



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Egypt Country Brief January 2025



In Numbers

450,000* people assisted in January 2025



46 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 5 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 13.2 m (February – July 2025) 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 characterized by challenges related to inflation, currency devaluation and the impact of global and regional crises. In response, the Egyptian government continues to implement its structural adjustment plans, including the reduction of subsidies to alleviate the budgetary burden. The Egyptian pound value is stabilizing at around EGP 50.5 per 1 USD in January 2025, following gradual depreciation in December 2024, reaching its highest price since the devaluation in March 2024.

As of January 2025, Egypt hosts more than 896,462 registered refugees, of which 70 percent are Sudanese fleeing the Sudan crisis that erupted in April 2023, with Egypt hosting over 1.2 million crisis-affected Sudanese.

In light of these challenges, WFP continues to support the Government of Egypt in addressing nutrition and food security challenges under the new CSP (2023-2028). This plan aligns with Egypt's Vision 2030 roadmap to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. The CSP focuses on strengthening social protection and food systems, providing 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: 105 out of 193

Stunting: 13% of children between 1 and 59 months

Population: 105.8 million (CAPMAS, December 2023)

Income Level: Lower middle

Operational Updates

Crisis Response

- WFP continued to provide monthly cash assistance to more than 230,000 refugees, crisis-affected populations and asylum seekers. WFP adjusted the cash transfer value in January 2025, from EGP 700 to EGP 750 (USD 14.9) to align with the dollar value following the currency devaluations.

Self-Reliance for Refugees, Crisis-Affected Populations and Host Communities

- In January, WFP provided vocational training to over 100 refugees, crisis-affected people and host community members, bringing the total to over 5,600 people since the programme's launch in January 2024.
- As of January 2025, almost 200 refugees, crisis-affected people and Egyptians successfully received their micro-grants. Since September 2024, WFP has trained nearly 1,300 participants as part of its micro-grants programme, offering mentorship and seed funding to support micro/small enterprises.
- WFP continued supporting more than 8,500 pregnant and breastfeeding refugee women (PBW) with children under two through conditional cash assistance upon receiving health check-ups at a WFP-contracted hospital.

School-Based Programme

- WFP provided cash assistance to 32,530 families of community school students, conditional upon their children's school attendance, to protect their livelihoods against economic shocks. About 35,200 students in five governorates also received in-school fortified snacks.
- WFP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Expatriate Affairs reached over 2,200 people through awareness sessions on the risks of irregular migration and safer alternatives, under the presidential initiative "Life Saving Boats". Teachers who were previously trained under the same initiative led the sessions.

Nutrition

- Under the 'First 1,000 Days' national nutrition programme, WFP and the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) provided cash top-ups to about 46,731 pregnant and breastfeeding women registered under the national social protection programme, 'Takaful and Karama ('Solidarity and Dignity').

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Photo caption: WFP supports refugees, crisis-affected populations and host communities with vocational trainings in more than 20 different topics. ©WFP

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2028)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received
438.9 m	170 m
2025 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (February– July 2025)
88 m	13.2 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 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.
 - **Activity 7:** Provide on-demand services to government, humanitarian and development actors.
- In January 2025, the Ministry of Health and Population, with WFP, the World Health Organization, the UN Children's Fund, and the National Nutrition Institute, launched two critical policy interventions, the "Egyptian Code for Marketing Breast Milk Substitutes" and the "Mother and Child-Friendly Healthcare Facilities Programme". The former regulates the marketing of baby foods, including formula, while the latter mandates the implementation of the First 1,000 Days initiative in all health facilities across Egypt.

Climate Resilience and Support to Smallholder Farmers

- During the 2024-2025 winter season, WFP consolidated the use of approximately 4,750 feddans (1,995 hectares), benefitting more than 7,100 farmers. Additionally, more than 3,100 farmers received heat-resistant seedlings, and 80 farmers received fertilizers, thereby boosting soil fertility and increasing agricultural yields.
- WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation raised awareness among 614 individuals on the impact of climate change on agriculture and livelihoods, and strategies to mitigate and adapt to these risks.
- WFP supported 425 women with in-kind animal loans and trained 652 women on best practises for raising poultry to help improve their livelihoods.
- WFP held a consultation workshop with stakeholders from the government, private sector, and international organizations for the piloting of a national early warning system and good agricultural practices. This initiative was support from the UN Development Programme "Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land-use and Agriculture" project and the Dutch Government.
- 461 individuals benefitted from the early warning system in January, enhancing their ability to anticipate and respond to climate-related agricultural challenges.

Youth Empowerment

- WFP and the Ministry of Labour held the first Employment and Cultural Fair in Sohag governorate. The fair was a key step in expanding employment opportunities for youth beneficiaries who completed WFP's vocational training programme, connecting them with local private sector companies. A total of 180 graduates attended the fair, which both promoted job-matching and featured career guidance workshops, success stories and insights from the private sector. The event also featured musical and entertainment performances addressing societal perceptions and stigma surrounding technical vocations.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Outcome monitoring with refugees and migrants PBWs indicated an overall improvement in the acceptable diet and dietary diversity among women and their infants aged 6-23 months after receiving WFP's cash assistance.
- Most beneficiaries reported using assistance primarily for food and infant needs, aligning with the programme's objectives of enhancing access to food and nutrition.
- Results also showed that 36 percent of PBWs met the Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD-W), with an 18 percent increase compared to baseline results pre-assistance. However, only 4 percent of children 6-23 months achieved Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD), which although slightly higher by 2 percent from the March 2024 baseline results, still indicates limited improvement.
- Grains, dairy products and pulses were among the most consumed food groups for infants and young children, while meat, eggs and fruits were the least consumed. These results confirm the need for further in-depth assessment of social norms-related barriers to enhancing dietary diversity, and awareness-raising interventions focusing on infant and young child feeding (IYCF).