



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Egypt Country Brief December 2020

In Numbers

US\$ 3.75 m cash based transfers made

US\$ 47.9 m six months (February – July 2021)
net funding requirements

350,700 people assisted
in December 2020



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). Moreover, national poverty rates declined to 29.7 percent in 2019/2020 compared to 32.5 percent in 2017/2018.

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: **100.8 million (CAPMAS, August 2020)**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Operational Updates

- As of 31 December 2020, a total of 136,644 COVID-19 cases and 7,576 deaths were confirmed in Egypt (Al Ahram). The Government issued stricter enforcement of protective measures, prohibited large gatherings, and closed schools and universities as the country progresses into the second wave of COVID-19 transmissions.
- WFP assisted about 26,400 families of community school children in six governorates with cash transfers redeemable at local retail shops. This assistance includes the families of about 350 newly enrolled first graders and transfer students who completed their school registration at the assisted governorates. The assistance aims to protect the food security of vulnerable families from economic shock resulting from the COVID-19 crisis.
- WFP, together with the Ministry of Education (MOE) transformed 34 community schools into 'Community Hubs' with the installation of new teaching technologies (such as a tablet, internet access, projector screen, etc.). Teachers were also trained on the use and maintenance of class equipment and how to access digital teaching resources on the Egyptian Knowledge Bank to strengthen the quality of education.
- With the support of teachers and local Education Departments, an online assessment of needed community school renovations, data network coverage and teachers' knowledge and use of technology for all community schools in Luxor, Qena, Beni Sweif and Fayoum was conducted. Results will help inform needs to transform all community schools in the four governorates into 'Community Hubs'.
- As part of the 'First 1,000 days' national programme and WFP's COVID-19 emergency response, WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Solidarity, provided cash top-ups of EGP 200 through the Egyptian Post Office to about 40,600 Egyptian households with children under two years of age under the umbrella of the national social protection programme, 'Takaful and Karama'. This support aims to cushion the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on poor Egyptian families.

Photo Caption: WFP and the MOE transform Community Schools into 'Hubs' by equipping them with technology to help foster an improved learning environment for students, educators, as well as other community members (photo taken pre-COVID-19). ©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 m	165 m
2021 Requirements (in US\$)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (February – July 2021)
117 m	47.9 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 provided food assistance in the form of cash-based transfers to about 117,000 registered refugees to help secure their basic food needs during this critical period. The assisted refugees come from nine different countries in the region.

- As of December 2020, a total of about 1,400 smallholders from the rural community in Southern Egypt benefited from improved agricultural practices, and enhanced market linkages to improve their adaptation and resilience to impacts of climate change.

Highlights

Central Bank of Egypt and WFP launch initiative to support smallholder farmers

Under the auspices of the Central Bank of Egypt, WFP in partnership with the National Bank of Egypt and Banque Misr, launched a joint initiative to increase the productivity and livelihoods of smallholder farmers in 40 villages in Upper Egypt (in the governorates of Luxor, Aswan, Qena, Sohag and Assiut). With a contribution of EGP 50 million, the joint initiative will support micro, small and medium enterprises and the provision of several development activities including the land consolidation, improved water-saving techniques, and the economic empowerment of women through awareness and educational sessions to facilitate their access to funding for animal husbandry and livelihood activities.

Ministry of Emigration & Egyptian Expatriate Affairs and WFP launch “Bedaya Digital” Initiative

The Ministry of Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs and WFP launched an e-learning platform, ‘Bedaya Digital,’ under the presidential initiative ‘Life-Saving Boats’, with an aim to reduce irregular migration. The newly launched platform, based upon a successful WFP food for training programme for registered refugees, provides vocational trainings for Egyptian youth and returning Egyptian migrant workers who lost their jobs due to the pandemic. Trainings will be provided by the Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport, helping promote job opportunities through skills development and linkages with national employment services, WFP and the private sector.

Egypt’s Ministry of Education features Community Hubs as a successful and innovative education model

On 20 December 2020 a media visit was organized by MOE to one of WFP and the Ministry’s ‘Community Hubs’ in Giza, the Imam Al-Husseini Community School. The visit included teacher and student engagements (with the strict enforcement of COVID-19 protection measures), featuring various educational benefits of the pioneering smart school model. With the technological transformation of regular community schools, the Community Hubs provide increased access to educational resources through the national Egyptian Knowledge Bank, teacher trainings and awareness raising sessions on various health topics for students’ families. The success of the model was widely featured among national media platforms including [Shorouk](#), [Akhbar El Youm](#), [Youm 7](#), [Al Dostor](#), among others.

Donors

(In alphabetical order) Egypt, Germany, Italy, Mastercard, Netherlands, Norway, PepsiCo, Sawiris Foundation for Social Development, Shell, United States