



# 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%)	2.2 m

\*July - December 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; they also aim 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, no new trainings took place in June (during Ramadan).

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

**Main Photo** Credit: WFP/Mohamed. Gamal  
Caption: Ramadan is a participant in the Climate Change project in the governorate of Luxor in Upper Egypt.

## Highlights

- WFP resumed distribution of in school snacks (fortified date bars) in community schools in the 16 governorates where WFP is implementing school meals activities under an EU funded project.

Women in Enterprise' training to design, implement and manage income-generating activities. As of June 2017, 20,228 women received 'Get Ahead for Women in Enterprise' training.

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)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Regional PRRO 200987 (Jan 2017 - Dec. 2018)	69.2 m	12.2 m

\*Including confirmed pledges and solid forecasts, July-December 2017

**GENDER MARKER 2A** PRRO 200987

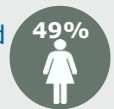
WFP supports Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria through monthly CBT entitlements. In June, WFP targeted 74,669 vulnerable beneficiaries out of the total 122,228 refugees officially registered by UNHCR, as of 30 April 2017.

In 2017, WFP shifted its activities towards more resilience-strengthening assistance 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

**455,520** children and their family members benefitted from school meals activities in 16 governorates.

**74,669** Syrian refugees assisted in June



June 2017

## Operational Updates

**Livelihood activities, under the PRRO 200987:** As WFP continues to shift towards livelihood activities under the PRRO, with a focus on enhancing resilience and social cohesion between Syrian refugees and Egyptians, WFP jointly with **"Dawar for Arts and Development"** organized an *Iftar* followed by an evening of Playback Theatre for Syrian and Egyptian women and their families. The events took place on June 14 and 15. Participants were engaged through an interactive theatre performance, based upon true stories from their lives. The intervention aims to build connections and solidarity between refugees and host communities. Playback Theatre involves a collaborative process, whereby audience members volunteer true stories from their own lives. A team of actors and musicians subsequently transform each account into a short, improvised enactment that honors and illuminates the teller's original experience

**Resumption of School Meals Activities:** In May 2017 WFP received an official letter from the Ministry of Social Solidarity endorsing WFP's resumption of distribution of in-school snacks to targeted community schools in 16 governorates starting June 2016. Accordingly, distribution was resumed reaching 94,000 children with around 177 metric tons of fortified date bars.

## Challenges

**Impact of economic reforms on the poorest and most vulnerable populations:** Annual inflation in consumer prices (Consumer Price Index) slightly eased from 32.9% in April to **30.9%** in May and June [CAPMAS], mainly due to high base effect in 2016. Annual inflation in food prices also eased from 44.1% in April, to **40.6%** in June 2017. Despite the slight decrease in annual inflation rates during the past two months, prices are expected to see another inflationary wave due to recent energy price reforms and the increase in VAT (Economist Intelligence Unit). According to media, the recently imposed energy reforms at end of June 2017 included a **43%** increase in price of Octane 92 (LE 5/litre), 55% increase in Solar gas (LE 3.65/litre), 25% increase in car gas (LE 2.00/m<sup>3</sup>), while the price of cooking gas canisters doubled to LE 30 per canister. The same is being reported on electricity prices, which were also subject to increases; the price per KW increased by 15-18% for lowest 2 tiers of consumption, and by 25.5% - 42% for the rest. Overall, the recent reforms will have direct and secondary impacts on the cost of living as inflation rates are expected to rise again in the coming months, adding to the cumulative economic pressures faced by households since 2016. Under these circumstances, poor and vulnerable households are likely to face increasing challenges to meet their essential needs and hence vulnerability to food insecurity is likely to rise. Social protection adjustments for the poorest and most vulnerable are therefore necessary.

## Country Background & Strategy



Over the past two 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 [CAPMAS]. 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.

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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