



WFP Egypt Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Egypt, Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) January-June 2018	Total Requirements (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	38.8 m	18 m

*February - July 2018



WFP's operations in Egypt aim to save lives and protect livelihoods, enhance access to education and combat child labour through food assistance. WFP's activities also aim to build sustainable and durable resilience of vulnerable groups.

WFP Egypt provides food assistance in the form of locally produced school snacks in public and community schools in 16 governorates. Conditional incentives are provided in the form of monthly take-home entitlements of rice and fortified vegetable oil or cash-based transfer (CBT) to the (most) vulnerable families of children whose school attendance reaches 80 percent or more.

As part of enhancing access of children to school and creating a conducive learning and teaching environment, WFP, in coordination with the Ministry of Education and Directorates of Education, supports the physical upgrading of community schools. Since the project started in 2014, 504 schools were rehabilitated. Moreover, WFP provides training to teachers to improve their capacities and enhance their roles in creating an attractive learning environment which helps reduce drop-out rates. As of December 2017, 7,286 teachers were trained.

WFP's Food Assistance for Assets supports vulnerable communities through the provision of training on agriculture, literacy, health, and nutrition, as well as handicraft production, hygiene, and veterinary care. Rural women are particularly vulnerable as they are less likely to have access to basic education or to literacy programmes due to limited income sources of their own. Accordingly, WFP specifically targets women through the implementation of the 'Get Ahead for Women in Enterprise' training to help them design, implement and

Main Photo Credit: WFP Egypt

Caption: A school girl in a rural community school receives rice as part of the conditional take home entitlement.

Highlights

- The "Building Resilient Food Security Systems to Benefit the Southern Egypt Region" project by WFP, in partnership with the Government and local NGOs, aims to enhance livelihood and build community resilience to the effects of extreme weather shocks through integrated activities. In the last three months of the project, it successfully continued the creation of physical assets that contribute to resilience-building of small-holding farmers, and improve water resource and land management.
- As part of improving teachers' capacities and enhancing their roles in creating an attractive learning environment in community schools, WFP has increased the number of teachers to be trained from 7,000 to 9,000. In December, WFP has trained a total of 7,286 teachers.

manage income-generating activities. As of December, 33,707 women were trained, a total 2,688 mothers have received revolving micro-loans in the four governorates of Assiut, Aswan, Sohag, Luxor, Sharqia and Beni Suef as of December 2017.

Through its climate change activities, WFP aims to enhance livelihoods and build community resilience to the effects of extreme weather shocks. Activities include physical asset creation, community empowerment, and skills enhancement including vegetables and fruits plantation, pest control, as well as food storage and handling.

WFP also supports Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria through monthly CBT entitlements in the form of food vouchers. In December, WFP reached 77,880 vulnerable beneficiaries out of the total 126,027 refugees currently officially registered by UNHCR.

Starting January 2018, Egypt will start a six-month Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plans (TICSP), which will serve to support a smooth transition of WFP Egypt's current food security and nutrition interventions towards a more cohesive and coordinated focus, which is well established within the development priorities of the Government of Egypt, particularly through their Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Strategy pillars. Moreover, WFP has committed to integrating gender equality and women's empowerment into all of its programme activities, to ensure that the different food security and nutrition needs of women, men, girls and boys are addressed.

In Numbers

322,080 school meals beneficiaries in December 2017.

77,880 refugees from Syria were assisted in December 2017.

Syrian Refugees Assisted

51%



49%



December 2017

Operational Updates

Resource Mobilisation

WFP is strengthening its focus on resource mobilisation efforts for the 5-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP) through the creation of a dedicated partnerships unit in the Country Office. WFP Egypt is expanding its private sector portfolio, with a particular focus on local-for-local partnerships. Donor engagement is being stepped up through high-level meetings throughout the past three months with local-based ambassadors and heads of agencies of various organizations (e.g. EU, Germany, USA, China, Canada, Nordics, Vodafone Foundation, Pepsico Foundation) to inform partners on WFP Egypt's strategic shift, and identify opportunities and synergies going forward.

Livelihood

The "Building Resilient Food Security Systems to Benefit the Southern Egypt Region" Project by WFP in partnership with the Government and local NGOs has successfully continued the creation of physical assets that contribute to substantial resilience-building of small-holder farmers and improve water resource and land management. Six solar-powered pumping units to irrigate 600 acres (feddans) of land have been completed to serve 800 farmers in four governorates. The project has also supported 560 farmers and their lands through rehabilitation of 2-kilometre irrigation canals. Local NGOs and community leaders participated in the coordination and implementation of the activities. Participating farmers have also contributed through cost-sharing in the establishment of assets.

Challenges

Impact of economic reforms on the poorest and most vulnerable populations

Annual inflation in the overall Consumer Price Index (CPI) continued to ease in November and December 2017, mainly due to base effect. Annual inflation in CPI decreased to 22.3 percent in December 2017, compared to 26.7 percent in November and 32.9 percent in September 2017. In addition, inflation in food price index decreased to 25.2 percent, down from 32.2 percent in November 2017. Most of the food groups still record high inflation rates compared to last year, reaching 39.5 percent for dairy and eggs, 22.7 percent for meat, 35.1 percent for fruits and 32 percent for vegetables. The ease in annual inflation rates is also associated with improvement in economic activity. Real GDP growth rate increased to 5.2 percent during July-September 2017, compared to 3.4 percent during the same period in 2016. Growth was mainly driven by growth in total investment (23.5 percent) and the leap in export growth (127.4 percent), however private consumption growth slowed to 2 percent, indicating the weaker consumer demand in the aftermath of policy reforms. Also, unemployment rate has slightly decreased to 11.9 percent during July-Sep 2017, compared to 12.6 percent during the same period in 2016.

Country Background & Strategy



Egypt is ranked 111 out of 188 countries in the 2015 UNDP Human Development Index, up three ranks from 2014. Despite the relative political stability of the past three years, serious economic and social challenges remain, especially in rural areas.

National poverty rates have increased by 1.5 percentage points since 2013, with an estimated 28 percent of the population living under the poverty line, unable to meet minimum food needs. Poverty rates are particularly high in rural Upper Egypt, where 57 percent of the population fall below the poverty line (HIECS, 2015).

In the poorest areas of the country, 20 percent of children have never attended school, a further 13 percent are noted to drop out of school early (UNICEF, 2010). Stunting rates among children decreased from 30 percent in 2014 to 22.3 percent in 2015. Women's illiteracy rate stands at 35 percent compared to 18 percent for men. Egypt is ranked 131 out of 155 countries in the 2014 UNDP Gender Inequality Index.

As a response to food security challenges in Egypt, the Government spends large amounts on subsidy and social safety net programmes. The public safety net comprises conditional in-kind subsidies and ration cards.

WFP has been in Egypt since 1968.

Income Level: **Middle**

Population: **94.8 million**

Stunting rates among children under 5: **22.3%**

2015 Human Development Index: **111 out of 188**

Donors

Country Programme: Canada, Egypt, EU, Germany, Norway, USA and private sector donors

PRRO 200987: Australia, China, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Sweden, and USA