

**Presidency of the Council of Ministers**

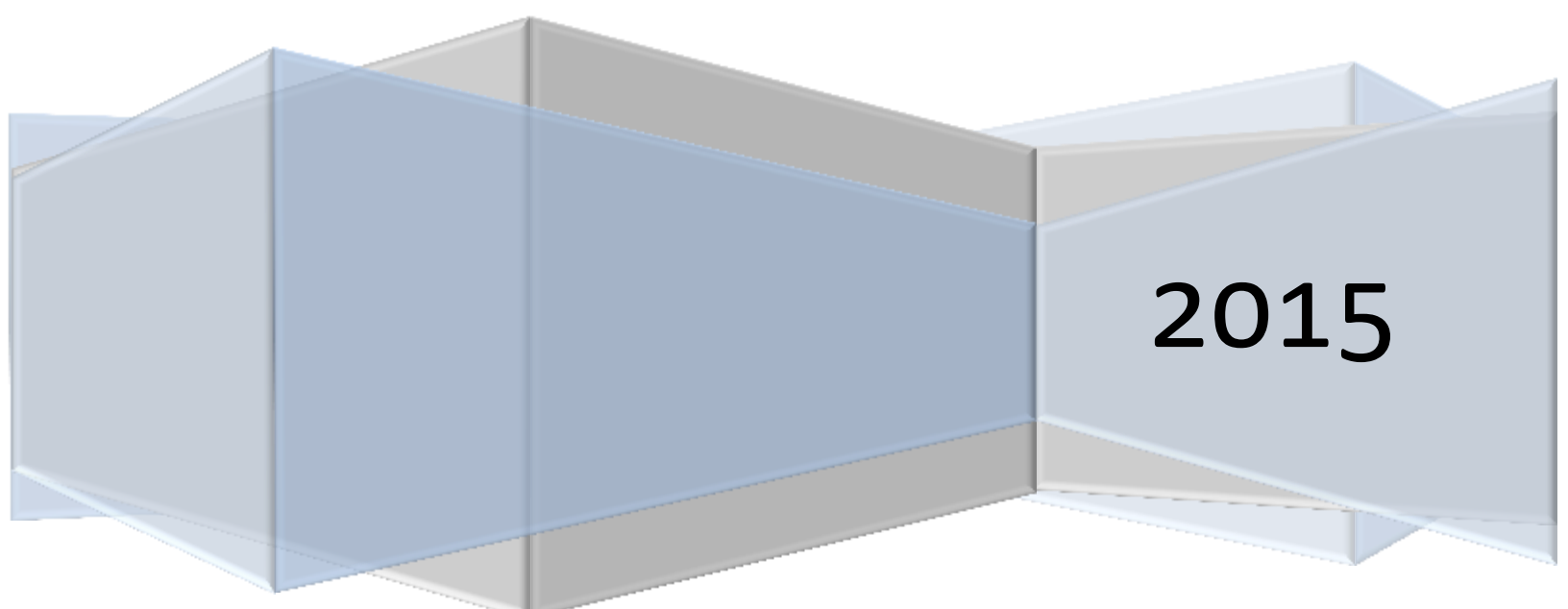
**National Poverty Targeting Program**

**Central Management Unit**

**Food Security Indicators of the Temporary E-Card**

**Food Voucher Service;**

**November 2014 – July/August 2015**



**2015**

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## I. Introduction

The National Poverty Targeting Program, NPTP, resumed its temporary e-card food voucher service during the month of May 2015, after a stoppage period of 2 months due to lack of financing. World Food Programme, WFP finance the month of May, while the World Bank financed the coming four months (June – September 2015).

For every cycle of the e-card service, NPTP fills a Post Distribution Monitoring Questionnaire, PDM, to monitor, assess and evaluate the implementation of the service and its effect on the beneficiary HHs. For the period from May – August 2015, NPTP filled 734 PDM questionnaires, 371 for the May/June cycle and 363 for the July/August cycle.

As usual the Central Management Unit of NPTP, CMU, calculated three food security indicators in order to study the change in behavior of the e-card beneficiaries regarding food consumption, dietary diversity and coping strategies. The three food security indicators are: Food Consumption score, Dietary Diversity Score and Coping Strategy Index. The three indicators will be compared to the baseline survey, November 2014, and to the first cycle of Jan./Feb. 2015.

## II. Food Consumption Score

Food Consumption Score, FCS, have witnessed a major increase compared to the baseline. For the baseline survey, FCS had a value of 52, this value increased to reach 66 and 68 during the cycles of May/June and July/August 2015.

**Table 1: Average Food Consumption Score by Cycle**

Average Food Consumption Score			
Cycle	Average	Standard Deviation	Change Compared to Baseline
Baseline	52	20.2	<b>32%</b>
Jan. / Feb.	65	20.4	
May/June	66	20.4	
July/August	68	18.7	

A 32% increase in FCS, reflects an encouraging and positive result that the e-card beneficiaries are consuming more food, around 1.3x more compared to their initial status.

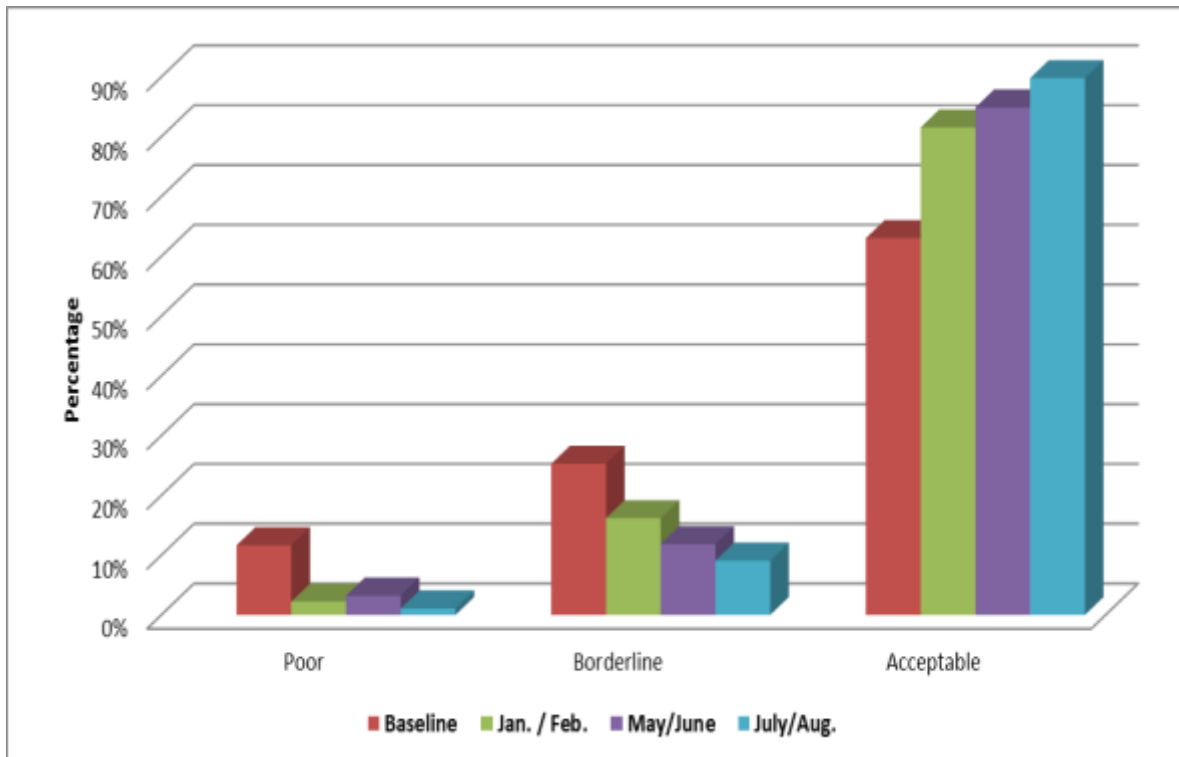
**Table 2: Food Consumption Score by Category and Cycle**

FCS			
Cycle	Poor	Borderline	Acceptable
Baseline	11.7%	25.3%	63.0%
Jan. / Feb.	2.2%	16.2%	81.6%
May/June	3.2%	11.9%	84.9%
July/Aug.	1.1%	9.1%	89.8%

“Poor” and “Borderline” decreased in favor of an increase in “Acceptable” FCS’s categories. During the last cycle, July/August 2015, only 1% of the e-card beneficiaries had a “Poor” FCS compared to around 12% for the baseline survey, a significant decrease of 90%. As for the “Borderline” category, it had a share of 9.1% compared to 25.3%, a decrease of 64%. Beneficiaries with “Acceptable” FCS increased to reach 90% versus a share of 63% for the baseline.

However, when comparing Jan./Feb. results with May/June, we found that “Poor” FCS increased from 2.2% to 3.2%. This set back might be a direct result of the fact that the e-card service was stopped between March and April 2015 due to lack of financing. This implements that e-card beneficiaries are still living in a fragile nutritional state.

**Figure 1: Food Consumption Score by Categories and Cycle**



### III. Dietary Diversity Score

Dietary Diversity Score, DDS, an indicator that measures the diversity of consumed food, improved by more than 10% compared to the baseline. Consuming more diversified food might have major positive implications on the health status of the e-card beneficiaries.

**Table 3: Dietary Diversity Score by Cycle**

Dietary Diversity Score			
Cycle	Average	Standard Deviation	Change Compared to Baseline
Baseline	5.8	1.33	<b>12%</b>
Jan. / Feb.	6.4	0.91	
May/June	6.3	.93	
July/August	6.5	.84	

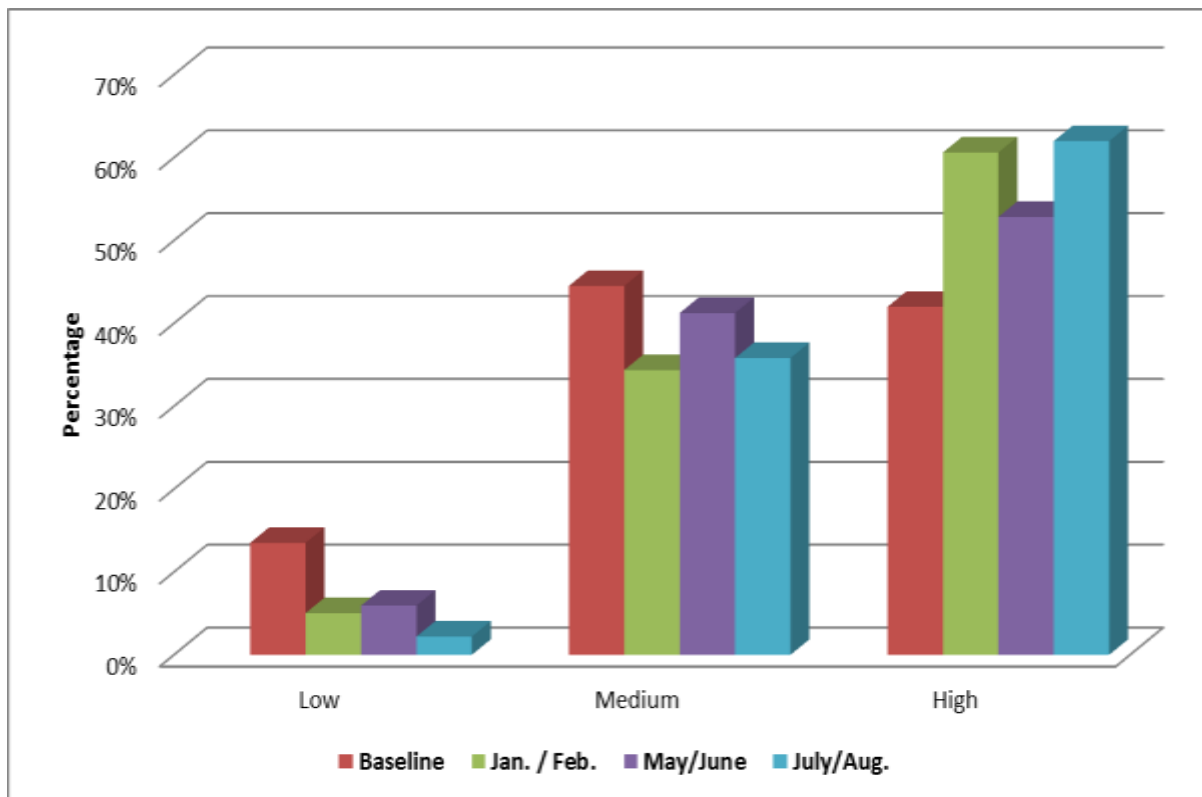
During the cycle of May/June 2015, DDS decreased a little bit compared to the Jan./Feb 2015 cycle, a result that coincides of what was stated earlier when analyzing FCS, that the e-card beneficiaries are still living in a weak nutritional status.

**Table 4: Dietary Diversity Score by Category and Cycle**

Cycle	DDS		
	Low	Medium	High
Baseline	13.5%	44.5%	42.0%
Jan. / Feb.	5.0%	34.4%	60.6%
May/June	5.9%	41.2%	52.8%
July/Aug.	2.2%	35.8%	62.0%

“Low” and “Medium” categories decreased in favor of “High” DDS during the four cycles of the e-card. “Low” had a percentage of 2.2% during July/August 2015, down from 13.5% for the baseline. “Medium” decreased by 20%, from 44.5% to 36%. On the other hand “High” increased from 42% to record 62%, an improvement of around 50%.

Figure 2: Dietary Diversity Score by Category and Cycle



The result stated earlier that the e-card beneficiaries are still living in a fragile nutritional state is supported once again when analyzing the categories of the DDS. “Low” and “Medium” increased and “High” decreased for the May/June cycle compared to the previous cycle of Jan./Feb. 2015.

### III. Coping Strategy Index

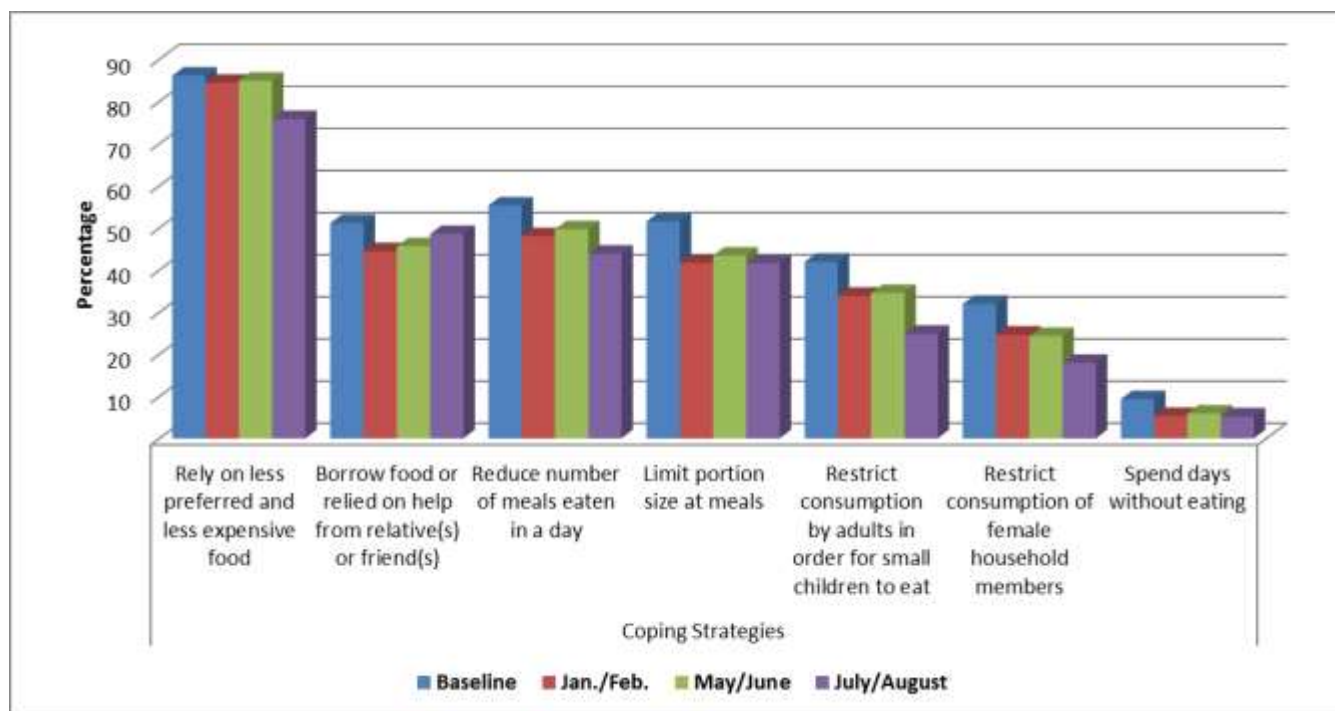
Coping Strategy Index, CSI, improved greatly between the baseline and July/August cycle. CSI decreased by around 50%, setting a value of 9.5 compared to 18. This indicates that the e-card beneficiaries are using much less coping strategies when facing food shortages.

**Table 5: Coping Strategy Index by Cycle**

Coping Strategy Index			
Cycle	Average	Standard Deviation	Change Compared to Baseline
Baseline	18.03	13.28	<b>-47%</b>
Jan. / Feb.	11.15	10.31	
May/June	11.95	11.20	
July/August	9.55	10.28	

On the other hand, the values of the cycles of Jan./Feb. and May/June reveals once again that the e-card beneficiary HHs had a small set back during the 2 month stoppage period regarding food security. CSI increased from 11.1 to 11.9, an increase of around 8%.

**Figure 3: Coping Strategies by Cycle**



The above figure shows seven coping strategies that were used by the beneficiary HHs per cycle. A decreasing trend can be observed, which reveals that the beneficiaries were using less coping strategies of each of the seven strategies compared to the baseline.



## **IV. Conclusion**

The three food security indicators: Food consumption Score, Dietary Diversity Score and the Coping Strategy Index show that the NPTP e-card beneficiary HHs are witnessing a major and significant improvement in their food security.

The e-card beneficiaries are consuming more food that is more diversified and are relying less on coping strategies when facing food shortages compared to the baseline survey.

Nevertheless, the analysis of the three indicators shows that the stoppage period of the e-card service, during the months of March and April 2015, had a negative impact on the on the beneficiaries regarding food consumption, food diversity and coping strategies. This implies that although being implemented for four consecutive months, from November 2014 till February 2015, the e-card beneficiary HHs were still having a weak and fragile food security situation.