



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Egypt Country Brief December 2023



In Numbers

583,000* people assisted in December 2023



195 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.4 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 2.1 m (January – June 2024) net funding requirements

*Figures presented are estimates based on available data at time of publication.

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 420,000 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 has received over 378,000 Sudanese people fleeing the crisis and seeking safety beyond their country's borders.

WFP continues to support the Government in addressing nutrition and food security challenges under the new CSP (2023-2028), aligned with Egypt's 2030 Vision to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. The CSP focuses on strengthening 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, through promoting 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-based systems that inform an in-depth understanding of the impacts of interventions and targeting and delivery mechanisms.



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

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

Population: **105.8 million (CAPMAS, December 2023)**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

WFP Crisis Response Efforts

- **Gaza Crisis:** The crisis in Gaza has left its entire population in urgent need of food, shelter and security. WFP has been supporting humanitarian response efforts led by the Government of Egypt and the Egyptian Red Crescent Society. Since the onset of the crisis, WFP delivered a total of 32,413 mt of food carried by 1,940 trucks, equal to 19 percent of total aid trucks which entered Gaza. The WFP-led Logistics Cluster established common storage services in Port Said, Egypt, and a cargo notification service in Rafah and in the Gaza Strip, supporting partners with the reception of incoming convoys.
- **The Sudan Crisis:** By January 2024, the armed conflict in Sudan, which broke out on 15 April 2023, has forced more than 378,000 people to flee Sudan to Egypt seeking safety and security (source: UNHCR). In support of these arriving families, WFP continues its emergency response efforts which have to date supported 310,000 people with critical food and cash assistance. WFP's cash assistance platform is also made available and used to facilitate the delivery of assistance from UN sister agencies like UNICEF, IOM and UNFPA to more people in need.

Egypt Operational Updates

- Given the ongoing global economic and geo-political crises which have resulted in a decrease in funding for WFP's humanitarian operations, WFP Egypt has had to reduce its cash assistance from reaching 100,000 to **65,000 of the most vulnerable refugees** starting September 2023. In December 2023, **WFP ensured continued cash assistance** to secure the basic food needs of 65,000 of the most vulnerable refugees. In parallel, WFP has launched an appeal system for the potential re-inclusion of assessed vulnerable cases pending the availability of funding. WFP continues to seek donors' support for the continuation of this critical food security assistance.
- **WFP, the Ministry of Labour and the private sector continued the provision of vocational training for over 500 youth** across eight governorates in the areas of marketing, solar energy, handicrafts and electronics maintenance. The trainings aim to improve rural youth's employment prospects as a sustainable solution to addressing poverty and food insecurity.

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Photo caption: WFP provides nutritional daily in-school snacks in the form of date bars, helping secure 25 percent of their daily nutritional needs. ©WFP

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2028)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received
431.3 m	89.6 m
2023 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (January – June 2024)
97.4 m	2.1 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.

- **WFP and the Ministry of Education and Technical Education** continued to complement the National School Feeding Programme through the provision of nutritional daily in-school snacks (fortified date bars) to **99,000** community-school students across nine governorates, helping secure their essential nutritional needs. WFP also provided **conditional cash assistance** to about **182,000** family members of community school children to increase vulnerable families' food security.
- **Under the 'First 1,000 Days' nutrition programme, WFP and the Ministry of Social Solidarity provided cash assistance to about 42,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women.** This assistance was provided under the national social safety net 'Takaful and Karama' (meaning '*Solidarity and Dignity*' in Arabic), to help fulfil the essential nutritional needs of women and children.
- In an effort to raise awareness of malnutrition and good dietary practices within targeted communities, **WFP and the National Nutrition Institute conducted trainings for 200 community members** from Luxor and Sohag.
- To address the issue of micronutrient deficiencies; in support of the National Flour Fortification Programme, aiming to deliver fortified flour enriched with iron and folic acid, WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade developed a training programme to orient Ministry staff on technicalities of the fortification process.
- To help strengthen the capacities of local institutions, **WFP and the Ministry of Education implemented a training for about 70 School-Age Health Care management teams** in Sharkia. The training focused on data and information management within the Ministry's system, for enhanced data-driven decision-making, monitoring, and healthcare services. In 2023, the total number of trainees reached **4,000** individuals across 22 governorates.
- Within the framework of capacity strengthening and in aligning with the Government of Egypt's strategy towards digital transformation, **WFP, in collaboration with the Egyptian Metrological Authority (EMA), conducted a series of training sessions on standard and advanced ICT for 70 of its staff members.**
- To address the climate changes in agricultural communities, WFP implemented capacity-strengthening sessions on climate adaptation, reaching 800 men and 860 women. Furthermore, WFP delivered capacity-strengthening training to about 500 farmers on advanced agricultural practices and waste management.
- To further promote evidence-based decision-making processes, WFP in collaboration with the Information and Decision Support Centre trained 60 of the Centre's staff members on data analysis and visualization.

Challenges

Given increasing vulnerabilities; such as increasing negative coping strategies among assisted communities, and emergency needs exacerbated by neighbouring crises, WFP seeks donors' support to mobilize resources to maintain and expand food and nutrition assistance to people most in need. WFP requires about USD 24.2 million to sustain assistance for about 900,000 vulnerable people in Egypt through June 2024.

Partnerships

WFP and the Korea International Cooperation Agency signed a new USD six million agreement in support of WFP's self-reliance programme for refugees and their host communities that will span over 30 months. Through this partnership, WFP will foster resilience and social cohesion, by creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for over 50,000 direct beneficiaries from both communities.