



WFP Egypt Country Brief October 2018

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

WFP Egypt's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) started on 1 July 2018 and is expected to end on 30 June 2023. The CSP focuses on strengthening national capacity to tackle the underlying causes of vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition while responding to humanitarian needs. WFP supports Egypt's South-South cooperation efforts to foster resilient livelihoods in the region, and this links to Egypt's national priorities in agricultural development and food security.

Egypt is ranked 115 out of 189 countries in the 2017 UNDP Human Development Index, up five 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 assistance to vulnerable members of the population, WFP's programs support these social safety nets through a number of interventions. WFP has been operating in Egypt since 1968.



Population: **94.79 million**

2017 Human Development Index:
115 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **21% of children between 6 and 59 months**

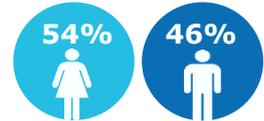
In Numbers

115.9 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$1.8 m cash-based transfers made

US\$17.0 m six months (November 2018 – April 2019) net funding requirements

132,454 people assisted
in October 2018



Operational Updates

- Under the "First 1,000 Days of Life" project, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the Ministry of Health and Population, and the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade, assisted 7,915 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in Assiut, Sohag and Qena Governorates with 7,915 nutritious food baskets. The total value of assistance for October reached EGP 850,862, with food basket value at EGP 107 each. Additionally, between September and October, WFP supported 18,219 PLW through the provision of monthly antenatal care and growth monitoring for PLW and their children as well as through awareness activities.
- To enhance access to education and combat child labour in Egypt, WFP supported 18,675 children attending community schools through take home rations and cash-based transfers in October. Additionally, 74,700 family members received take-home entitlements. As of October, distribution has been taking place in only 5 governorates (Assiut, Luxor, Aswan, Minya, and Sohag) due to insufficient stock of commodities. Governorates no longer covered by the EU fund in year 5 depleted their remaining warehouse stocks, reaching less beneficiaries.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE), WFP rehabilitated 28 community schools, bringing the total to 1,192 community schools since initiation of the School Rehabilitation Project.
- As part of WFP's Syrian refugee response, WFP supported 80,700 refugees from Syria with cash-based transfers (CBTs) through general food assistance (GFA), and nutrition support to 3,705 PLW living in Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta. Each beneficiary received a monthly voucher assistance worth EGP 400 (US\$22).
- WFP successfully trained 300 teachers in Alexandria and 94 teachers in Damietta on positive discipline, emergency preparedness, and nutrition awareness.
- Within the context of WFP's Community Hub Project, coordination meetings with the Directorate of Agriculture, and Directorate of Health in Luxor were carried out to explore the potential for the joint-provision of activities and services in support of community outreach activities.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (November 2018 – April 2019)
454.0 m	16.4 m	17.0 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food insecure and most vulnerable children and families in targeted areas of Egypt have access to food all year round.

Focus area: *Root causes of food insecurity, vulnerability and inadequate education*

Activities:

- Support and complement the Government’s social protection programmes to ensure the food and nutritional needs of school children are met.
- Provide livelihood and capacity strengthening activities to urban and rural communities, especially adolescent youth.

Strategic Outcome 2: Food insecure refugees, displaced populations and host communities in Egypt have access to adequate food all year round.

Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Activities:

- Provide food and nutrition assistance and activities that build resilience to refugees, displaced populations, and host communities.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Targeted populations in Egypt have improved nutritional status by 2030.

Focus area: *Root causes of the double burden of malnutrition*

Activities:

- Support and complement the Government’s programmes to nutritionally vulnerable communities (with focus on pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-23 months) in targeted areas, and support related activities such as awareness raising.

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 4: Vulnerable smallholder farmer and Bedouin communities in targeted Governorates of Egypt have resilient livelihoods by 2030.

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activities:

- Provide support to vulnerable smallholder farmer and Bedouin communities to improve their resilience through technology transfer, market-access training, diversification of livelihoods, and the creation and rehabilitation of assets.

Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 5: The Government of Egypt has enhanced capacity to target and assist vulnerable populations and share its experience with selected countries to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.

Focus area: *Root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition*

Activities:

- Provide institutional capacity strengthening to the Government and develop innovative solutions to enhance social protection and resilience building programmes and systems.
- Facilitate regional and international knowledge and technological exchanges between countries to achieve common development goals.

Monitoring

- WFP conducted focus group discussions (FGDs) with mothers who are benefiting from the “First 1,000 Days of Life” project in Sohag and Qena. People assisted have stated that they regularly attend health check-ups and receive food assistance. However, they have expressed that despite the benefit and usefulness of the food assistance, they have faced growing needs for more support as members of the most vulnerable and poor communities.
- WFP conducted FGDs with Syrian mothers living in 6th of October and 10th of Ramadan district. Results showed that mothers interviewed are highly satisfied with the project. They noted that they have benefitted most from the cost reduction of having regular check-ups and the efficiency of doctors at the health clinics. The assisted Syrian mothers also expressed their appreciation for the food assistance as this has helped alleviate the economic burden of buying food at rising market prices. On the other hand, mothers requested the provision of medicine and childcare products, an increase value for food vouchers, and the extension of days for voucher redemption, as well as WFP’s programme duration. The assisted Syrian mothers also stressed the need to extend assistance to Egyptian mothers as they are also in need and it would consequently enhance social cohesion with the hosting community.

Challenges

- With the launch of the Country Strategic Plan in 2018, WFP Egypt is actively mobilizing resources to fund the 5-year plan. Yet, financing the first year of the CSP has proven to be challenging, particularly for the school meals programme in community schools and “First 1,000 Days of Life” intervention, which has gained momentum with the full commitment of three ministries.

HerStory Edit-a-thon

- In collaboration with WFP and UN Women, more than 200 students from the Assiut University in Egypt edited content to overcome the online information gap on gender and food security. The edit-a-thon encouraged students to edit and draft articles for the Arabic Wikipedia Website with the aim to address the limited presence of women in historical records.

Donors

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