

EGYPT : RRP6 MONTHLY UPDATE - MARCH

FOOD SECURITY



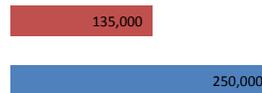
US\$2.6 million to be injected into the local economy through vouchers in March

HIGHLIGHTS:

- WFP provided food voucher assistance to 88,728 Syrian refugees in March, including 3,642 Palestinians from Syria (PRS), reaching 86 percent of the targeted beneficiaries.
- E-vouchers were successfully implemented in greater Cairo in March with the new supermarket partner Carrefour. A minimal number of new beneficiaries redeemed paper vouchers at Fathallah for March while their e-vouchers were being printed by Carrefour. Beneficiaries indicated overall they were satisfied with Carrefour due to the wider choice of products and closer locations for redeeming their voucher, however they found the prices of some items higher than at other shops. WFP will continue to monitor this in monthly price data collection of staple food items.



REFUGEE POPULATION IN EGYPT



Current Refugee Population

Expected Refugee Population by end-2014

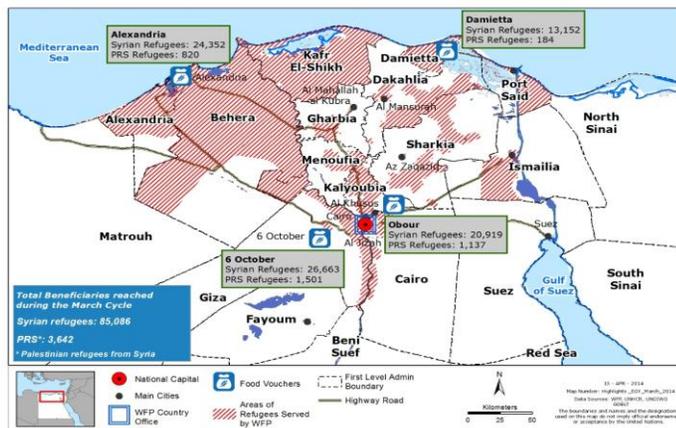
NEEDS ANALYSIS:

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 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 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 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 was established to promote effective coordination through quality information management and collaboration.



PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS:

