



**More than USD 17 M** were injected into local economy through vouchers/ e-cards since **JANUARY 2016**

### OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS:

- October distribution took place from 17 to 21 October 2016, targeting 70,747 beneficiaries (67,720 Syrian refugees and 2,707 Palestinian refugees from Syria). The redemption period for October cycle ended on 28 October 2016. The total beneficiaries who actually redeemed the vouchers was 68,906.
- In October, 5,040 beneficiaries have been re-included.
- The beneficiary caseload for CBT General Food Distribution increased from 66,000 in September to the originally planned caseload of 70,877 in October 2016.
- Since March 2016, the voucher value has returned to its original value of USD 24.2. The transfer value increased to EGP 215 (instead of EGP 200) in September 2016 due to the current UN Exchange Rate and remained at EGP 215 in October.
- Focus group discussions were conducted in 6th of October for current beneficiaries.

### NEEDS ANALYSIS:

- As of 31 October, there are 115,204 refugees officially registered by UNHCR in Egypt, while some 114,500 have been verified through the UNHCR IRIS scan biometric verification.
- Impact of economic reforms on the poorest and most vulnerable populations: Starting in July there has been a series of economic reforms as a requirements to receive the IMF loan of USD 12 billion. Those reforms include the revision of the electricity subsidy reform, the transition from the sales taxes to the value-added taxes, and, most recently the floating of the Egyptian currency, and a partial lift of the fuel subsidy. As part of energy subsidy reform plan, fuel prices increased by up to 47 percent. Collectively, these factors are likely to further increase the inflation in food and non-food prices, directly affecting the purchasing power of the poorest and most vulnerable.
- Access to Food:** Food insecurity in Egypt is mainly an issue of diminishing purchasing power in addition to shortages in availability of certain food items (rice, sugar) that surfaced in 2016, both limiting household access to food. The average Egyptian household spends more than 40 percent of its income on food, rising to more than 60 percent for the poorest families. On top of the negative impact of protracted displacement and related exhaustion of resources leading to increasing negative coping mechanism, most of the refugees in Egypt live in vulnerable host communities where national safety nets are already overstretched after two decades of economic decline.
- The cost of the minimum expenditure food basket for Syrian Refugees increased to LE 297.8, compared to EGP 213 during February 2016 which negatively impacts the food security situation of average Egyptian households.
- Monitoring Findings:** The second quarterly Food Security Outcome Monitoring Report (FSOM), covering the period from April to June 2016, revealed that 4.3 percent of excluded beneficiary respondents were recorded to have a 'poor food consumption score' in comparison to 28 percent of beneficiary respondents. The Diet Diversity Score (DDS) was found to be 'good' for most of interviewed households, for both beneficiaries and excluded beneficiaries, showing diversified diet composed of different nutrients. Compared to the previous quarter, the DDS score increased from 'medium' to 'good'.
- In the second quarter, a total of 452 interviews (surpassing the targeted sample at 444) were conducted and two Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were held in Obour City and 6th of October city. The discussions in 6th of October FGD, revealed that the top three spending priorities were as follows: food, rent and education, while in Obour FGD, participants prioritize rent followed by food and health. In the discussions held with excluded beneficiaries in both these areas, rent followed by food were the main spending priorities. Rent, as a main spending priority on the part of excluded-beneficiaries was also shared in the discussions held with excluded beneficiaries during FSOM Q1.
- 50 percent of respondents claimed that women make the decisions on the assistance provided, versus 25 percent claimed that men make the decision. A joint 25 percent of both men and women were recorded to have 'made the decision' on how WFP voucher assistance was utilized.
- WFP EMOP in Egypt currently provides several feedback mechanisms to Syrian refugees through hotline and a dedicated Facebook page. Ad-hoc field surveys and focus group discussions are also organized in connection to any programmatic changes. The majority of registered queries and complaints during October were related to the vulnerability assessment



WFP paper food vouchers, Photo/ WFP

### Sector Response Summary:



**166,400 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end of 2016, 288,750 assisted in 2016.**



### Syrian Refugees in EGYPT :



**110,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2016, 115,200 currently registered or awaiting registration.**



### 3RP Overall Funding Status:



**USD 146.6 million required in 2016, USD 56.3 million received in 2016.**



## EGYPT RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - OCTOBER 2016

