



## WFP Egypt Country Brief March 2019

### 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. Furthermore, 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: **98.1 million**  
(CAPMAS, Jan 2019)

2018 Human Development Index:  
**115 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

### In Numbers

**2,699,876 people assisted**  
in March 2019



**858.64 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 1.9 m** cash-based transfers (CBT) made

**US\$ 23.1 m** six months (April-September 2019) net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

- WFP provided fortified date bars to more than 2 million children in over 4,000 public primary schools and 89,222 children attending 3,193 community schools (mostly in Upper Egypt). Moreover, conditional take-home entitlements of rice and oil were provided to family members of community-school children, reaching 404,570 beneficiaries.
- WFP empowered 667 mothers of community school children through micro-loans, facilitating the creation of income-generating activities such as perfume and handicrafts making.
- As part of ongoing education enhancement activities, WFP organized 15 puppet plays on bullying through WFP-provided puppet theatres in 15 public schools hosting Syrian refugee children in Alexandria, increasing awareness among 1,738 children. WFP also trained 732 teachers in Alexandria, Damietta and Qaliobia on nutrition, positive discipline and emergency preparedness. Additionally, 300 teachers were trained on development of educational tools, pedagogy, and supporting children's rights and social cohesion through education and arts.
- Among efforts to combat child labour, WFP conducted 7 training workshops on child labour, reaching 232 child protection workers, including child protection committee members, community workers and non-governmental organizations in Matrouh, Qaliobia, Minya, Qena, Sohag and Luxor. Additionally, WFP supported the activation of 100 tablets for labour inspectors to monitor child labour and refer vulnerable children to child protection committees.
- Under WFP's Syrian refugee response, WFP supported 77,841 refugees from Syria through food assistance. Other support included provision of livelihood activities, and nutrition support to 3,861 pregnant and lactating women (PLW).
- At the Government's request, and as part of the Presidential Initiative on health, WFP provides technical support to advocate for healthier school children and supports the National Nutrition Institute (NNI) through credible sources of nutrition information for their website. In addition to purchasing 200 haemoglobin screening devices for the Health Insurance Authority, WFP is providing the NNI with anthropometric analysis tools for the national nutrition assessment on students testing against anaemia, obesity and stunting and is co-branded on the different disseminated media messages.

**Photo Caption:** WFP Executive Director David Beasley visits one of WFP's assisted community schools. ©WFP/Mohammad Gamal

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## Egypt Country Strategic Plan (2018–2023)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>458.4 m</b>	<b>54.6 m</b>
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (April–September 2019)
<b>98.8 m</b>	<b>23.1 m</b>

### 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.

- WFP carried out monitoring visits to 150 assisted public primary schools in 10 governorates in February and March 2019. The teams conducted interviews with teachers and inspected storage of WFP fortified date bars. Among those interviewed, 29 percent remarked that the fortified snacks affected student's attendance positively, 16 percent noted it had improved their cognitive capacity, while 12 percent had not noticed any difference. Of the interviewed teachers, 6 percent received trainings from WFP on health and nutrition; however, teachers requested additional trainings on supply chain, food safety and storage.
- WFP conducted process monitoring and focus group discussions in Damietta and 6th of October City. Results indicated that General Food Assistance beneficiaries were highly reliant on WFP's food assistance. The groups requested increasing the voucher value, extending the redemption period and the provision of more livelihood trainings. The majority of assisted PLW noted that they found WFP's assistance very useful. Some mothers requested an increase in voucher value and recommended extending support to vulnerable host-community members. Likewise, participants of WFP's livelihood activities were highly satisfied, noting the usefulness of the courses and requested the provision of additional courses.

## Highlights: WFP Executive Director visits Egypt

- The four-day visit to Egypt was the first by a WFP Executive Director (ED) since 2003. Over the course of the visit, the ED met with the President of Egypt, held a press conference, attended a reception with donors and partners, met with the Governor of Luxor and carried out field visits to WFP projects in Luxor. The ED's visit highlighted the successful partnership between WFP and the Government of Egypt and confirmed the organization's commitment to further support the country's sustainable development agenda through the potential scaleup of its flagship projects.

## Canadian delegation visits WFP-assisted public schools

- A delegation from the Global Affairs Canada and the Canadian Ambassador to Egypt visited a WFP-assisted public primary school attended by Syrian and Egyptian children in Alexandria. The field visit highlighted results achieved under the Canadian-funded four-year project 'School Feeding for Syrian Refugees and Host Community Children'. The visited school is among 570 schools supported through this project through school feeding, physical rehabilitation, teachers' training, and awareness-raising activities for Syrian and Egyptian mothers.

## 1,000 Days nutrition awareness campaign in Carrefour

- In March, the second phase of the 1,000 Days of Life nutrition awareness campaign was launched at Carrefour hypermarkets, with a focus on anemia, obesity, stunting, breastfeeding and complementary feeding. In addition to the display of awareness materials, live cooking shows were conducted on weekends with celebrity chefs promoting nutritious recipes for children 1 year of age and above and nutrition counselling sessions were provided by the Maternal and Child Friendly Care Association.

## Donors

European Union, Germany, United States, Canada, Private Sector, Japan, Egypt, Norway, Finland