



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Egypt Country Brief July 2020

## In Numbers

US\$6 m cash based transfers made

US\$53 m six months (September 2020 - February 2021) net funding requirements

783,000 people assisted  
in July 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 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.



2018 Human Development Index:  
**116 out of 189**

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

Population: **100.1 million (CAPMAS, March 2020)**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

### Operational Updates

- As of 30 July 2020 a total of 93,757 COVID-19 cases and 4,774 deaths were confirmed in Egypt (WHO), The Government is gradually easing lockdown measures for a resumption of normal activities.
- About 30,000 families of community school students and teachers received unconditional cash transfers in 10 governorates 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 Egypt in coordination with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Immigration and Expatriates Affairs launched the first online training programme for community schoolteachers under the Presidential 'Life Saving Boats' initiative for safe migration. The training carried out in the governorate of Assiut ranged from basic ICT skills to awareness raising on irregular migration and safe alternatives for migration.
- WFP and its partner NGOs resumed loan disbursement in the governorates of Minia, Fayoum, Assiut, Luxor, Qena and Bani Suef, with a total disbursement of about EGP 5 million in July 2020. WFP continues to provide NGOs with technical support to ensure the safety of both NGO staff and beneficiaries.
- Similarly, WFP extended the redemption period of GFA for about 108,000 refugees as well as that of nutrition support (unconditional cash assistance) to about 6,000 pregnant and lactating refugee women and their infants under 2 years of age in July. The assisted refugees come from 9 different nationalities.
- In support of the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS), WFP provided monthly cash assistance of EGP 400 to 76,000 vulnerable beneficiaries who were excluded from the Takaful and Karama national social protection programme. The assistance mainly targets vulnerable female-headed households and widows.
- As part of the 'First 1,000 days' national programme, WFP in collaboration with MOSS, supported about 38,000 children under two years of age and lactating mothers with a monthly cash top up of EGP 200 to the 'Takaful & Karama' national social protection system. This support aims to cushion the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on poor Egyptian families.

**Photo Caption:** WFP provides cash-based transfers to families in need in the governorate of Matrouh, helping alleviate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. ©WFP

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## Egypt Country Strategic Plan (2018–2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>586.4 m</b>	<b>117 m</b>
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (September 2020- February 2021)
<b>147 m</b>	<b>53 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
- Provide crisis assistance to local populations affected by COVID-19

### 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.

- Due to the COVID-19 crisis, smallholder farmer activities that involve large gatherings have been postponed until further notice. Meanwhile, WFP supported about 500 smallholder farmers to

improve their production and returns through technical support in land consolidation, improved irrigation and provision of new crops and seed varieties.

- WFP and its partner Community Development Associations (CDAs) also provided in-kind microloans of ducks, goats and bees to about 380 rural women and men after having completed the necessary trainings to help diversify their agriculture-based livelihoods.
- WFP Egypt launched its collaboration with the Government of Egypt to extend resilience support activities to smallholder farmers in 60 villages by end of 2024 under the ‘*Strengthening Climate Resilience and Food Security through Livelihood Enhancement and Rural Innovation*’ project funded by the Netherlands Government.

## Challenges

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent Government of Egypt plans and actions, WFP has developed an emergency response plan to respond to the Government’s request for support. WFP is actively seeking the generous support of donors to mobilize required resources to maintain and upscale its response.

## Highlights

### Egypt’s Prime Minister visits WFP-funded activities in South Sinai

On 21 July 2020, the Prime Minister of Egypt and an accompanying delegation from the Ministries of Tourism and Antiquities, Housing, Local Development, Health and Population, Environment, Civil Aviation and the Governor of South Sinai toured activities under the ‘*Integrated Agricultural Development*’ project funded by WFP and implemented by the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development . The project aims to support Bedouin communities of Saint Catherine, South Sinai in building their resilience to socio-economic shocks through enhanced agriculture development and innovative techniques. The Prime Minister affirmed the importance of the project in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and in supporting youth employment for Bedouin communities.

### WFP Egypt launches a EURO 15 million project in Egypt with the German Development Bank

WFP Egypt received a generous contribution of EURO 15 million from the Egyptian-German Debt Swap Programme for 2020-2021. WFP and its government partners will use the fund to support 136,000 poor families with their nutrition and education needs and provide income generation opportunities for women and youth. The ‘*Investing in Human Capital in Rural Upper Egypt*’ project will also build the resilience of families to cope with the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. (Link to press release in [English](#) and [Arabic](#))

## Donors

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