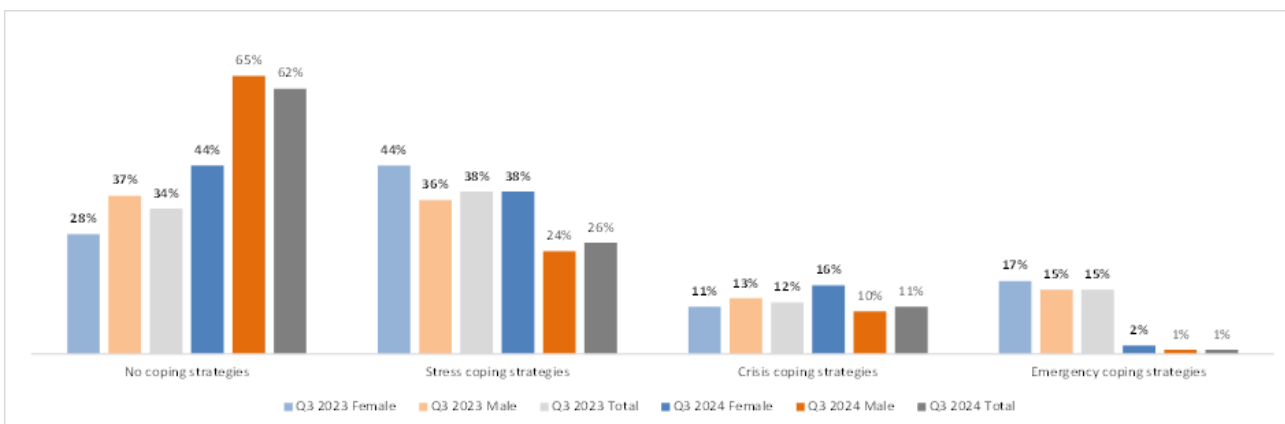
Long-term Coping Behaviours: As of Q3 2024, 38% of households are resorting to coping strategies that negatively impact their long-term livelihoods, a significant decrease from 66 percent compared to a year ago. This decline may reflect an increase in self-reliance through income-generating activities among refugee households. However, about one-fourth of households continue to use stress coping strategies – primarily borrowing money, alongside other actions such as cutting essential household expenses, selling possessions, and spending savings. While there is also a decrease observed in resorting to emergency coping strategies, reliance on crisis coping strategies remained around 11 percent.

Gender Disparity: Despite a significant rise in the number of female-headed households that no longer rely on livelihood coping strategies, the majority (56%) still use some form of long-term coping mechanisms, with 38% employing stress coping strategies. Additionally, crisis coping strategies

among women have increased from 11% to 16% between Q3 2023 and Q3 2024. Female-headed households are also more likely than male-headed households to reduce health-related expenses in order to meet their food needs. These findings highlight their heightened vulnerability in balancing essential needs, which can have long-term repercussions on their financial stability and overall well-being.

Impact of Disability: Households with members facing disabilities show a greater reliance on livelihood coping strategies, particularly stress coping strategies, with 34% resorting to them compared to 24% of households without disabled members. Interestingly, crisis coping strategies are more prevalent in households without disabled members. This is mostly due to the limitations the households with disabled members have. For instance, reducing health expenses is often not a viable option, as it could worsen the well-being of the disabled member.

Livelihood Coping Strategies by Gender



Accountability to Affected Populations

Respectful Treatment and Dignified Conditions

The percentage of respondents reporting respectful treatment by WFP and partner staff, as well as dignified conditions at WFP sites, has risen from 90 percent in Q3 2023 to 99 percent in Q3 2024. Given that the figure in Q1 2024 also at the levels of 98 percent, the current findings reflect a strong positive trend toward greater accountability and better service delivery, thanks to the prolonged efforts to increase the beneficiary experience and professionalism of the staff.

Programme Awareness and Transparency

Sixty-eight percent of beneficiaries reported feeling adequately informed about the program. Over 99 percent are aware of their entitlements, and 97 percent know how to report misconduct, with all respondents finding the information provided easy to understand. Additionally, 71 percent are familiar with the program's selection criteria—a notably high figure, considering that the PMM has applied a new set of vulnerability criteria based on the law on foreigners since April 2024. However, additional efforts are needed to raise beneficiary awareness about targeting.

Economic Empowerment

Among all the beneficiary households, only 3% reported an improvement in their financial situation compared to a year ago. In contrast, a significant majority (68%) said their situation had worsened. The most cited reason for this decline was the decrease in purchasing power due to high inflation.

An increase in health issues was the second most common reason, both impeding employment and driving up expenses simultaneously. A few households also reported ongoing struggles related to the long-term impacts of the earthquake. The small minority who saw improvements in their financial condition attributed it to more family members joining the workforce, better employment opportunities, and wage increases. While nearly half of the beneficiaries (49%) believe they have the power and freedom to make major economic decisions, the number of those who feel more restricted over the past year has increased. This reflects the financial challenges they face due to declining purchasing power.

Access Challenges

Almost all beneficiaries reported that they do not have any problem accessing the assistance.

Decision-Making Dynamics

In the majority of households surveyed (68%), both women and men now make joint decisions on how to utilize the e-voucher assistance, marking a significant increase from 44 percent in Q3 2023. In the same period, the proportion of households where men are the sole decision-makers has been halved, now standing at just 4 percent while in 28 percent of the households, women decide on what to purchase. The involvement of women in decision-making in 96 percent of households indicates a positive movement towards more women inclusive and equitable financial decision making within families.

Conclusion

The Q3 2024 Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) report highlights both the challenges and progress experienced by refugees in the WFP assisted camps. Despite the slight improvement in the food consumption and self-reliance of refugees, the data reveals that a considerable portion of the population continues to struggle with food insecurity and financial challenges. Nearly one-fourth of the surveyed households are classified as food insecure, with female-headed households disproportionately affected. This underscores the need for continued support and targeted interventions to address the specific needs of vulnerable groups within the refugee population. The economic landscape remains grim for refugee households in the camps. As inflation continues to soar, purchasing power has been significantly eroded, making it increasingly difficult for families to afford basic necessities. This financial strain is reflected in the rising share of food expenditure within household budgets; nearly half of the surveyed households are now allocating more than 75 percent of their budget to purchasing food. This substantial financial burden limits their ability to cover other essential needs.

Although the e-voucher program is providing food-focused support, its current transfer value only partially covers the basic food needs. The growing trend of families turning to lower-cost food options not only reflects an immediate survival mechanism but also raises concerns about food safety

and their overall nutritional well-being. Despite the decrease in resorting to the long-term coping strategies with some income-generation, the growing reliance on consumption coping strategies, and the increasing gap between the current assistance levels and the actual cost of essential needs indicate that there is a clear need to reconsider the transfer value to not lose the gains of the e-voucher programme.

The increase in reported satisfaction regarding treatment and service delivery underscores the commitment to enhancing the beneficiary experience and staff professionalism. Additionally, the high levels of program awareness and transparency demonstrate that beneficiaries are well-informed about their entitlements and how to report issues. However, continuous efforts, regarding the vulnerability criteria implemented by the Presidency of Migration Management would lead to greater accountability to the affected populations.

Economic empowerment remains a critical concern as majority reports their financial situation worsened, and there is an increase in the number of people who feel restrained about their power and freedom to make economic decisions. On the positive note, the growing trend of joint decision-making within households suggests a shift toward more equitable financial management, particularly for women.



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