



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Egypt Country Brief May 2020

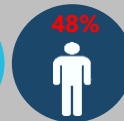
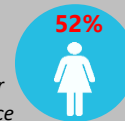
In Numbers

7.3 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$4.5 m cash based transfers made

US\$77.5 m six months (July – Dec 2020) net funding requirements

305,393 people assisted
in May 2020



Note: cash-based transfer value and number of people assisted are estimates as assistance is ongoing at time of publication.

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 31 May 2020 a total of 23,449 COVID-19 cases and 913 deaths were confirmed (WHO).
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, about 29,000 families of community school students and teachers received unconditional cash transfers in 9 governorates (Assiut, Aswan, Luxor, Giza, Fayoum, Matrouh, Qena, Bani Suweif and Minia) redeemable for nutritious food items at local retail shops. The assistance aims to protect the food security of vulnerable families from economic shock resulting from the COVID-19 crisis.
- WFP took part in the first online regional webinar on the reopening of schools in the Arab region under the “Global and Regional Framework for Reopening Schools” (an interagency regional collaboration between WFP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNWA, UNHCR and the World Bank). During the webinar, Egypt’s Minister of Education presented the online education programme being implemented and highlighted challenges in limited access to internet, remote learning modalities and limited teaching capacities for online learning.
- To alleviate the impact of COVID-19 on the food security and livelihoods of refugees, WFP provided general food assistance (GFA) to about 113,000 refugees and asylum seekers. Additionally, in collaboration with the Ministry of Manpower, WFP completed the second cycle of GFA for casual labour workers, reaching about 44,000 Egyptian workers with unconditional cash transfers redeemable for nutritious food items at local retail shops.
- Additionally, WFP extended nutrition support to non-Syrian refugee pregnant and lactating women, reaching about 4,000 women and their infants under 2 years of age with unconditional cash assistance.
- Due to the COVID-19 crisis, smallholder farmer activities that involve large gatherings have been postponed until further notice. Meanwhile WFP supported about 2,700 smallholder farmers to improve their production and returns through land consolidation, improved irrigation and provision of new crops and seed varieties.

Photo Caption: WFP Egypt promotes women empowerment through women-led sun-drying units, helping provide women with a source of income to support their families. ©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)
586 m	116 m
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July- Dec.)
147 m	77.5 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.

- WFP also provided in-kind microloans of ducks, goats or bees to 1,100 smallholder women and men after having completed the necessary trainings to help diversify their agriculture-based livelihoods.

Monitoring

- In response to challenges brought about by COVID-19, WFP conducted a rapid assessment with a sample of 200 women who had received WFP microloans in 6 governorates through partner NGOs. Results showed that the COVID-19 crisis had already severely impacted the women's livelihoods with 68 percent reporting decreased activity due to limited working hours and 76 percent reporting that their household income had been affected due to their husband's irregular employment. As a result women reported having resorted to negative coping strategies such as the stopping of the economic activity (12 percent) and not being able to repay due loan instalments. In response, WFP's partner NGOs are providing a grace period with no penalty for women facing difficulties in repaying loan instalments.

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 and UNICEF joint campaign on health and nutrition in times of COVID-19

From 16-25 May 2020, WFP, UNICEF and WHO kicked off a joint COVID-19 digital campaign utilizing social media platforms of [WFP](#) and [UNICEF's](#) platforms. The online nutrition-focused campaign provided content on food safety, how to properly disinfect household items and how to prepare healthy meals at home for improved immunity.

WFP partners with Seedstars on "Its Easier Online Hackathon"

Under the theme "It's Easier Online" WFP partnered with Seedspace on the online hackathon for solutions to improve digital and financial inclusion among the informal sector, as well as Egypt's rural farmers. The initiative also aims to facilitate economic empowerment and tackle youth unemployment by connecting consumers and farmers to agri-markets. With three top prizes of EGP 200,000 each, and two runner up cash gifts of EGP 20,000, this is an opportunity for start-ups that leverage the internet and technology to get their businesses off ground. The deadline for the call for applications is 18 June 2020, to find out more [click here](#).

Donors

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