



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Egypt Country Brief April 2020

In Numbers

US\$4.2 m cash based transfers made

US\$50.6 m six months (June - November 2020) net funding requirements

234,384 people assisted
in April 2020



Operational Context

WFP Egypt's Country Strategic Plan (CSP), from July 2018 to 30 June 2023, focuses on strengthening national capacity to tackle 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 and Triangular Cooperation.

Egypt is ranked 116 out of 189 countries in the 2018 Human Development Index (HDI). Between 1990 and 2018, Egypt's HDI value increased from 0.546 to 0.700, an increase of 28.1 percent. Moreover, Egypt is ranked 55 out of 113 countries for the 2019 Global Food Security Index, up 6 ranks compared to 2018 (2019 EIU). However, national poverty rates increased to 32.5 percent in 2018 compared to 27.8 percent in 2015.

In regard to gender equality, Egypt ranks 134 out of 153 on the 2020 Global Gender Gap Index. According to the United Nations International Labor Organization, the rate of youth not in education, employment or training (NEET) was approximately 26.9 percent in 2017. This phenomenon disproportionately affects women, particularly in rural areas where the NEET rate is 37.5 percent for women compared to 20.2 percent for men.

As a response to food security challenges, the Government of Egypt 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.



2018 Human Development Index:
116 out of 189

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

Population: **99.8 million (CAPMAS, Jan 2020)**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Operational Updates

- As of 30 April 2020 a total of 5,537 COVID-19 cases and 392 deaths were confirmed (WHO).
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and due to schools' closure, distribution of in-school date bar snacks has been temporarily halted. Upon request from the Ministry of Social Solidarity, WFP distributed the remainder of produced date bar stock to orphanages and elderly homes in need.
- About 17,000 families of community school students and teachers received unconditional cash transfers in 7 governorates (Menia, Giza, Matrouh, Assiut, Aswan, Luxor and Fayoum) in April. The assistance aims to protect the livelihoods of vulnerable families from the economic shock resulting from the COVID-19 crisis.
- A national situation analysis on adolescents and youth was developed and discussed with national partners. The study reviews international trends in adolescents and youth development, and national strategies, policies, systems, programmes and related initiatives by the Government of Egypt. It also looks at the existing potential, challenges and development needs of adolescents and youth to improve their social and economic opportunities, focusing on food insecurity, vulnerability and inadequate education.
- In response to growing needs due to COVID-19, WFP extended general food assistance (GFA) to an additional 20,000 vulnerable refugees identified in partnership with UNHCR. In collaboration with the Ministry of Manpower, GFA was also provided to 40,512 casual labour workers, adding to a total of about 147,779 refugees, asylum seekers and casual labour workers in April.
- Additionally, WFP extended nutrition support to non-Syrian refugee pregnant and lactating women, reaching a total of 3,989 women and their infants under 2 years of age with unconditional cash entitlements. However, due to safety restrictions, food for training activities for refugees and host communities has been temporarily halted.
- Due to the COVID-19 crisis, smallholder farmer activities that involve large gatherings have been postponed until further notice. Meanwhile WFP Egypt supported about 2,200 smallholder farmers to improve their production and returns through land consolidation, improved irrigation and provision of new crops and varieties seeds.

Photo Caption: In collaboration with PepsiCo's Tomouh's programme, WFP distributed hygiene kits to families in the governorates of Assiut, Menia and Giza. ©WFP

Contact info: Christine Hanna (christine.hanna@wfp.org)
Country Director: Menghestab Haile
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/egypt

Egypt Country Strategic Plan (2018–2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
555.4 m	109 m
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June– Nov.)
115.3 m	50.6 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.

- In addition, about 1,100 smallholder men and women (who had previously completed the required training) received in-kind micro-loans to start up their livestock business.

- As part of WFP's #UNitedWeEat movement, WFP Egypt provided a live session on WFP's regional Facebook account on healthy eating habits during Ramadan and nutrition during the COVID-19 crisis ([link here](#)). To complement the nutrition session, a live session was held with celebrity Chef Sherif Afifi, presenting healthy recipes and tips on WFP's regional Instagram account.

Challenges

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent Government of Egypt emergency response measures, WFP Egypt is communicating and monitoring updates, security measures and operations on a daily basis with the Government and other UN agencies operating to ensure a coordinated approach leveraging resources of all stakeholders. WFP has developed an emergency response plan to respond to the Government's request for support and will need the generous support of donors to mobilize the required resources to maintain and upscale its immediate response.

Highlights

WFP Egypt launches first cycle of COVID-19 assistance for casual labour workers

In support of the Ministry of Manpower, WFP launched its first monthly cash assistance of EGP 500, targeting about 52,000 registered casual workers, of which 40,500 redeemed their assistance. The assistance was launched on 12 April 2020 in 9 governorates. To avoid crowding at the Fawry retailer outlets WFP divided the distribution process over 5 slots that extended between 12-30 April. WFP's assistance runs as part of the Ministry of Manpower temporary cash assistance to casual labour workers provided via post offices and Agricultural Bank of Egypt branches benefitting over 2 million people.

WFP and PepsiCo provide sanitary kits to families in need

PepsiCo Foundation through its Tomouh programme and in partnership with WFP Egypt distributed food vouchers and hygiene kits among 6,000 vulnerable families in the governorates of Assiut, Menia and Giza. The kits containing bars of soap and instructions on proper hand washing techniques, were received through local retailers where families of community school children also redeem their food vouchers.

Egypt and Italy sign agreement for Social Protection and Human Capital Development in Luxor

Egypt and Italy signed an agreement worth EGP 42 million for Social Protection and Human Capital Development in Luxor within the framework of the Egyptian-Italian debt swap programme and in cooperation with WFP. The project aims to protect food security through an integrated package that targets the families of community school children and other vulnerable families in Luxor.

Donors

(In alphabetical order) [Australia](#), [Egypt](#), [European Union](#), [Finland](#), [Germany](#), [Ireland](#), [Mastercard](#), [NEPAD](#), [Netherlands](#), [Norway](#), [PepsiCo](#), [Shell](#), [United States](#)