

USD 1,377,894 were injected into local economy through vouchers/e-cards in **March 2015**

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

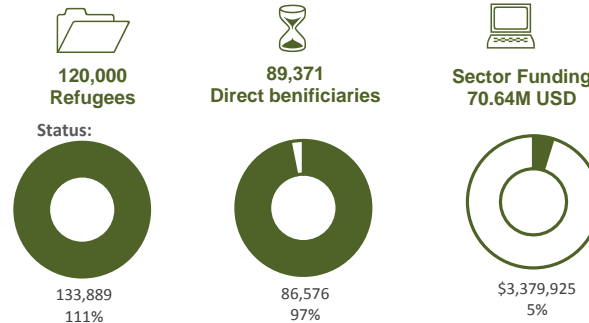
- Total of **87,037** beneficiaries were reached during March distribution (**84,215** Syrian and **3,822** Syrian Palestinian Refugees), meeting almost **99%** of the target.
- March beneficiaries have been derived from results of the UNHCR biometric verification exercise (IRIS scan) and removal of closed cases and no-shows.
- Until vulnerability-based targeting criteria are finalized, the reduced voucher value will continue to be US\$17 per person per month instead of planned US\$24.2, applying 30% reduction.
- The joint WFP/UNHCR Vulnerability Assessment of the Syrian refugees is on-going in Greater Cairo (Save the Children), Alexandria (Caritas) and Damietta (Resala) with close to 70% of household data collection done.
- Data deriving from 59,000 individuals already assessed are being analyzed and will serve for targeted vulnerability-based assistance in May 2015. This targeting approach is in the process of being adopted based on vulnerability categorization ranking from 1 to 4, based on a combination of socio-economic and food security factors that are assessed of each registered household. For each of the four categories, households are classified into one out of the four vulnerability categories and then assigned a weight with being 1: *low vulnerability*; 2: *mild vulnerability*; 3: *moderate/high vulnerability*; and 4: *severe vulnerability*. The two categories of moderate/high and severe vulnerability only will be considered for further food assistance.
- WFP is in the process to introduce e-vouchers with Fathallah supermarket chains with a pilot testing planned in Alexandria for April distribution cycle. E-vouchers (*electronic gift cards*) will be distributed to WFP beneficiaries based in Alexandria and Marsa Matrouh. WFP is currently using Carrefour electronic shop gift cards in Greater Cairo to cover 60% of the caseload. Upon launch of cards with Fathallah, additional 25% of the caseload is planned to be reached by May. This would leave only 15% use of paper vouchers (*Hyper supermarkets chain, in Damietta*)



WFP Food voucher distribution in Egypt, Photo ©WFP

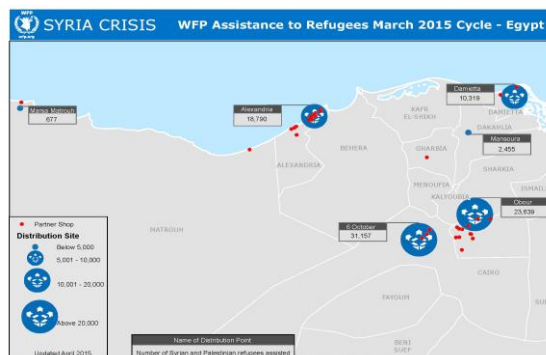
Key Figures:

Planned Sector Response:



NEEDS ANALYSIS:

- Analysis of the post-distribution monitoring data collected in the 4th quarter compared to the 3rd quarter of 2014 showed deterioration of the over-all food consumption scores (FCS) amongst beneficiaries, from 96 to 89 percent. However, dietary diversity remained stabilized at 5.4, whereas there is a negative trend in the following consumption-based strategies: more beneficiaries decrease size of meals (from 19 to 31 percent) and restrict food consumption by adults in order for small children to eat (from 12 to 22 percent), as well as restrict consumption of females.
- Comparative analysis between the 3rd and 4th quarters showed that the main source income remains casual labor, followed by assistance from humanitarian organizations. These two variables experienced increase from 3rd to the 4th quarter. Moreover, PDM monitoring results and beneficiaries feed-back mechanisms showed that main geographic area of concern is Damietta governorate.
- Month-on-month general and food price indices, 2.1% and 2.5% respectively, are both above their historical five-year average for the month of February. The rise in inflation in February is triggered mostly by the tax on tobacco, which increased tobacco prices by 10.6% from the previous month. Inside the food group, vegetables prices have increased the most among food items (4.9%). Another cause for this increase in inflation is in the housing, water and energy group, within which electricity and gas prices have increased by 9.2%.



Leading Agencies: WFP, Hans Vikoler, Emergency Coordinator Syria EMOP EGYPT
Email: hans.vikoler@wfp.org

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: MARCH 2015

