



Review of the Project “Assistance to Palestinian Refugees in Egypt who have been displaced from Syria”

Implemented by the Egyptian Red Crescent
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Mareike Tobiassen, German Red Cross HQ

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Mareike Tobiassen, Advisor Cash-based Assistance, German Red Cross

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1. Executive Summary

The German Red Cross (GRC) has been supporting the Egyptian Red Crescent since 2014 in various projects. In 2016, German Red Cross received funding by the German Foreign Ministry to support Palestinian refugees coming from Syria (PRS) and mixed Palestinian-Syrians, who have been arriving in Egypt after the commencement of conflict in Syria. The assistance is a combination of a monthly voucher valuable 400 EGP distributed quarterly and usable in all Carrefour Outlets throughout Egypt and additional one-off winterization-voucher, cash for school-shoes and schoolkits. The target community is 800 PRS families (around 3,000 individuals).

The situation of PRS in Egypt is precarious: PRS do not get a refugee status by UNHCR, which stigmatizes their situation as migrants in the country. Their status is based on temporary residence permits which needs renewal on a regular basis through expensive, lengthy and complicated processes and procedures. The informal jobs they can find are mostly on a daily basis and not well paid, which makes it nearly impossible creating own livelihoods. Chronic diseases among families are significantly high: 64% of all families have at least one family member with a chronic disease, while PRS do not have access to free health facilities.

The same applies for education: families need to pay for enrolment in school and universities and PRS face high enrollment fees to study at public schools and universities.

A review of the cash and voucher component of the project was carried out from 30th July – 6th August 2018 by the German Red Cross Advisor for Cash-based Assistance. The methodology was a combination of documents and secondary data study, semi-structured- group- and individual interviews and meetings with relevant stakeholders.

The review revealed that the project is technically implemented well. All relevant mechanisms of a qualitative voucher programme are in place and the mode of transfer and Service Provider Carrefour context-specifically chosen well. The main objectives and their indicators of the project have been, or are about, to be reached.

There is a need to re-asses basic needs of PRS. This project contributes to cover for monthly food- and basic commodity needs with a voucher restricted to Carrefour, but does not provide any support with renewing temporary residence permits, pay for education, health expenses or building up livelihoods. While facing an increasing inflation and decrease of value of voucher, PRS in Egypt rely almost 100% on external support.

The review also outlines the need to improve information sharing and the access to relevant data among partners in order to guarantee a minimum standard of accountability.