



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Egypt Country Brief June 2024



In Numbers

526,000* people assisted
in June 2024



35 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.8 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 11,703 (July – December 2024) net funding requirements

*Figures presented are estimates based on available data at 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. From March 2022 to March 2024, there were four successive devaluations of the Egyptian Pound, leading to a significant decrease in its value by 69 percent. The official exchange rate shifted from EGP 15.7 per USD in February 2022 to a peak of EGP 50 per USD in March 2024, and reaching stability at EGP 47 in May 2024.

On the humanitarian front, Egypt has been a hub for refugees fleeing conflicts from surrounding countries. As of June 2024, Egypt hosts more than 670,000 registered refugees of which 388,785 are Sudanese fleeing the Sudan crisis that erupted in April 2023, while the Egyptian government reported receiving over 500,000 Sudanese.

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 aligns 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 supporting approximately 150,000 refugees and crisis-affected populations, including Sudanese newcomers, with monthly cash assistance in Cairo, Alexandria, Aswan and other cities. WFP's cash assistance platform was also made available to facilitate the delivery of assistance from UN sister agencies like UNFPA.
- WFP conducted a Sudanese Vulnerability Assessment from March to May 2024 to evaluate the food security and needs of Sudanese who entered Egypt after the crisis. Findings show that about 65 percent of the households receiving WFP assistance are food insecure. Access to education and healthcare were also pressing challenges. Accordingly, WFP will refine its targeting methods and scale up its cash assistance to reach more vulnerable Sudanese newcomers.
- WFP is distributing daily ready-to-eat (RTE) food rations to displaced populations from Sudan upon their arrival in Egypt at both border crossings, Argeen and Qustol, and at key transit points. Approximately 21,198 RTEs were distributed for the month of June 2024 to 7,066 individuals.

Operational Updates

Self-Reliance for Refugees and Host Communities

- In June 2024, more than 500 crisis-affected populations and their host communities started receiving vocational training. WFP is conducting labour market assessments to connect with trainees, enabling them to start income-generating activities. WFP is also actively extending its partnerships with the private sector and NGOs, including L'Oréal and the Alexandria Business Association, to provide training in different fields.
- WFP provides monthly assistance to 8,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) refugees and mothers with children under two through cash-based transfers (CBT), conditional on attendance of monthly health checkups with partner hospitals. WFP also conducts monthly nutritional awareness sessions on the importance of the first 1,000 days of life, which is the time from the child's conception until two years of age, where nutrition is crucial for development.

20 June: World Refugee Day! [Click for a snapshot of our work!](#)

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Photo caption: WFP supports refugees and crisis affected populations across Egypt with a range of services like vocational trainings and cash assistance to improve their food security. ©WFP

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2028)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received
438.9 m	121.3 m
2024 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (July – December 2024)
99.1 m	11,703

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.

School Feeding

- In June, 58,855 families of community school students received cash-based transfers in the governorates of Sohag, Sharkeya, Qena, Fayoum, Beni Suef, Luxor and Aswan. Cash assistance is conditional upon children's regular school attendance. This was the last cycle for the academic year 2023/2024; cash transfers and date bar distribution will resume in October 2024 with the start of the new academic year 2024/2025.

Nutrition

- As part of the 'First 1,000 Days' national nutrition programme, WFP and the Ministry of Social Solidarity provided cash top-ups to 72,372 PBW registered under the national social protection programme, 'Takaful and Karama' (Solidarity and Dignity).
- WFP trained 210 school health workers in Beni Suef and Menia to screen school-age children, counsel on nutrition and educate parents on healthy food and balanced nutrition.

Climate Resilience and Support to Smallholder Farmers

- As part of WFP's activities to diversify the income of smallholder farmers and improve their livelihoods, WFP provided in-kind duck loans for 1,224 women and in-kind bee loans to 23 men in June.
- Considering Egypt's water scarcity challenge, WFP upgraded six water canals in June to reduce water loss during irrigation and raise efficiency. Additionally, WFP installed seven solar pumping stations.

Women and Youth Empowerment

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and local NGOs, 700 rural vulnerable women in Sohag, Fayoum, Luxor, Minia, Qena and Beni Suef received entrepreneurship training. Since the programme started in February 2024, over 4,000 women received training and 126 received micro-loans. The training focused on micro-enterprise management, lending, sales and e-marketing, enabling women's self-reliance.
- WFP continues to provide vocational training programmes on green jobs in collaboration with NGO partners in Upper Egypt. In June 2024, 20 young women and men (75 percent women) were trained in agriculture waste management in Sohag, which brings the total number of youth trained to 897 (75 percent women) since January 2024. In parallel, WFP organized a workshop in Sohag to enhance NGO staff's skills in conducting rapid labour market assessments for green jobs.

Capacity Strengthening

- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade, implemented a capacity strengthening training for the Ministry's technical staff on the Geographical Information System technology. This training aimed to bolster the Ministry's digital transformation strategy and enhance the geoportal implemented with support from WFP.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- WFP conducted focus group discussions with teachers and parents in Fayoum and Luxor to follow up on nutrition training needs. Participants reported high satisfaction with the "Nutrition for School-age Children" programme, highlighting increased awareness of healthy eating that is based on dietary diversity and food safety, as well as finding cost-effective protein alternative sources. These findings will inform future nutrition education Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) efforts targeting healthy habits for children, families and the broader community in 2024.