

WFP Egypt Country Brief

May 2018

In Numbers

1,212 MT of food assistance distributed*

USD 2.0 m cash-based transfers made*

USD 30.8 m seven-month net funding requirements (June-December 2018)

580,000 people assisted in May 2018*

59%

41%



Operational Context

WFP Egypt's Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) started in 1 January 2018 and is a six-month project. The TICSP serves as a smooth transition of WFP's current food security and nutrition interventions towards a more cohesive and coordinated focus, which is well established within the development priorities of the Government of Egypt.

Egypt is ranked 111 out of 188 countries in the 2016 UNDP Human Development Index, up three ranks from 2014. National poverty rates have increased to 27.8 percent in 2015 from 26.3 percent in 2012.

In the poorest areas of the country, 20 percent of children have never attended school, and a further 13 percent are noted to drop out of school early. Women's illiteracy rate stands at 35 percent compared to 18 percent for men.

As a response to food security challenges, the Government implements a social protection system that provides food subsidies to vulnerable members of the population.

WFP has been in Egypt since 1968.



Population: **96.7 million**

2016 Human Development Index:
111 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower Middle**

Gross National Income per capita:
US\$ 10,980

Operational Updates

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, WFP rehabilitated 116 community schools in May, bringing the total to 1,092 schools since the start of the project. The school rehabilitation aims to create an attractive learning environment while also helping reduce drop-out rates among school children.
- Since October 2017, WFP provided community schools with 3,500 [puppet theatres](#) to help schools raise awareness among children and their families on nutritional foods and healthy dietary habits.
- As part of its climate change adaptation programme, WFP trained 5,093 participants (2,560 women and 2,533 men) on various activities to help enhance their livelihoods and build community resilience to the effects of extreme weather shocks. These activities include physical asset creation, community empowerment, and provision of technical expertise, contributing to better agricultural practices and skills enhancement. As of May 2018, the cumulative number of smallholder farmers and rural women supported is 32,176.
- Under the First 1,000 Days of Life project, as of May, 21,807 pregnant and nursing women have attended their monthly health follow-up visits and registered to receive assistance.
- WFP assisted 77,219 Syrian and Palestinian refugees from Syria through monthly CBT entitlements in the form of food vouchers. WFP food voucher is valued at EGP 400, equivalent to USD 22. WFP also supported 5,800 pregnant and nursing mothers with unconditional cash assistance.

*May figures are based on estimates pending reconciliation from partners' reports.

Main
Photo

Credit: WFP Egypt
Caption: WFP Food Waste Campaign with Carrefour.

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WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirements (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Seven-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June - December)
Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (January - June 2018)		
492.7 m*	43.7 m	30.8 m

*This includes 2018 operational requirements under the CSP, which will be approved in the June Executive Board.

WFP Country Activities

SO 1	Complement the Government's school meals programme by providing nutritious in-school snacks, take-home entitlements and support to related activities.
SO 2	Provide food assistance to refugees and host communities. Provide support to refugees and host communities to improve their resilience and livelihoods.
SO 3	Provide cash-based transfers to pregnant and lactating women, children aged 6-23 months in targeted areas, and support related activities.
SO 4	Provide support to vulnerable communities of smallholders and Bedouins to improve their resilience and livelihoods.
SO 5	Provide technical assistance to the Government to improve implementation of social protection, food security and nutrition programmes.

Monitoring

- In May, WFP conducted a Rapid Monitoring Assessment (RMA) for the First 1,000 Days of Life project in three targeted governorates (Sohag, Assuit, and Qena). The assessment aimed to identify the main gaps and challenges facing the mothers in redeeming their conditional assistance. The assessment included 60 Focus Group Discussions for the registered mothers, and in-depth interviews with healthcare officials in clinics covering the targeted governorates. The assessment showed that the mothers' main source of information for updates on assistance and health concerns was the health clinics and the community leaders. During the assessment, the mothers' main inquiries were about regular health and nutrition information, redemption dates, and distribution sites.
- A baseline survey was conducted on a sample of 600 mothers (from the Syrian refugee and host communities) using phone interviews on a representative sample covering the three targeted governorates. Nearly 56 percent of the survey participants were Syrians and 42 percent were Egyptians. The survey aimed to assess the status quo of the targeted beneficiaries' nutritional status, health, and hygiene practices using two main indicators: the Minimum Acceptable Diet score for children (from 6 to 23 months), and the Dietary Diversity score for Women in the reproductive age.

Challenges

- The price of rice continues to remain high as stocks in the market face shortages especially during Ramadan and will decrease further until the next harvest season. As WFP called forward all remaining stocks in the existing contracts at the previous prices in April, WFP was able to secure stocks at a lower price for all governorates to be covered up until June and some until July. However, for new tenders that will cover demands between July and August, WFP anticipates higher prices.

Gender

- In coordination with the National Council of Women (NCW), WFP conducted a workshop on women's health and nutrition, which was attended by 60 women between the ages of 18 and 35. Participants included female community leaders, NGO staff members, as well as NCW staff. The workshop was conducted by nutrition consultants and a gynaecologist and aimed to change nutrition misconceptions and harmful eating habits developed during childhood and adolescence. During the workshop, WFP conducted awareness sessions on the importance of a diverse and a balanced diet during pregnancy and after childbirth.

First 1,000 Days of Life Project

- In collaboration with the National Council of Women (NCW), WFP trained 120 female volunteers from different NCW branches in several governorates on female reproductive health and nutrition throughout the pregnancy and lactating cycle. WFP also delivered awareness sessions on meal design and practiced healthy meal design tips for the different life stages of women.

Food Waste Campaign with Carrefour

- WFP launched a Food Waste campaign in partnership with Carrefour on 17 May, which marks the start of the holy month of Ramadan where many people tend to excessively purchase and cook food leading to a great deal of food waste. The campaign aims to raise awareness on the issue of food waste and how to avoid and mitigate it. The campaign was kicked off with danglers in all 11 hyper markets of Carrefour across Egypt as well as a social media campaign on both WFP regional platforms and Carrefour's platforms. This campaign comes as part of a collaboration with Carrefour that started in October 2017 and a Social Behaviour Change Communication campaign focusing on the First 1,000 Days of Life.

Donors

Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, European Union, Finland, Germany, Japan, Norway, Sweden, United States and private sector donors.