



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Egypt Country Brief September 2023



In Numbers

181,000* people assisted
in September 2023



43.2 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.3 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 19.7 m (October 2023 – March 2024) net
funding requirements

**All figures presented in this report are estimates based on the most recent data available at the time of reporting.*

Country and Operational Context

According to the 2022 Global Food Security Index, Egypt ranked 77th globally and 13th in the Middle East and North Africa region with a moderate level of food security.

On the humanitarian front, Egypt hosts about 352,000 refugees of which over 65,000 are supported by WFP with monthly food and cash assistance. Since the onset of the Sudan crisis in April 2023, Egypt received over 317,000 Sudanese people fleeing the crisis and seeking safety beyond their country's borders.

Expanding on the achievements of the country strategic plan (CSP) for 2018-2023, WFP is continuing to support the Government in addressing nutrition and food security challenges under the new CSP (2023-2028), aligned with Egypt's updated Vision 2030 roadmap to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. The CSP focuses on strengthening of social protection and food systems, the provision of humanitarian assistance to refugees and improving the self-reliance and income-generating capacity of smallholder farmers and the people most at risk of being left behind.

WFP is operating in synergy with "Haya Karima", the presidential development initiative that reaches 5,000 villages through a locally based, integrated approach. Within that framework, and following a gender-transformative approach, WFP will work to enhance the livelihoods, and resilience of the most vulnerable to food insecurity, fostering links between shock-responsive social protection and more resilient food systems, including through the promotion of good nutrition and healthy diets.

To accelerate progress towards Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17, WFP will continue to contribute to strengthening the capacity of national systems and institutions by improving the evidence that informs an in-depth understanding of the settings and impacts of interventions, associated programmes and targeting and delivery mechanisms.

Due to the rising vulnerability and subsequent funding requirements, WFP is currently facing difficulties in acquiring the same items that were previously provided to the individuals we assist.



2021 Human Development Index: **97**
out of 191

Stunting: **13% of children between 1 and 59 months**

Population: **105.5 million** (CAPMAS, September 2023)

Income Level: **Lower middle**

WFP Response to the Sudan Crisis

As of 25 September 2023, the armed conflict in Sudan (that broke out on 15 April 2023) has caused more than 317,000 people to flee Sudan to Egypt seeking safety and security (source: UNHCR).

To respond to the emergency and longer-term food and nutrition needs of these displaced populations, WFP assisted over 260,000 people arriving in Egypt from Sudan since the start of the crisis up to the end of September 2023.

- As a rapid response to the urgent humanitarian needs, WFP, in coordination with the Government of Egypt and the Egyptian Red Crescent, provided critical food assistance in the form of ready-to-eat food packages to some 190,000 people at the border crossings.
- To address the longer-term needs of vulnerable people arriving in the country, WFP extended its existing cash assistance platform to provide multi-purpose cash to about 70,000 people in Alexandria, Aswan, Cairo, and Giza. The cash assistance, redeemable across over 140,000 points of sales nationwide, provides people with the autonomy to purchase their most essential needs. WFP has also extended the use of its cash platform to facilitate the delivery of assistance by UN sister agencies like UNICEF, UNFPA and other key stakeholders.
- Together, WFP and the Government of Egypt established a humanitarian corridor between Egypt and Sudan providing critical support to thousands of people trapped by conflict. The corridor continues to serve as a passageway for UN agencies, development organizations, and humanitarian partners to deliver their assistance into Sudan.

Operational Updates

- As a result of insufficient funding for its refugee assistance programme, WFP was forced to reduce assistance from 100,000 vulnerable refugees to 65,000 most vulnerable refugees as of September 2023. With the available funding, WFP will be able to assist only 65,000 refugees nationalities nationwide with

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Photo caption: As part of its Sudan crisis response efforts, WFP provides cash and food assistance to vulnerable children, adults and elderly crossing the borders into Egypt. ©WFP

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2028)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received
431 m	57 m
2023 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (October 2023 – March 2024)
109 m	19.7 m

SDG Target 2.1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations in Egypt, including refugees, meet their essential food and nutrition needs and have enhanced self-reliance all year round.

Focus area: *Crisis Response*

- **Activity 1:** Provide food assistance, nutrition, and livelihood support to refugees and other crisis-affected populations.

SDG Target 2.4: Sustainable food systems

Strategic Outcome 2: Targeted groups in Egypt benefit from more resilient, sustainable, and climate-adaptive livelihoods and food systems by 2028.

Focus area: *Resilience building*

- **Activity 2:** Support women, men, and youth in targeted areas to access livelihood opportunities, increase incomes, and improve their food and nutrition security.
- **Activity 3:** Provide diverse support to smallholders, targeted groups, and relevant institutions or partners engaged in nutrition-sensitive and environmentally friendly value chains.

SDG Target 17.9: Capacity Strengthening

Strategic Outcome 3: The Government of Egypt has enhanced capacity, programmes and systems ensuring populations in vulnerable situations benefit from improved access to and quality of food, nutrition, health, and education services by 2028.

Focus area: *Root causes of food insecurity, vulnerability, and inadequate education*

- **Activity 4:** Provide assistance to the national school feeding programme, including through comprehensive sustainable school-based interventions and transfers to support students, teachers, and households in vulnerable situations.
- **Activity 5:** Provide technical assistance and support to Egypt's nutrition-sensitive social protection system, especially for pregnant and lactating women and children under 2, through direct assistance and social and behaviour change communication.
- **Activity 6:** Provide technical expertise, innovative solutions, and targeted capacity strengthening to the Government for food and nutrition security interventions, as well as foster opportunities for South-South and triangular cooperation.

with monthly cash assistance to help secure their basic food needs.

- **WFP and the Ministry of Labour continued the provision of vocational training**, through which some 110 young women and men from Upper Egypt were trained on skills including e-marketing and hospitality in collaboration with the private sector. The trainings aim to improve youth's employment prospects as a sustainable solution to addressing poverty and food insecurity.
- **WFP, the Ministry of Social Solidarity and the Ministry of Local Development collaborated on social and behavioural change communication activities.** A training was delivered for local village employees in the Governorate of Menia to help address social norms, such as early marriage, female genital mutilation, and poor family planning. This came as part of the 'Waie' national awareness programme,
- Under the **'First 1,000 Days' nutrition programme**, WFP and the Ministry of Social Solidarity provided cash assistance to about 60,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women. This assistance was provided under the national social safety net 'Takaful and Karama' (Solidarity and Dignity in Arabic), to help fulfil the nutritional needs of women and their children under two years age.
- In accordance with national efforts to strengthen the capacities of local institutions, **WFP and the Ministry of Health and Population implemented a training for School-Age Health Care management teams** across 13 governorates. The training focused on data and information management within the Ministry's system, for enhanced data-driven decision making, monitoring, and improved quality of healthcare services.

Highlight

Together with other UN agencies, WFP contributed to Egypt's Global Congress on Population, Health, and Development by engaging in various panel discussions, contributing to the UN pavilion and in shaping the recommendations of the Congress on improvements in the area of health and development.

Challenges

- Given increasing vulnerability and consequent funding needs, WFP seeks donors' support to mobilize resources to maintain and expand food and nutrition assistance to all people in need. WFP requires approximately USD 20 million to sustain food assistance for about 800,000 Egyptian and non-Egyptian beneficiaries through March 2024.