



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP Egypt Country Brief October 2023

### In Numbers

**520,000\*** people assisted  
in October 2023



**199 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 2.1 m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 20.5 m** (November 2023 – April 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 moderate food security.

On the humanitarian front, Egypt hosts about 390,000 refugees, of whom over 65,000 are supported by WFP with monthly food and cash assistance. Since the onset of the Sudan crisis in April 2023, Egypt has received over 337,000 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 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 people most at risk of being left behind.

WFP is operating in synergy with the "Decent Life" Presidential development initiative, which aims to support 5,000 of the poorest village communities through a local, integrated development approach. WFP works to enhance the livelihoods and resilience of the most vulnerable, 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 contributes to strengthening the capacity of national systems and institutions by improving evidence systems that inform an in-depth understanding of the settings and impacts of interventions, associated programmes and targeting and delivery mechanisms.



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**

### Highlights

#### WFP Response to the Crisis in Palestine

- The crisis in Gaza, which started in early October, has left the entire population in need of food, shelter and security. Over 40 WFP trucks carrying more than 850 metric tons of food supplies have crossed into Gaza since the opening of the Rafah crossing point on 21 October 2023. In partnership with the Egyptian Red Crescent, WFP is also providing logistical support and has affirmed its support to humanitarian response efforts led by the Government of Egypt.

#### WFP Response to the Sudan Crisis

- As of 27 October 2023, the armed conflict in Sudan (that broke out on 15 April 2023) has caused more than 337,000 people to flee Sudan to Egypt seeking safety and security, according to UNHCR. Given the continued needs of those fleeing the crisis, WFP continues its food assistance response and has so far reached 205,000 Sudanese people with food and 72,000 with cash assistance (since the onset of the crisis). WFP's cash assistance platform is being used by sister agencies including UNICEF, IOM, and UNFPA to provide complementary humanitarian assistance to cover needs such as nutrition, health, water, and sanitation.

### Operational Updates

- Given the needs of the ongoing global economic crisis and challenging socio-economic conditions, WFP had to reduce assistance from 100,000 to 65,000 of the most vulnerable refugees starting September 2023 due to limited funding. With the available funds, in October 2023, **WFP ensured its continued cash assistance to 65,000 refugees who have been assessed to be most vulnerable** to help secure their basic food needs. In parallel, WFP launched an appeal system for the potential re-inclusion of assessed cases pending the availability of funding. WFP continues to seek donors' support for the continuation of this critical assistance.

**Contact info:** Christine Nady ([christine.nady@wfp.org](mailto:christine.nady@wfp.org))

**Country Director:** Praveen Agrawal

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

**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
<b>431.3 m</b>	<b>63 m</b>
2023 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (November 2023 – April 2024)
<b>106 m</b>	<b>20.5 m</b>

## 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.

- **WFP, the Ministry of Labour and private sector partners continued the provision of vocational training** for youth across four governorates in the areas of e-marketing and hospitality. The trainings aim to improve youth's employment prospects as a sustainable solution to addressing poverty and food insecurity.
- **WFP and the Ministry of Education and Technical Education provided daily in-school snacks** (fortified date bars) to 98,500 community school students across nine governorates in Upper Egypt, helping secure essential daily nutritional needs. Additionally, WFP provided cash assistance to about 48,000 family members of community school children to increase families' food security in the governorates of Sohag, Sharqeya, Qena, Fayoum and Bani Suef.
- **Under the 'First 1,000 Days' nutrition programme, WFP and the Ministry of Social Solidarity provided cash assistance to some 42,000 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 essential nutritional needs of women and children.
- To strengthen the capacities of local institutions, **WFP and the Ministry of Health and Population implemented training for School-Age Health Care management teams** across 9 governorates. The training focused on data and information management within the Ministry's system for enhanced data-driven decision-making, monitoring, and healthcare services.
- In recognition of WFP and Talabat's partnership on an awareness-raising campaign, **WFP was awarded the 'Tech4Good' award** at the talabat Annual Partner Gala 2023. The award falls on the occasion of World Food Day, celebrating the campaign's reach to more than 5 million users and raising awareness on topics such as nutrition, climate change, and food waste through Talabat's application, Instagram, and Facebook accounts.

## Monitoring

Monitoring of the impact of WFP's cash assistance for pregnant and breastfeeding women has highlighted the detrimental effects of rising inflation and food prices on the dietary habits of assisted women and children. Findings showed that about a third of assisted women managed to attain a minimum level of diet diversity, and only about 8 percent of assisted children achieved the minimum acceptable diet. This represented a 3 percent decrease compared to results from the previous year (5.6 percent in 2022), which can be attributed to high food inflation rates that reached 71.4 percent in 2023 compared to 23.8 percent in 2022. These results reinforce the importance and need for WFP's continued cash assistance.

## Challenges

Given increasing vulnerabilities among assisted communities and emergency needs in response to the neighboring crisis, WFP seeks donors' support to mobilize resources to maintain and expand food and nutrition assistance to people most in need. WFP requires approximately USD 21 million to sustain food assistance for about 800,000 vulnerable people in Egypt through April 2024.