



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Egypt Country Brief June 2020



In Numbers

US\$4.9 m cash based transfers made

US\$54.8 m six months (August 2020 - January 2021) net funding requirements

688,882 people assisted* in June 2020



*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 27.1 percent in 2018. This phenomenon disproportionately affects women, particularly in rural areas where the NEET rate is 40.1 percent for women compared to 19.4 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.

Operational Updates

- As of 30 June 2020 a total of 68,311 COVID-19 cases and 2,953 deaths were confirmed in Egypt (WHO).
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, about 39,000 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.
- As part of WFP's women economic empowerment programmes, WFP provided partner NGOs with technical and administrative advice to be followed upon the disbursement of loans benefiting women. In June 2020, 3 NGOs have begun providing about 350 women with micro-loans for income generating activities at a total value of EGP 1.9 million. WFP also instructed all participating NGOs to follow the Ministry of Health's and WHO guidance on COVID-19 social distancing and hygiene measures.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Manpower and Ministry of Local Development, WFP's second cycle of general food assistance (GFA) for about 250,000 family members of Egyptian casual labour workers was extended during the month of June. This extension was to allow for more time for the redemption of unconditional cash transfers for nutritious food items at local retail shops.
- Similarly, WFP extended the redemption period of its May cycle of GFA reaching about 111,000 refugees and of nutrition support (unconditional cash assistance) for about 6,500 refugee pregnant and lactating women and their infants under 2 years of age during the month of June. The assisted refugees come from 9 different nationalities.
- Due to the COVID-19 crisis, smallholder farmer activities that involve large gatherings have been postponed until further notice. Meanwhile, WFP supported about 2,900 smallholder farmers to improve their production and returns through land consolidation, improved irrigation and provision of new crops and seed varieties.
- WFP also provided in-kind microloans of ducks, goats or bees to about 300 smallholder women and men after having completed the necessary trainings to help diversify their agriculture-based livelihoods.



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

Photo Caption: WFP supports smallholder farmers to improve their agricultural production as a means to provide sustainable and improved livelihood for rural families. ©WFP/Mahmoud Mohamed

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Egypt Country Strategic Plan (2018–2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
586 m	117 m
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July- December)
147 m	54.8 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.

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 the Ministry of Social Solidarity launch the First 1,000 Days programme

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS), WFP launched the First 1,000 Days programme to provide cash assistance to help secure the basic needs of about 110,000 households. This includes the nutrition needs of about 41,000 Egyptian women and children under the Ministry's Takaful & Karama social protection programme with a top-up value of EGP 200 per month. Additionally about 76,000 female-headed and other households rejected by the Ministry's social safety net will receive monthly cash assistance of EGP 400 to protect them from socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

Egypt's Ministry of International Cooperation praises WFP's COVID-19 response efforts

Egypt's Minister of International Cooperation, Dr. Rania El Mashat, praised WFP's plan from April 2020 to August 2020 to help mitigate the socio economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic with a total budget of USD 47 million assisting vulnerable households in collaboration with the different Ministries of Social Solidarity, Education, Foreign Affairs, Emigration, Manpower and Local Development. The Minister of International Cooperation and WFP Representative in Egypt re-affirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in the fields of social protection and food security as well as working together towards adapting to innovative solutions to maintain momentum towards achieving Egypt's Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Egypt's Cabinet approves the establishment of the Luxor center to enhance innovation in Upper Egypt

On 25 June 2020, the Prime Minister formally approved the decision for the establishment of the 'Luxor Coordination Centre for Knowledge Sharing and Innovation to Promote Resilience in Upper Egypt'. Through the Centre, WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation and other governmental entities, will help facilitate the exchange of best practices and innovations among governmental and civil society institutions, academia and research institutions, as well as with neighboring countries. The exchange of knowledge and expertise will aim to address the needs of local communities, especially those in rural areas who are highly exposed to social, economic and environmental shocks.

Donors

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