



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



REFUGEE POPULATION IN COUNTRY EGYPT



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 and Damietta in addition to vulnerable households in surrounding areas identified by UNHCR. UNHCR and partners, together with WFP, are currently preparing joint multi-sector household-level vulnerability assessments to ensure the most vulnerable and food-insecure refugees are targeted and supported in a sustained manner.

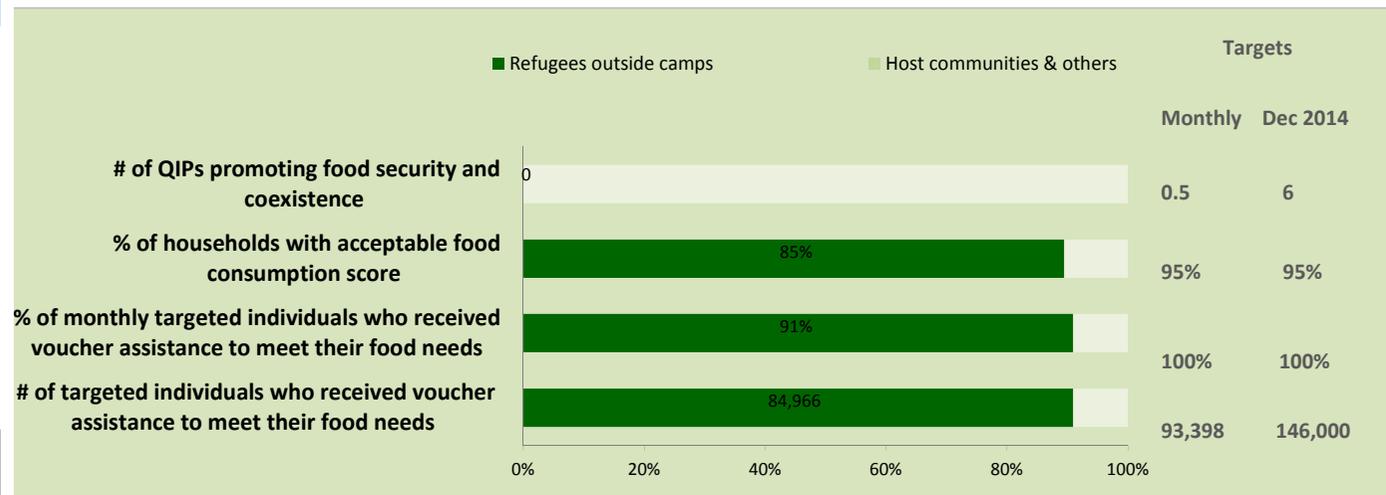
The food assistance is in the form of paper vouchers or magnetic cards redeemable at partner supermarkets with a limited validity period and valued at 200 Egyptian pounds (approx. US\$30) per person per month. WFP, together with UNHCR, are working to transition to a OneCard assistance platform in the 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.

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

- In February, WFP reached nearly 85,000 Syrian refugees for food voucher assistance or 91 percent of the planned beneficiaries including 3,500 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) with UNRWA. This includes 25,000 beneficiaries in Alexandria, 14,000 in Damietta and 46,000 in greater Cairo. WFP will be targeting 100,000 Syrian refugees and 4,500 PRS for assistance in March.
- Voucher redemption in greater Cairo was continued at the alternative supermarket (Fathallah) for the February cycle as a temporary measure, pending the finalization of the contract with the new supermarket partner in greater Cairo, Carrefour. Extensive messaging was provided to beneficiaries regarding the change. Voucher redemption with Fathallah proceeded smoothly.
- WFP is expecting to shift to e-vouchers in greater Cairo in March through Carrefour – allowing refugees to redeem multiple times up to the value of the voucher and purchase more fresh products throughout the month.
- In Damietta a second branch of the supermarket partner Hypermarket has been made accessible to beneficiaries in order to reduce crowding and travel distance for beneficiaries.
- The preferred service provider for the joint UNHCR/WFP OneCard system has been selected and will be publicized shortly. WFP and UNHCR are forming a joint group of experts who will commence negotiations with the newly selected partner on specific details of the expected services. These negotiations are planned to be finalized by April when the contract will be ready and the OneCard platform piloted in Damietta in June.

PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS



Targets based on expected population of 250,000 Syrian refugees in Egypt by end-2014. There are currently over 134,000 refugees in Egypt.

Egypt - Syrian Refugee Response - February 2014

Beneficiaries in February 2014 Cycle

