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.

Operational Updates

- WFP provided fortified date bars to 83,278 children attending 3,091 community schools in 8 governorates. Take-home rations (THR) of rice were provided to family members of community-school children with school attendance of 80 percent or more, reaching 416,390 beneficiaries. Starting in February 2019, WFP provided fortified date bars to over 3,000 public schools in 8 governorates, reaching about 1.5 million students.

- 100 puppet theatres were distributed to 100 public primary schools (hosting Syrian children) in Cairo, as innovative and expressive tools to educate children on nutrition, healthy living and other related topics. Further, WFP trained 576 teachers in Alexandria and 96 teachers in Damietta on nutrition, positive discipline and emergency preparedness.

- As part of the school rehabilitation programme, WFP completed physical school rehabilitation work in 11 community schools in Sohag, benefitting approximately 300 students.

- WFP supported 315 mothers of community school children through micro-loans, supporting the creation of income-generating activities, with 211 mothers receiving micro-loans for the first time and 104 mothers renewing their loans.

- Under WFP’s Syrian refugee response, WFP supported 77,893 refugees from Syria through food assistance. Other support included provision of livelihood activities; and nutrition support to 3,953 pregnant and lactating women.

- Following the Government’s request, WFP is providing technical support for national nutrition platforms to ensure the presence of updated and credible sources of nutrition information for the general public.

- WFP collaborated with Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation to train 1,840 Bedouins in Matrouh and Red Sea Governorates on various topics such as health, nutrition, literacy, asset creation and income generation. WFP also provided smallholder farmers in 40 communities with a comprehensive package of activities to improve their productive capacity and increase their income.

In Numbers

- 1,980,290 people assisted in February 2019
- 795.18 mt of food assistance distributed
- US$ 1.86 m cash-based transfers (CBT) made
- US$ 24.4 m six months (March-August 2019) net funding requirements
Egypt Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>458.4 m</td>
<td>54.2 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 Requirements (in USD)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February–July 2019)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98.8 m</td>
<td>24.4 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 3:** 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 monitoring of assisted community schools in Q4 2018 revealed that the attendance rate for both boys and girls is 95 percent, 5 percent higher than Q4 2017, exceeding the project target of 80 percent. Thirty percent of teachers reported that the main cause of absence for girls is having to take care of house chores, while it is due to work for boys. Assisted families and children are among the most vulnerable, with 46 percent of families depending on unstable day jobs and 47 percent of the families interviewed being illiterate. Because of this, 35 percent of teachers reported having children drop-out of school, mainly to work and support their families (for boys) or to get married and move out (for girls).

- Around 54 percent of surveyed families prefer THRs as a modality of assistance as it provides essential rice and oil and does not require them to travel to local retailers which are sometimes far to reach. 33 of the families preferred to receive CBT as it provides a variety of food times they can purchase, while 13 percent preferred receiving cash in hand to allow them to payoff other living expenses and debt.

- It is worth noting that 95 percent of families receiving CBT or THRs positively evaluated WFP assistance and its quality, with 98 percent of teachers indicating that children eat the fortified date bars daily.

**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 and assistance for pregnant and lactating women under Strategic Outcome 2 are expected to face a pipeline break starting in March 2019.

**Highlight: European Union Delegation visits WFP's Community Schools in Luxor**

In February 2019, a delegation from the European Union (EU) in Egypt visited some of WFP’s ongoing projects in Luxor Governorate. The field visit highlighted the results achieved under the EU funded five-year project ‘Enhancing Access of Children to Education and Fighting Child Labour’. During the visit, representatives visited WFP’s rehabilitated community schools and engaged with beneficiaries including children, mothers of community-school children who have initiated their own income generating activities and teachers who have improved their teaching capacity as a results of WFP’s teacher trainings.

**Donors**

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