



Highlights

- WFP and partners launched a project called "Building resilient food security systems to benefit the Southern Egypt region" financed by the Adaptation Fund. The project takes an integrated approach, building adaptive capacity at national and community levels to provide food-insecure people with the knowledge, skills and tools to strengthen their resilience.
- WFP Egypt continued consultations with the Egyptian Government and relevant stakeholders towards developing a dedicated five-year Country Strategic Plan. WFP is also currently undergoing high-level and technical consultations with existing and potential donors.



WFP Egypt Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Leveraging National Capacity through Partnerships for Food and Nutrition Security	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Country Programme 200238 (Jul 2013 - Dec 2017)	168.5 m	118.9 m	0.16 m

*November 2017 to April 2018

WFP's operations in Egypt aim to save lives and protect livelihoods, enhance access to education and combat child labour through food assistance. It also aims to build 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 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, 327 schools have been 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 October 2017, 6,846 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 manage income-generating activities. As of October, 29,225 women were trained, and the first group of mothers received the first batch of revolving micro-

loans. The number of mothers receiving loans as of October 2017 is 2,105.

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

Food Assistance to Vulnerable Syrian Populations	Egypt Total Requirements (in USD)	Egypt 6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Regional PRRO 200987 (Jan 2017 - Dec 2018)	69.2 m	15.1 m

*November 2017 to April 2018

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200987

In 2017, WFP moves into a more resilience-strengthening assistance modality under the the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200987 to achieve more sustainable and durable solutions through promoting human capital and self-reliance support to vulnerable refugee and host communities. The PRRO provides basic needs general food distribution, nutrition support to pregnant and lactating women, vocational trainings, capacity enhancement and assets rehabilitation.

Specifically, WFP supports Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria through monthly cash-based transfers in the form of food vouchers. In October, WFP reached 74,972 vulnerable beneficiaries out of the total 123,033 refugees in Egypt currently officially registered by UNHCR.

In Numbers

424,528 schoolchildren supported with school meals in October 2017

74,972 refugees from Syria were assisted in October 2017

Syrian Refugees Assisted



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



October 2017

Operational Updates

School Meals: In October, WFP's schools meals programme supported 424,528 school children and family members with in-school snacks and take-home rations. Additionally, WFP provided 184,773 family members of eligible children attending community schools with cash-based transfers to encourage high attendance rates of 90 and 91 percent for boys and girls, respectively. The school meals programme aims to reduce school drop-out rates, encourage dietary diversity, and contribute to the stimulation of the local economy.

Country Strategic Plan (CSP) Update: In October, the national Synthesis Review Workshop took place, where WFP and partners explored opportunities in the area of innovation, government partnership and potential of Egypt to be a global leader in food security and development. During the third quarter of 2017, WFP continued consultations with the Egyptian Government and relevant stakeholders towards developing a dedicated five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP). In addition, WFP Egypt conducted high-level and technical consultations with existing and potential donors. A donor round-table is scheduled towards the end of 2017 to review the final plan. This will allow to further align WFP's CSP with the Government's Sustainable Development Strategies (SDSs) under Egypt's Vision 2030 with Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17. In the meantime, WFP has undergone a Country Programme budget revision and developed a 6-month Transitional-Interim CSP (covering the period January-June 2018). WFP Egypt will be presenting the final CSP to the June 2018 Executive Board.

Climate Change and Food Security in Egypt: In partnership with the Adaptation Fund and the Government of Egypt, WFP launched the project "Building resilient food security systems to benefit the Southern Egypt region". The project takes an integrated approach, building adaptive capacity at the national and community levels to provide food-insecure people with the knowledge, skills and tools to build their own climate resilience. Southern Egypt is one of the areas most vulnerable to climate change within the region, with nearly 46 percent of households living below the national poverty line. Climate information centers were established in each village and units set up to manage the revolving loan scheme affiliated to the local NGOs. WFP and the Government of Egypt consider the project to be a major contribution to their efforts to build resilience and enhance food security in the most vulnerable communities in Egypt.

Challenges

Impact of economic reforms on the poorest and most vulnerable populations: Annual inflation in the overall Consumer Price Index started to ease in September 2017 due to base effect, reaching 32.9 percent, compared to 33.2 percent in the previous month. In addition, inflation in food price index decreased to 41.8 percent, compared to 42.1 percent in August 2017. Most of the food groups recorded high inflation rates reaching 51.6 percent for dairy and poultry products, 44.6 percent for oil and fats products, 43.6 percent for meat, 39.3 percent for bread and cereals and 37.1 percent for vegetables. In turn, this has a direct impact on the purchasing power of the Egyptian households. The cumulative increase in the cost of living is adding to the existing pressures on the poorest and most vulnerable population, including refugees and host communities. Meanwhile, the recent IMF mission in Egypt quoted GDP growth as "broad based" and expects it to grow to 4.5 percent in 2018, compared to 4.1 percent in 2017.

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, and 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.

In 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's objectives in the country are to support the Government to improve food security, nutritional status and access to socio-economic opportunities among the most vulnerable segments of the population. WFP activities in Egypt are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, which is to end hunger and

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

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