



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Egypt Country Brief August 2020

## In Numbers

USD 4.8 m cash based transfers made

USD 54 m six months (October 2020 - March 2021)  
net funding requirements

549,000 people assisted  
in August 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 2019 Human Development Index (HDI). Between 1990 and 2019, 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.



2019 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 August 2020, a total of 98,727 COVID-19 cases and 5,399 deaths were confirmed in Egypt (WHO), the Government is gradually easing lockdown measures for a resumption of normal activities.
- About 28,500 families of community school students received unconditional cash transfers in 8 governorates redeemable at local retail shops. The assistance aims to protect the food security of vulnerable families from economic shock resulting from the COVID-19 crisis.
- Under Egypt's Presidential Initiative 'Life Saving Boats', WFP, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Immigration launched a second online training session on irregular migration for community schoolteachers in Qena. This intervention follows the first successful training delivered in July 2020, with the aim of raising awareness on the challenges of irregular migration and on safe migration alternatives, while capitalising on the opportunity to promote use of technology (tablets and internet) for social distancing measures.
- As part of WFP's women economic empowerment programme, 850 women received micro-loans from participating NGOs for income generating activities with a total disbursement of EGP 3.6 million in August 2020. To ensure safety of both NGO staff and beneficiaries, WFP shared the Ministry of Health and WHO's guidance on social distancing and hygiene measures with partner NGOs.
- Similarly, WFP extended the redemption period of GFA in the form of cash-based transfers for about 108,000 refugees in August. 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 75,000 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 40,000 children under two years of age and lactating mothers with a monthly cash top up of EGP 200 to the Takaful and Karama national social protection programme. This support aims to cushion the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on poor Egyptian families.

**Photo Caption:** WFP supports women beneficiaries start their income generating activities, 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>135 m</b>
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (October 2020- March 2021)
<b>147 m</b>	<b>54 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.

- Under the 'Strengthening Climate Resilience and Food Security through Livelihood Enhancement and Rural Innovation' Project funded by the Dutch Government, WFP launched a village profiling, assessment of partner Community Development Associations (CDA)s' capacity and discussions with community leaders and local institutions. The Project's inception phase consists of mobilizing activities and awareness raising at community level, where villages are pre-selected based on poverty levels and government interventions. The Project aims to complement existing government efforts and ensure prosperity of rural communities in Upper Egypt.

## Monitoring

- WFP conducted a rapid assessment study using WFP's food security outcome monitoring survey (FSOM) to assess the impact of COVID-19 on refugees' food security, livelihoods, and access to food, markets and health care services. On access to food and markets, almost 35.6 percent of surveyed households suffered from not having enough food to cover their households' needs with 85.2 percent of them reporting the reason being not having money to buy food due to loss of employment or reduced working hours or wages. The results also indicate that 48.1 percent of households experienced an increase in commodity prices especially for food items.
- WFP's Monitoring and Evaluation unit conducted two focus group discussions with a random sample of refugees receiving assistance under the emergency response plan, using digital meeting tools to assess the efficiency of the implementation processes. The focus group discussion collected information related to refugees' nutritional habits, economic status, coping mechanisms as well as the effect of WFP's assistance, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The general observation from the discussions was the heightened dependency on WFP's assistance to secure basic food needs and maintain wellbeing of refugee families.

## 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

### WFP Egypt launches the COVID-19 Response Hub in collaboration with the Government of Egypt

- As part of the COVID-19 response plan, WFP is supporting the Government of Egypt in establishing the Egyptian COVID-19 Response Hub. The online hub aims to support the Government in the preparation and implementation of the socio-economic response plan, with a focus on vulnerable communities, through consolidating information on government response efforts to the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 in Egypt. The Egyptian COVID-19 Response Hub is a Geographic Information System-based platform that consolidates data from both government and non-government entities.

## Donors

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