



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Egypt Country Brief October 2020

In Numbers

US\$ 3.2 m cash based transfers made

US\$ 55.5 m six months (Nov 2020 – Apr 2021) net funding requirements

136,800 people assisted in October 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) and ranks 83rd in the 2020 Sustainable Development Goals Index, moving up 9 ranks from the previous year. 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 Labour 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 29 October 2020, a total of 107,030 COVID-19 cases and 6,234 deaths were confirmed in Egypt (WHO). The Government has warned of a gradual increase in COVID-19 cases and issued stricter enforcement of protective measures (ex. use of facemasks) in all public spaces and transportation.
- WFP transformed 12 community schools in the Luxor governorate into 'Community Hubs' wherein regular community schools were equipped with teaching technologies (such as a tablet, internet, a projector screen, etc.) and were physically rehabilitated. In parallel, teachers were trained on essential ICT skills to facilitate the use of the new equipment.
- In coordination with the Ministry of Education and its local departments in Qena, Fayoum, and Beni Sueif, WFP also launched the physical assessment of 400 community schools in preparation for their transformation into 'Community Hubs' by March 2021.
- Together with the Ministry of Social Solidarity's Takaful Foundation and WFP partner NGOs, 1,600 women received revolving micro-loans for income generating activities, with a total value of EGP 6.4 million in nine governorates.
- WFP extended the redemption period of general food assistance in the form of cash-based transfers for about 108,000 refugees. The assisted refugees come from nine different countries in the Middle East and North Africa
- A series of online sessions to help address questions regarding anaemia, healthy diets and misconceptions on the 'First 1,000 Days of Life' were promoted on WFP's local platforms through brief "Ask an Expert" videos. The initiative is part of the Sawiris Foundation for Social Development's and WFP's joint project in support of mothers and children under the age of two. Videos can be viewed on [WFP's platform here](#).
- Smallholder farmers in about 30 villages in the governorates Aswan, Luxor, Qena, Sohag and Assiut received awareness training sessions in areas related to agriculture and irrigation best practices. The trainings are part of WFP's newly launched smallholders farmer's programme, funded by the Netherlands.



2019 Human Development Index: 116 out of 189
Chronic malnutrition: 21.4% of children between 6 and 59 months
Population: 100.5 million (CAPMAS, June 2020)
Income Level: Lower middle

Photo Caption: In collaboration with Egypt's Ministry of Social Solidarity, WFP provided families of young children registered under the 'Takaful & Karama' social protection programme with monthly top-ups to help secure their nutritional needs. ©WFP Egypt

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 US\$)		Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
586.4 m		143.3 m
2020 Requirements (in US\$)	2021 Requirements (in US\$)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (November 2020- April 2021)
147 m	117 m	55.5 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
- 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.

- WFP is also working on the inclusion of an additional 30 other villages for the introduction of the integrated package of services provided by Egypt’s Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) and WFP. Moreover, a field visit was conducted in the Qena governorate with Nidaa Association for Development to discuss a potential collaboration in the areas of women empowerment and entrepreneurship activities.

Challenges

- As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent plans and actions by Government of Egypt, 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 Nobel Peace Prize

As part of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, and in recognition of WFP’s Nobel Peace Prize, WFP Egypt, represented by Country Director, Menghestab Haile, was featured on the ‘Masaa DMC’ talk show with presenter Ramy Radwan. The WFP segment on Masaa DMC, one of the top talk shows with an estimated viewership of over 2 million, highlighted WFP’s current programmes while highlighting that WFP’s Nobel Peace Prize is a shared honour that could not have been achieved without WFP’s donors, government and implementing partners. [Link to segment here.](#)

Additionally, on the occasion of WFP’s Nobel Peace Prize, WFP Egypt’s Country Director met with Egypt’s Minister of Local Development as well as the Minister of Manpower. Discussions included furthering collaboration between the Ministries and WFP in the areas of rural development, youth employment and women empowerment, particularly in Upper Egypt. The Ministers also congratulated WFP on the Nobel Peace Prize, recognizing WFP for its contributions as a key development partner in the country.

2020 World Food Day

In celebration of World Food Day, a series of virtual events took place in collaboration with other UN agencies (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF and WHO). The events included a virtual webinar that highlighted the important role of food in the welfare of households, particularly in time of COVID-19 through interactive, awareness raising activities for women, children and youth.

A formal celebratory event was also jointly held by FAO, WFP, the UN Resident Coordinator and the MALR drawing on the current achievements and addressing further efforts of development partners, donors and the the Government needed in light of the current pandemic.

Donors

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