



USD 900,126 were injected into local economy through vouchers/ e-cards in **OCTOBER 2015**

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

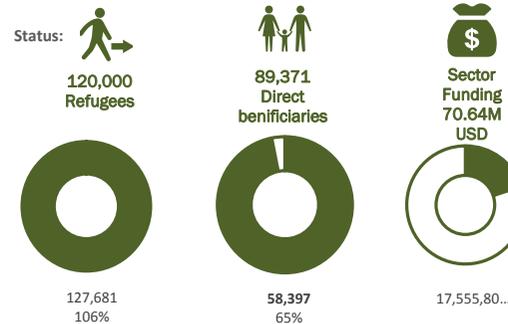
- October distributions and e-voucher uploads took place from 27 to 29 October 2015, in six governorates (Obour, 6th of October, Alexandria, Marsa Matrouh, Mansoura, and Damietta), targeting **58,397** beneficiaries (**2,866** Syrian Palestinian and **55,531** Syrian Refugees), reaching 99% of the target. Reconciliation of redeemed vouchers is ongoing.
- The reduced food voucher value continues to be USD17 per person per month instead of the planned USD 24.2, applying a 30 percent reduction.
- There has been no exclusion based on targeting in the October distribution cycle.
- The shift from geographic to vulnerability targeting of registered Syrian refugees, commenced in April 2015 and as of October is completed at close to 90%. The targeting methodology was based on a combination of food consumption score, severe coping strategies, socio-economic status and Minimum Expenditure Basket (total MEB).
- A total of 36,511 individuals have been excluded from WFP assistance mainly as a result of the assessment results, while few others were excluded as they refused to undertake the assessment or were not responding to calls to make an appointment.
- Refugees excluded from WFP food assistance were informed via SMS, and were also given the possibility to appeal this decision within 15 days. Some 5,000 individuals have been re-included since July as a result of the Appeal request reviews.
- Through a targeted approach and prioritization of resources, the current caseload is estimated to be reduced by approximately 30 percent by the end of the year, compared to the original Project Plan for 2015.



WFP Food voucher distribution in Eevat. Photo ©WFP

Key Figures:

Planned Sector Response:



NEEDS ANALYSIS:

- In August-September 2015, WFP conducted a pilot monitoring exercise to examine and document the impact and effects of the cut in assistance on the excluded Syrian Refugees in EMOP 200433.
- The main findings of the study showed the following results:
 - WFP assistance to Syrian refugees has been effective in ensuring the food security of beneficiaries given their high food consumption and lower frequency/severity of coping strategies adopted when they were assisted.
 - Excluded beneficiaries, revealed a significant drop in their food consumption patterns while the use of negative coping mechanisms seems to have increased.
 - 100% had no problems with the modalities of the appeals process and 96% of the excluded beneficiaries filed an appeal.
 - 96% out of the random interviewed did not receive any other form of assistance (food, medical, or education).
- Although above results are significant, they should be treated with caution as the sample size was relatively small and thus not sufficiently representative.
- WFP is continuing to conduct comprehensive impact assessment in order to get a larger representative sample and to achieve more qualitative indicators on the effects of reduced assistance.
- Food insecurity remains an issue of household access to food driven by diminishing purchasing power. The average Egyptian household spends more than 40 percent of their income on food, rising to more than 60 percent for the poorest families. During September a significant monthly increase (5%) of food prices has been recorded, primarily due to the increase in prices of vegetables by 19.2%. The increase in food prices is partially seasonal, yet it could also be associated with the increase in the exchange rate and hence the increase in the cost of inputs and prices of imported commodities since July 2015.
- Fluctuations in foreign currency reserves and exchange rates remains a risk to food access for vulnerable people, as Egypt is a net food importer, importing approximately 60 percent of its wheat requirements. The exchange rate saw a slight increase during the reporting period, with a potential impact on food and non-food prices and the purchasing power of the most vulnerable groups.

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 has 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 93 schools hosting Syrian refugee children in Alexandria and Damietta.
- This activity will target more than 95,000 children, of which around 3,500 are Syrian refugee children residing in the urban governorates in Alexandria and Damietta.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: OCTOBER 2015

