



USD 1,452,821 were injected into local economy through vouchers/e-cards in **January 2015**

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

- January distribution took place in six distribution sites (Obour, 6th of October, Alexandria, Damietta, Marsa Matrouh and Mansoura). A total of **86,576** beneficiaries were reached (**83,720** Syrian and **2,856** Syrian Palestinian Refugees), meeting **96%** of the target.
- Given available funds region-wide, Egypt operations decreased the value of food voucher to US\$17 instead of US\$24, applying 30% reduction.
- EMOP team, in coordination with the Country Office, communicated the decrease in the voucher value to the beneficiaries and contracted retailers, as well as to all relevant stakeholders. Several meetings with community leaders were held in January in Alexandria, Damietta and Greater Cairo, prior to the distribution cycle.
- WFP in partnership with Carrefour replaced all the barcoded cards with upgraded ones for Greater Cairo area under the e-voucher system. The exercise commenced on 25 January in Obour and 6th of October distribution sites, for the total of 19,500 cards, representing total 62,250 beneficiaries
- A new software has been created for FATHALLAH supermarkets' chain, to allow WFP shift from paper to E-Vouchers in Alexandria, Damietta and Mansoura. The new system will be pilot in April.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

- As a consequence of reduction of the case-load and of the vouchers' value, majority of inquiries and complains received on the WFP Facebook page (33 percent) were linked to the lists' issues, followed by UNHCR and distribution-related inquiries (both 26 percent). Moreover, following temporary suspension of the Vulnerability Assessment and disconnection of the implementing partner's hotline, beneficiaries continue to inquire on the status of the assessment and timelines for announcement of its results.
- In view of reduction of voucher value to 70 % (i.e. USD 17 per person per month), a quick field survey was conducted in the Greater Cairo during distribution of Carrefour E-cards to assess beneficiaries feed-back. Total of 72 beneficiaries (53 percent female and 47 male) were interviewed. Following are the main findings: 60 percent foresee to reduce number of meals per day, 74 percent foresee that this reduction will have a severe impact on their households; 70 percent reported to be satisfied with WFP services.
- Annual inflation in the headline Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Food-Price Index increased in December 2014 to 9.8% and 8.7% respectively, affected by the low base effect in 2013, while the month-on-month inflation in food prices recorded -0.5%, affected by the decline in prices of vegetables and eggs & dairy during December by 3.7% and 0.6% respectively. As indicated by the seasonal pattern of food prices, the food price index tends to decline during the months of November and December before they start picking up slightly in January. In this respect, WFP therefore expects inflation rates to slightly increase during January 2015, mainly due to seasonal factors.

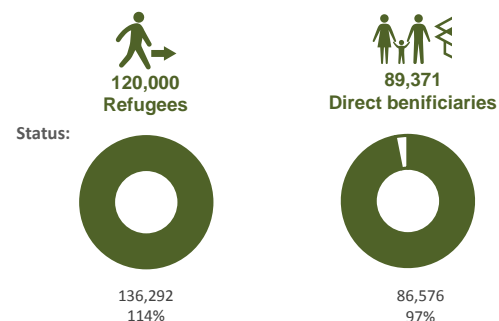
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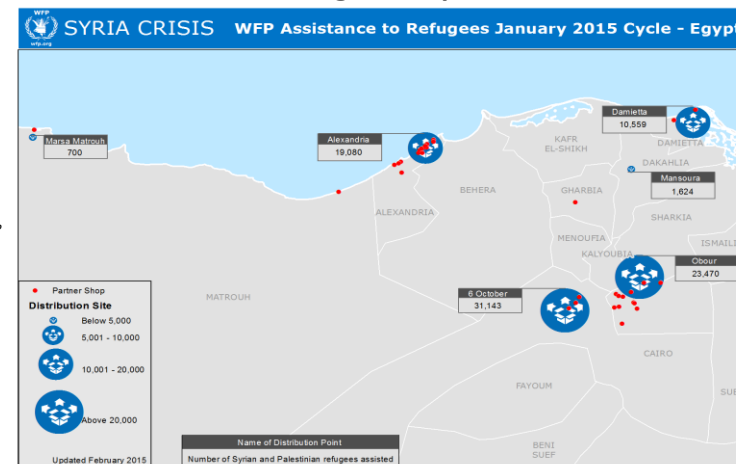
WFP Food voucher distribution in Egypt, Photo ©WFP

Key Figures:

Planned Sector Response:



WFP Assistance to Refugees Map:



REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY 2015

