

WFP/UNHCR SMS Food Voucher Scheme for Iraqi Refugees in Syria

Digital Inclusion · Good practice · Syria

Quality score: 76/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

Launched in Damascus in 2009, this WFP/UNHCR pilot let Iraqi refugee families redeem food at local shops using SMS codes texted to donated SIM cards instead of queuing for parcels, later scaling to about 9,600 families before Syria's 2011 civil war disrupted operations.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Innovation level	4/5
Sustainability (ongoing)	0/1
Evaluation evidence	1/1
Demonstrated reach	1/1
Documented learning	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-15

[UN World Food Programme \(WFP\) & UNHCR, with Syria's Ministry of Economy and Trade](#) — accessed 2026-07-15

[UN News](#) — accessed 2026-07-15

[WFP: Vouchers keep food moving despite Syrian unrest](#) — accessed 2026-07-15

[ReliefWeb / IRIN](#) — accessed 2026-07-15

[CSIS analysis](#) — accessed 2026-07-15

Cite this — Evidoria. *WFP/UNHCR SMS Food Voucher Scheme for Iraqi Refugees in Syria*. Persistent ID: 6de90b51-1584-4c4e-88e0-b4835651c76e.