



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Egypt Country Brief March 2024



In Numbers

540,469* people assisted
in March 2024



173 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.9 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 9.8 m (April – September 2024) net funding
requirements

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

Country and Operational Context

Egypt faces a complex economic landscape with challenges related to inflation, currency devaluation, and the impact of global and regional crises. In March 2024, a fourth devaluation of the Egyptian Pound against foreign currencies led the Egyptian Pound to reach an exchange rate of 48.5 against the United States Dollar.

On the humanitarian front, Egypt has been a hub for refugees fleeing conflicts from surrounding countries. As of the end of February 2024, Egypt hosts nearly 570,000 registered refugees from various nationalities including 227,900 Sudanese who arrived since the onset of the Sudan crisis in April 2023. Overall, Egypt received over 500,000 Sudanese people fleeing the crisis and seeking safety beyond their country's borders.

Considering these challenges, WFP is continuing to support the Government of Egypt in addressing nutrition and food security challenges under the new Country Strategic Plan-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 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.



2022 Human Development Index: **116
out of 189**

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

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

WFP Crisis Response

- WFP continues its emergency response efforts which supports 150,000 refugees and crisis-affected populations, including Sudanese newcomers, with monthly cash assistance in Greater Cairo, Alexandria, and Aswan. WFP's cash assistance platform was also made available to facilitate the delivery of assistance from UN sister agencies including UNICEF, IOM and UNFPA to reach more people in need.
- WFP Egypt is distributing daily ready-to-eat (RTE) food rations to displaced populations from Sudan upon their arrival in Egypt at both border crossings and key transit points. Since the onset of the crisis in April 2023, more than 247,000 received critical food assistance, of which 4,912 were in March 2024. Arrivals from Sudanese borders continue from two main locations, Qustol and Arqeen; 6,135 individuals arrived in March 2024.

Operational Updates

NEW [WFP Egypt 2023 Annual Country Report](#)

Self-Reliance for Refugees and Host Communities

- In March 2024, WFP provided vocational training to more than 270 refugees and Egyptians. Topics included graphic design, social media management, tailoring, and computer maintenance. These interventions are to enhance self-reliance and build resilience as well as to enhancing social cohesion between refugees and host communities.
- WFP provides monthly assistance to pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) refugees with children under two through cash-based transfers (CBT) valued at EGP 450 (USD 9.3). This support is conditional on attendance of monthly health checkups. WFP reached 8,000 PBW refugees through social and behaviour change communication activities including nutritional awareness sessions on the 'First 1,000 Days' initiative.

School Feeding

Around 52,000 families of community school students received CBT in the governorates of Sohag, Sharkeya, Qena, Fayoum, Beni Suef, Luxor, and Aswan. Cash assistance is conditional upon children's school attendance, supporting the family's livelihoods,

contributing to their food security and encouraging regular school attendance.

- WFP distributed date bars to around 98,000 students in community schools across nine Upper-Egypt governorates. Fortified with 16 vitamins and minerals, the date bars provide around 25 percent of children's daily caloric needs, combating short-term hunger.
- WFP provided interactive screens and routers with internet to 120 community schools in Sharkeya, Aswan and Fayoum, ensuring efficient and engaging learning.

WFP Country Strategy



Country Strategic Plan (2023-2028)

Total Requirements (in US\$)

Total Received

431.3 m

97 m

2024 Requirements (in US\$)

Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (April – September 2024)

97.4 m

9.8m

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 breastfeeding 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.

Nutrition

- As part of the 'First 1,000 Days' national nutrition programme, WFP and the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS) provided cash transfers to 73,794 pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) registered under the national social protection programme, 'Takaful and Karama' (Solidarity and Dignity).
- WFP, in collaboration with the National Nutrition Institute and MOSS, implemented a training-of-trainers workshop for 80 newly appointed community workers in Luxor. Trainees were provided with skills to provide awareness and counselling to PBW and mothers.

Climate Resilience and Support to Smallholder Farmers

- To enhance the resilience of smallholder farmers in Upper Egypt, WFP and its governmental partners supported 7,414 farmers with land consolidation. Fertilizers and machinery were also provided through subsidies to 2,270 farmers.
- Considering Egypt's water scarcity challenge, WFP and its governmental partners upgraded 8 water canals that support 232 feddans (~100 ha) to reduce water loss during irrigation and raise efficiency.

Youth Empowerment

- Within WFP and the Ministry of Labour partnership, 59 youth from three governorates in Upper Egypt graduated from solar power and embroidery trainings in coordination with the Ministry of Labour, as well as from hospitality trainings in partnership with Luxor Hilton Resort and Spa. The trainings promote youth employability and access to livelihood opportunities.
- In collaboration with al-Karma Foundation, WFP launched the first youth vocational training focusing on post-harvest practices in Beni Suef. A total of 20 beneficiaries were trained (80 percent women) in 6 days.

Livelihoods and Women Empowerment

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and local NGOs, 575 women from the villages of the 'Decent Life' national initiative received entrepreneurship training on micro-enterprise management, lending, sales, and e-marketing. In March, 28 women received WFP micro-loans to start their own income-generating projects in the Fayoum and Beni Suef governorates.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- A post-distribution monitoring survey was conducted with 350 Sudanese newcomers who have been benefiting from WFP emergency cash assistance. Results indicate that the proportion of surveyed Sudanese households receiving WFP's assistance with adequate food consumption levels had increased by 13 percent to reach 87 percent, compared to 74 percent in July 2023. Moreover, almost 9 out of 10 households reported spending on average 70 percent of WFP cash assistance on food.