



USD 940,534 were injected into local economy through vouchers/e-cards in **DECEMBER 2015**

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

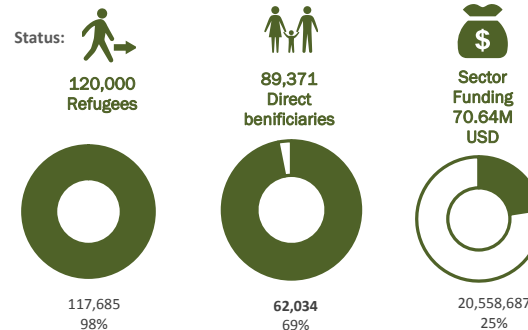
- The distributions and e-voucher uploads took place from 21 to 28 December 2015, in six governorates (Obour, 6th of October, Alexandria, Marsa Matrouh, Mansoura, and Damietta), targeting **62,034** beneficiaries (**2,891** Syrian Palestinian and **59,143** Syrian Refugees). Distribution reached 61,362 beneficiaries (2,878 Syrian Palestinian and **58,484** Syrian Refugees), reaching 99% of the target.
- There has been no exclusion based on targeting in the December distribution cycle.
- The socio-economic assessment informing the shift from geographic to vulnerability targeting has resulted in 41,450 exclusions. There have been more than 8,000 re-inclusions through the appeals review process, resulting in a final vulnerable target beneficiary caseload of close to 60,000.
- WFP and UNHCR have developed and agreed on re-inclusion criteria, which take into consideration food security status, dependency rate, lactating and pregnant women, severe coping mechanisms and medical status.



WFP Food voucher distribution in Eavot. Photo ©WFP

Key Figures:

Planned Sector Response:



NEEDS ANALYSIS:

- The exchange rate of the Egyptian pound against the US Dollar remains at a relatively stable at 7.82 (*The Central Bank of Egypt*). However, the gap between the official rate and the black market rate has widened to approximately 2.5 percent, with a potential impact on food and non-food prices and the purchasing power of the most vulnerable groups.
- International reserves have dropped to USD 16.4 billion. This covers less than four months of imports (food and non-food).
- The third quarter post distribution monitoring findings indicate that:
 - Approximately 80 percent of all beneficiaries had an acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS), with the remainder of households surveyed recording a borderline score.
 - Almost all beneficiaries had medium or good diet diversity scores.
 - Despite the positive trend in consumption and dietary diversity, beneficiaries indicated increased use of negative food consumption coping strategies that could be due to cuts in the food voucher value since January, coupled with inflation trends and resulting increasing food prices.
 - These coping strategies include resorting to crime or illegal employment, spending savings or borrowing money, and relying on cheaper food of lesser nutritional quality.
 - For on-site distribution, and shop monitoring, all users were satisfied with the process.
- WFP Hotline: The majority of queries/complaints (51 percent) were about removals from WFP food assistance and appeal results from the previous cycles especially after December re-inclusion.
- WFP Facebook page: The most re-occurring queries and complaints (33 percent) were related to the exclusion from WFP lists and appeals process and vulnerability assessment.

RESILIENCE HIGHLIGHTS:

- In October, WFP launched operations to support public primary schools funded by the Government of Canada, to support Syrian refugees and the host population in Alexandria and Damietta.
- Actual implementation of the project started on the second week of the academic year 2015/16, with the daily distribution of nutritious High Energy Biscuits (HEB) in the target of 130 schools hosting Syrian refugee children.
- November distributions reached 109,170 primary aged students of which around 3,467 were Syrian refugee children.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: DECEMBER 2015

