



WFP Egypt Country Brief January 2019

In Numbers

535,344 people assisted
in January 2019



922.93 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1.86 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 13.6 m six months (February-July 2019) net funding requirements

Operational Context

WFP Egypt's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) started on 01 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. Further, the CSP promotes the exchange of knowledge and best practices on food security and nutrition through South-South Cooperation.

Egypt is ranked 115 of 189 countries in the 2018 United Nations Development Programme Human Development Index, up five ranks from 2014. National poverty rates 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 expected to drop out of school in their early years of education. Women's illiteracy rate stands at 35 percent compared to 18 percent for men.

As a response to food security challenges, the Government implements an extensive social protection system that assists vulnerable members of the population. WFP's programmes support these social safety nets through various interventions. WFP has been operating in Egypt since 1968.



Population: **94.79 million**

2018 Human Development Index:
115 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **21.4% of children between 6 and 59 months**

Operational Updates

- WFP provided fortified date bars to 74,194 children attending 3,098 community schools in 8 governorates. Take-home entitlements of rice were provided to family members of children with school attendance of 80 percent or more, reaching 352,165 beneficiaries.
- WFP supported 691 mothers of community school children through micro-loans, supporting the creation of income-generating activities.
- As part of WFP's education enhancement activities, WFP distributed 48 puppet theatres to 24 public schools in Alexandria as innovative and expressive tools to educate children on nutrition, healthy living and other related topics.
- In partnership with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, WFP trained 142 members of Child Protection Committees and Protection Units on child labour case management.
- WFP completed physical school rehabilitation work in 15 public primary schools hosting Syrian refugee students in Alexandria and Damietta, benefitting approximately 15,000 students.
- Under WFP's Syrian refugee response, WFP supported 78,060 refugees from Syria through food assistance in the form of cash-based transfers. Other support included provision of livelihood activities; and nutrition support to 3,894 pregnant and lactating women.
- In preparation for the next phase of the "First 1,000 Days" Programme, WFP is working with government partners to lead the development of a plan for nutrition counselling support within the scope of a social and behavioural change strategy and related nutrition counselling and awareness-raising interventions.
- WFP held consultation meetings with various stakeholders and community-based organizations to discuss a 6-month activity plan for WFP community hubs.

Egypt Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
458.4 m	52.1 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February – July 2019)
98.8 m	13.6 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 the resilience of 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 of WFP's school feeding activities indicated that students' average attendance rate is 94 percent, surpassing the project target of 80 percent. However, the enrolment rate increased by only 1 percent in 2018 compared to 2017 due to the decrease in assisted schools. Still, the retention rate remained high (98 percent), with a 25 percent decrease in teachers reporting drop-out students in 2018 compared to 2017.
- Findings of the 'First 1000 Days' programme revealed that 55 percent of sampled assisted mothers are achieving the Minimum Diet Diversity for Women, indicating an improvement in nutritious consumption. While noting that assistance is highly essential, some beneficiaries expressed the need for the expansion of food basket contents, and the selection of closer retailers to minimize transportation costs.
- Outcome monitoring for refugees from Syria indicated that assisted households achieved a 92.5 percent acceptable food consumption score, compared to 85 percent in Q3-2017. Yet, about 20 percent of beneficiaries allocated more than 65 percent of their monthly budget to food (including voucher value), increasing their sensitivity to market fluctuations. Additionally, 38 percent of Syrian Children are achieving the Minimum Acceptable Diet for children (6 to 23 months), marking a 10 percent increase when compared to a 28 percent baseline value in May 2018. Although 82 percent of beneficiaries are satisfied with WFP assistance, beneficiaries expressed the need for the increase of voucher value, and an extension of the redemption period.

Challenges

- Due to funding shortages, as of November 2018, WFP's school feeding operation was reduced to cover 92,000 children in community schools in 9 governorates instead of 120,000 children in 16 governorates. Moreover, school feeding activities in the Giza governorate are on hold pending Government clearance of WFP's cooperating partner.
- Given limited resources, WFP is pursuing funding opportunities for the 'First 1,000 Days' nutrition programme.
- Vocational trainings under Strategic Outcome 2 are expected to face a pipeline break starting March 2019.

Highlight: WFP Partnership with the National Nutrition Institute

WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Nutrition Institute (NNI), the Government's leading entity in nutrition. The NNI and WFP will exchange expertise, specialist knowledge and good practices on food security, health and nutrition. This includes supporting the National Nutrition strategy, and the development of national nutrition guidelines and communication material.

Donors

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