

# EGYPT COUNTRY: RRP6 MONTHLY UPDATE - JANUARY

# FOOD SECURITY



**US\$2.4 million injected into the local economy through vouchers in January**

## JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

In January, WFP reached over 83,000 Syrian refugees with food voucher assistance, including nearly 3,000 Palestine refugees from Syria.

Voucher redemption in Greater Cairo for the January cycle was arranged at an alternative supermarket (Fathallah) as an emergency measure, as the previously contracted supermarket was unwilling to continue redemption services. Extensive messaging was provided to beneficiaries regarding the change. Voucher redemption with Fathallah proceeded smoothly.

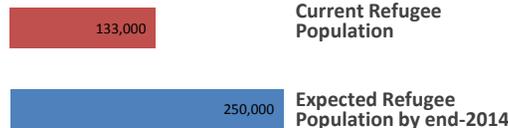
Voucher distributions are currently not being scheduled on Fridays due to the frequency of security incidents on Fridays in order to ensure the safety of staff, cooperating partners and refugees.

WFP is responding to an average of 77 calls per day on the hotline with 76 percent requesting distribution information, 17 percent with questions about UNHCR, 6 percent regarding not being on the WFP beneficiary list and 1 percent concerning supermarket issues.

Consumer price indices published by the government's statistical agency CAPMAS show that annual inflation rates in the consumer price index and specifically the food price index have seen a notable increase in 2013 -increasing from 6.0 percent at the end of 2012 up to 18.2 percent in December 2013.



## REFUGEE POPULATION IN COUNTRY EGYPT



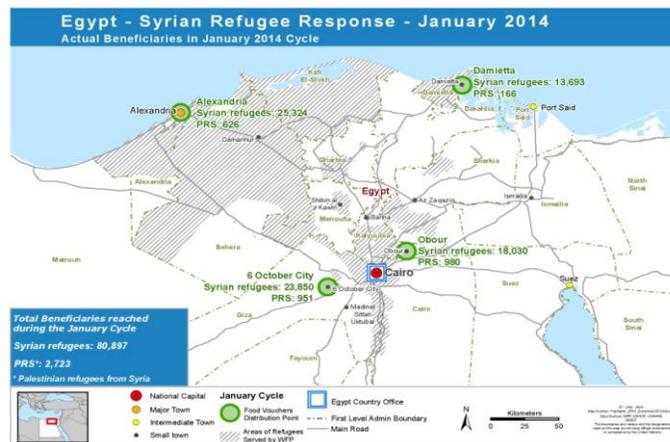
## NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The Joint Assessment for Syrian Refugees in Egypt conducted in October 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.

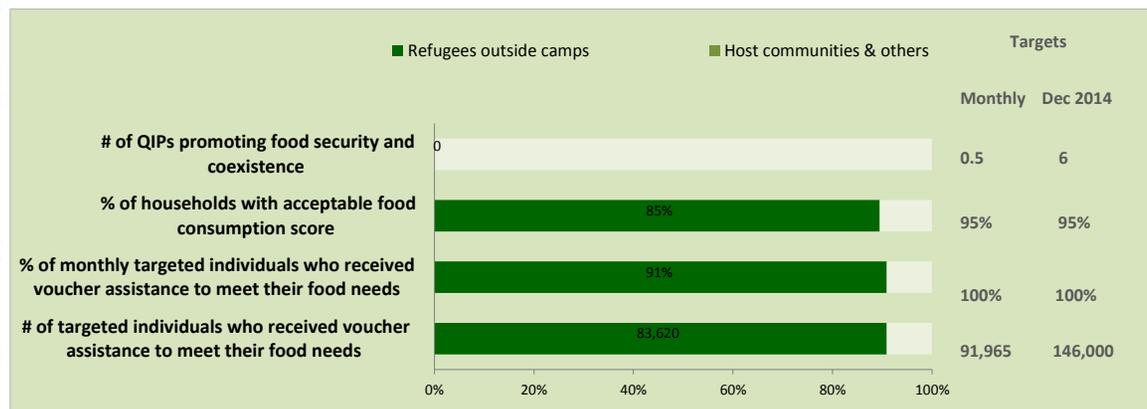
WFP is providing food voucher assistance to registered refugees in poorer neighbourhoods of Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta in addition to vulnerable households in surrounding areas identified by UNHCR. UNHCR and partners, together with WFP, conduct household-level vulnerability assessments to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

The food assistance is in the form of paper vouchers or magnetic cards 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 One Card assistance platform in the second quarter of 2014. 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 has been established to promote effective coordination through quality information management and collaboration.



## PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS:



Targets based on expected population of 250,000 Syrian refugees in Egypt by end-2014. There are currently over 133,000 refugees in Egypt.

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