



WFP Egypt Country Brief April 2019

In Numbers

2,325,910 people assisted
in April 2019



1,113.7 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1.97 m cash-based transfers (CBT) made

US\$ 28.5 m six months (May-October 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. 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**

Operational Updates

- As part of the National School Feeding Programme, WFP provided fortified date bars to more than 1.8 million children in over 3,400 public primary schools and 85,580 children in 3,152 community schools. Conditional take-home rations of rice and oil were provided to 389,445 family members of community-school children.
- WFP organized 25 puppet plays on bullying and provided 50 wooden puppet theatres in public schools hosting Syrian refugee children in Cairo and Alexandria, reaching 5,500 children.
- To enhance teachers' capacity, WFP trained 32 teachers on nutrition, positive discipline and emergency preparedness, and 300 teachers on pedagogy, and the promotion of children's rights and social cohesion.
- As part of WFP's Community Hub initiative in Luxor, WFP transformed 9 community schools into 'smart' schools using educational technologies.
- WFP provided microloans to 727 mothers of community school children, allowing for income-generating activities and strengthened the capacity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Government partners on livelihood support programming.
- Among efforts to combat child labour, WFP conducted 14 training workshops on child labour, reaching 436 Labour Inspectors and Child Protection Committee members in Behira, Qalubiyah, Minya, Qena, Assiut and Cairo.
- WFP initiated the physical upgrading of 116 community schools to benefit about 3,000 students.
- Within WFP's Syrian refugee response, WFP supported 77,845 refugees through food assistance. Other support included livelihood trainings and nutrition support to about 3,900 pregnant and lactating women.
- In collaboration with the National Nutrition Institute, WFP trained 3,500 mothers of public-school students on child nutrition.
- As part of the Presidential Initiative "100 Million Health", WFP provided technical support and is co-branded in the Presidential Initiative for healthy students. The campaign's public service announcements are disseminated on billboards and popular TV channels during daily peak times.

Photo Caption: WFP provides holistic education enhancement activities at community schools. ©WFP/Mohammad Gamal

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Egypt Country Strategic Plan (2018–2023)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
458.4 m	55.8 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (May–October 2019)
98.8 m	28.5 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

- Since the start of 2019, WFP has conducted monitoring visits to 240 assisted community schools and 340 households, measuring the effect of school feeding assistance on children and their families. According to the monitoring surveys, 89 percent of teachers stated that children eat the date bars on a daily basis, and 84 percent noted that they have had a positive effect on the children's health. Also, the attendance rate in community schools stood at 92 percent (exceeding the target of 80 percent). Household surveys revealed that 91 percent of families were satisfied with the assistance. However, families requested an increase in the value of assistance to help cope with rising market prices.
- The first quarter of the 2019 Food Security Outcome Monitoring survey for refugees coming from Syria revealed that assisted refugees maintained positive food consumption patterns, compared to non-assisted refugees. It was also noted the better Diet Diversity Score of beneficiaries as compared to non-beneficiaries. In preparation for the start of humanitarian assistance to non-Syrian refugees in Egypt, WFP conducted six Focus Group Discussions with 68 African refugees in Giza and 6th of October, in coordination with UNHCR.

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. WFP is also seeking funding opportunities for the 'First 1,000 Days' nutrition programme.

Highlights

WFP private sector partnerships

- WFP signed an agreement with Shell Oil, supporting the provision of a comprehensive package of assistance through WFP's School Feeding Programme for vulnerable communities in Matrouh Governorate.
- PepsiCo, a long-standing WFP partner, has launched a new phase of its partnership with WFP with a contribution of USD 815,000 to the "Tomouh" programme, supporting 3,000 school children and 16,500 family members through WFP's School Feeding Programme.

WFP Open Day

- WFP hosted an Open Day Event providing a range of highly interactive sessions including a plenary session on partnership models, and sessions on youth and women empowerment. The event allowed for engaging discussions on solutions and innovations to the most pressing challenges of achieving Zero Hunger. WFP also held its first 'Shark Tank' session, during which teams presented creative solutions to Egypt's social and economic challenges. Moreover, the event featured interactive booths presenting WFP's projects in Egypt and a bazaar for the promotion of products handmade by beneficiaries.