



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 (July 2013 - Dec. 2017)	168.5 m	129 m (77%)	-

*April - September 2017

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 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, supported the physical upgrading of community schools. Since the project started in 2014, 218 schools were rehabilitated.

WFP also provides training to teachers to improve their capacities and to enhance their roles in creating an attractive learning environment which helps reduce drop-out rates. Until March 2017, 4,281 teachers were trained.

WFP's Food Assistance for Assets supports vulnerable communities through the provision of training on agriculture, literacy, health, and nutrition. WFP provided training to enhance skills of participants in 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. As a result, women were specifically targeted through the provision of 'Get Ahead for Women in Enterprise' training to design, implement and manage income-generating activities. As of March 2017, 17,357 women received 'Get Ahead for Women in Enterprise' training.

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

- Under PRRO livelihood activities, the first soft skills training started on 18 March 2017, accommodating 48 participants both Syrian refugees and host community members in Obour and 6th of October.
- A total 5,500 farmers in Luxor benefited from the sun dried tomato activity to process their harvest of tomatoes in the last winter season. This activity is implemented through the sun drying unit that was established by WFP to increase the value of the farmers' crops.

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

Food Assistance to Vulnerable Syrian Populations	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Regional PRRO 200987 (Jan 2017 - Dec. 2018)	69.5 m	7.5 m	13.7 m (87%)

*April - September 2017

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200987

WFP supports Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria through monthly CBT entitlements. In March, WFP targeted 75,875 vulnerable beneficiaries out of the total 120,154 refugees currently officially registered by UNHCR, as of 28 February 2017.

In 2017, WFP is moving into a more resilience-strengthening assistance modality with the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200987, to achieve more sustainable and durable solutions through human capital and self-reliance support to vulnerable refugee and host communities. The PRRO provides general food distribution, nutrition support, vocational trainings, capacity enhancement and access to micro-credit schemes.

In Numbers

1,173,336 schools children reached through in-school snacks in public schools in March

73,586 Syrian refugees assisted in March

Syrian Refugees Assisted



March 2017

Operational Updates

First Soft Skills training started, Under the PRRO

200987: As WFP starts the livelihood activities under the PRRO, the first soft skills trainings started on 18 March 2017 accommodating 48 participants both Syrian refugees and host community members in Obour and 6th of October. The training, which is conducted by "Logic Training and HR Development", is split across three different modules with a total of eight sessions. Participants are required to attend 75 percent of the training sessions in order to be entitled to WFP's Cash-based transfer assistance.

WFP is working on developing a database of beneficiaries which will facilitate targeting and profiling of the beneficiaries. Selection of trainings' participants is based on the skills, education, experience and needs of vulnerable Syrian refugees and host communities.

Capacity Development on Nutrition: WFP conducted a TOT for 125 community schools teachers and supervisors on nutrition and healthy eating. Through the ToT, the trainees were provided with the know-how of designing healthy complete meals and were provided with information about the dietary requirements for the different stages of life. Similar trainings are going to be conducted to public schools teachers in the coming months.

In collaboration with the national nutrition institute, another ToT was conducted for the nutrition supervisors of the Ministry of Education. Supervisors were trained on adolescents' pregnancy and its impacts on the health and nutritional status of girls.

Sun drying of Tomato in Luxor: In March, total 5,500 farmers have benefited from sun dried tomato activity in 'Tomas 3' village in Luxor governorate to process their harvest of tomatoes in the last winter season. The sun drying unit, which was established by WFP in collaboration with the village NGOs, improves the technological capacity of the targeted small-holders farmers to increase the tomato value.

The sun drying unit can be used all year around to provide added value to some crop such as tomato, mint leaves, dates, hibiscus, and basil leaves. Sun-drying is a simple procedure that takes place in the open air on net tables, doubling job opportunities and can increase profits for small producers by up to 30 percent. It increases market value of the crop as sun-dried fruits and vegetables have high demand, especially for export. In addition, it improves handling and storage, and also reduces transportation cost.

Challenges

Impact of economic reforms on the poorest and most vulnerable populations: The annual inflation in CPI during March 2017 is 33 percent higher than that during the same month in 2016. Annual inflation in food prices reached 43 percent in comparison to the same month in 2016. This is linked to the acceleration in inflation rates to the flotation of the pound, the scrapping of several subsidies on regulated goods and the introduction of the Value-added Tax. This has a direct impact on the purchasing power of the Egyptians household. The average households spend about 40 percent of their total expenditures on food, which makes them highly vulnerable to the recent soar in food prices.

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's objectives in the country are to support the Government to improve food security, nutritional status and access to socio-economic opportunities amongst the most vulnerable segments of the population. WFP activities in Egypt are aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, to end hunger and all form of malnutrition by 2030.

Income Level: **Middle**

Population: **91.5 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: USA, AUL, Dan, GFFO, Japan

Contact info: Amina Al Korey (amina.alkorey@wfp.org)
Country Director: Menghestab Haile
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/egypt