



# 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 (76.6%)	1.2 m (6%)

\*June - November 2017

\*\* The shortfall is under Component 3 - Food Assistance for Assets and the CO is engaging with Private Donors for fund raising

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, 240 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 May 2017, 5,635 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 May 2017, 20,170 women received 'Get Ahead for Women in Enterprise' training.

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

# Highlights

- The CO received a mission from the Adaptation Fund from 30 April-3 May 2017 to document success stories from the Climate Change project. The mission found the work very impressive, and will be documenting the project's stakeholder engagement and gender mainstreaming approaches as best practices in a knowledge product for guidance on [Adaptation Fund projects](#).
- Planning for resuming school feeding in community schools in June was well underway with a number of meetings taking place with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and the Ministry of Education. Some 122,000 children are planned to receive in-school snacks during the month of June.

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)	69.2 m	13.1 m (81%)	19.3 m

\*June - November 2017

## GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200987

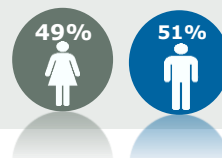
WFP supports Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria through monthly CBT entitlements. In May, WFP targeted 74,232 vulnerable beneficiaries out of the total 122,228 refugees officially registered by UNHCR, as of 30 April 2017.

In 2017, WFP shifted its activities towards 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

**122,000** children in community schools in 15 governorates will be receiving fortified date bars in June - after resuming School feeding program.

**73,942** Syrian refugees assisted in May



May 2017

## Operational Updates

**Livelihood activities, under the PRRO 200987:** As WFP continues to shift towards livelihood activities under the PRRO, a memorandum of understanding is underway with **"Amr Helmy Designs"** the leading kitchen and furniture manufacturer in the Middle-East, for the provision of on-the-job training opportunities to both Syrian refugees and Egyptians. In addition, WFP is currently negotiating with **Caritas** for a potential partnership for the implementation of livelihood vocational trainings, on-the job trainings in Alexandria, Damietta and Mansoura as well as Pregnant and Lactating Women support activities. Negotiations are also ongoing with **Fathalla** in Alexandria, for a possible cooperation for the provision of skills development sets of theoretical and practical on the job learning modules in the field of food processing/handling.

### Planning for the Resumption of School Feeding

**Activities:** Following the government's decision to allow the resumption of school feeding in community schools, WFP started to coordinate with concerned stakeholders to launch the distribution of in-school snacks in June 2017. Several meetings were held with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and the Ministry of Education, WFP's main counterparts, to coordinate the distribution of the in-school snacks. Some 122,000 children in community schools in 15 governorates across Egypt will be receiving fortified date bars next month. This comes following a national three month halt of school feeding activities following several alleged cases of food poisoning.

## Challenges

### Impact of economic reforms on the poorest and most vulnerable populations:

Egypt has seen significant increase in inflation on food and non-food prices after the implementation of the recent economic and financial reforms and the floatation of the Egyptian Pound. Annual inflation in the overall CPI reached 32.9% during April 2017, compared to 10.9% in April 2016, while inflation in Food Price Index reached a historic peak of 44.1, compared to 13.5% in April 2016. Additionally, unemployment rates remained persistently high until end of December 2016 (12.5%)<sup>[1]</sup>. This is linked to the floatation of the Egyptian pound, scrapping of several subsidies on regulated goods and implementation of the Value-Added Tax and had a direct impact on the purchasing power of the households, especially the poor and vulnerable.

**Halting of school feeding continues:** Current estimate for losses resulting from the continued national halting is 350 mt. This is resulting from a recent decision by the government to reject any quantities that had already been distributed to the schools as well as any quantities that were produced before March 2017. Final sum of losses is yet to be finalized as date bars are still being collected from the schools. Deliveries to community schools is scheduled to resume as of 1 June using the March production quantities, which has been accepted by the government.

[1] Source: Quarterly Labour Survey, CAPMAS

## Country Background & Strategy



Over the past 2 years Egypt has seen gradual improvement in security and political stability that was reflected in higher growth rates (real GDP growth increased to 4.3 percent in FY 2016), surpassing average growth for the MENA region. However, Egypt still faces a set of long-standing development challenges. About 28 percent of its population fall below the income poverty line, while 5.3 percent (4.7 million) are estimated to be extremely poor and 22 percent are "near poor" and highly vulnerable to the risks of falling into poverty [1]. The Food Security Index developed by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) for 2016 shows that Egypt is moderately food secure, however the analysis of the national household expenditure and consumption survey for 2015 shows that about 15.9 percent of the total population have poor access to food. Poverty rates are particularly high in rural Upper Egypt, where 57 percent of the population fall below the poverty line (HIECS, 2015).

Egypt is ranked 111 out of 188 countries in the 2015 UNDP Human Development Index, up three ranks from 2014. 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 135 out of 188 countries in the 2015 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.

WFP has been in Egypt since 1968.

[1] Household Income Expenditure and Consumption Survey, Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), Jan-Dec 2015

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

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