



World Food Programme

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## WFP Egypt Country Brief August 2021

### Operational Context

WFP Egypt's 2018-2023 Country Strategic Plan (CSP) focuses on strengthening national capacities 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 82nd in the 2021 Sustainable Development Goals Index, moving up one rank from the previous year. Egypt is also ranked 60 out of 113 countries for the 2020 Global Food Security Index, down 5 ranks compared to 2019 (2020 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 129 out of 153 on the 2021 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 27.2 percent in 2019. This phenomenon disproportionately affects women, particularly in rural areas where the NEET rate is 39.7 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. Through the Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023), 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: **101.7 million (CAPMAS, April 2021)**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

### In Numbers

**US\$3.7 m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$58.6 m** six month (September 2021 – February 2022) net funding requirements

**335,800 people assisted**  
in August 2021



*Note: number of refugees assisted cash-based transfer value are estimates as assistance is ongoing at time of publication.*

### Operational Updates

- As of 31 August 2021, a total of 288,441 COVID-19 cases and 16,736 deaths were confirmed in Egypt (Worldometer Egypt).
- Together with the Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MOETE), WFP assisted about 27,000 families of community school children in five governorates with cash assistance redeemable at local retail shops. The assistance aims to increase food security of vulnerable families and protect them from the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Manpower (MOM), and as part of the national project, 'Your skill is your profession', WFP contributed to efforts towards youth employment by upgrading four of the Ministry's vocational centres with ICT equipment in Matrouh, west of Alexandria.
- WFP provided food assistance through cash-based transfers to about 118,000 registered refugees to help secure their basic food needs. In partnership with the National Nutrition Institute (NNI), WFP provided nutritional awareness sessions to a target of 3,000 pregnant and lactating refugee women as well as Training of Trainers (TOT) on nutritional issues for refugee community leaders.
- Under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS) and in partnership with the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance and NNI, WFP delivered the TOT programme under the national "First 1,000 Days" nutrition programme for community workers and MOSS representatives in Qalubeya, Alexandria and Menia. The training aims to develop the counselling and monitoring capacity of MOSS's community workers to increase the nutrition and health awareness of assisted pregnant and lactating mothers (of children aged 24-59 months).
- As part of the 'First 1,000 Days' programme, WFP in collaboration with MOSS provided cash transfers to about 71,000 family members of vulnerable Egyptian children and 10,600 vulnerable children aged 24-59 months registered under the national social protection programme, 'Takaful and Karama' (Solidarity and Dignity).
- Together with Community Development Associations (CDAs), WFP provided about 200,000 in-kind microloans (of ducks) to women in 60 villages to help launch their own income-generating project. Participating women received vocational trainings and will also receive support through the CDAs and local veterinary clinics throughout the project lifetime.

**Photo Caption:** A trainee of the Hospitality Training Programme demonstrating learnt culinary skills to the Minister of Manpower (left) and WFP Egypt Country Director (right). ©WFP/Egypt

**Contact info:** Christine Hanna ([christine.hanna@wfp.org](mailto:christine.hanna@wfp.org))

**Country Director:** Praveen Agrawal

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/egypt](http://www.wfp.org/countries/egypt)

## Egypt Country Strategic Plan (2018–2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>586 m</b>	<b>187 m</b>
2021 Requirements (in US\$)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (September 2021 – February 2022)
<b>117 m</b>	<b>58.7 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.

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- The WFP Egypt market assessments is [now published online here](#). The assessment provides information on how the local economy and market functions, enabling WFP to identify the best means to provide assistance and maximize impact. The biennial assessment covers market-related data on prices, food availability and supply chains.

## Challenges

Due to funding shortfalls, WFP has had to prioritize the continuation of assistance to 100,000 refugees out of its previous target of 130,000 refugees starting August 2021. While prioritization of beneficiaries is WFP's least preferred option, it is the only way to ensure continuous support to those most vulnerable. WFP is seeking the support of donors to mobilize required resources to maintain and upscale its assistance to secure the food needs of those most in need.

## Highlights

[Egypt's Ministry of Manpower, WFP and Hilton Luxor Resort & Spa mark new prospects for youth employment through a first-of-its-kind hospitality training programme](#)

Within the framework of the national youth development initiative '*Your skill is your profession*', MOM, WFP and Hilton Luxor Resort & Spa concluded the first joint vocational training programme on hospitality. The 6-week training launched in July 2021 built capacities of 22 young trainees from Upper Egypt (aged 18-28), 50 percent of whom are women. They received training in areas of food and beverage, culinary work and housekeeping. The training included practical and theoretical sessions held at the Ministry's Vocational Training Centre in Sohag, followed by an on-the-job training and potential job opportunities with Hilton Luxor Resort & Spa. This was made possible thanks to funds provided through the Egyptian-Italian Debt Swap Programme. Given the success of the programme, the trainings will be replicated to benefit more youth in the governorates of Sohag and Luxor.

[Egypt's Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation visits the 'Luxor Coordination Centre for Knowledge Sharing and Innovation'](#)

The Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation visited the Luxor Centre for Knowledge Sharing and Innovation, for the first time, touring the premises and discussing forthcoming plans for the facilitation of knowledge exchange with African and regional countries to promote good practices in food and nutrition security, and resilience building. The Minister was also accompanied by representatives of the Agriculture Bank of Egypt and discussed potential collaborations to promote financial inclusion of rural communities. As part of the visit, the Minister also toured Al Boghdadi Village, one of the assisted villages under the Ministry and WFP's joint rural development programme, wherein the community has increased their agricultural production and returns through land consolidation, canal lining, establishment of solar energy stations and the introduction of new higher yielding crops.

[WFP-developed content on food safety, nutrition, and disaster management now available on the Egyptian Knowledge Bank](#)

For the first time in Egypt, WFP's partnership with MOETE, allowed for the development and posting of educational content on food safety, nutrition and disaster management on the Egyptian Knowledge Bank (EKB). The EKB is one of the largest digital libraries in the world providing free access to top publishers around the globe. The EKB [can be accessed here](#).

## Donors

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