In Numbers

551,487 people assisted in June 2019

397.3 mt of food assistance distributed

US$ 2.9 m cash-based transfers (CBT) made

US$ 37.2 m six months (July-December 2019) net funding requirements

Operational Context

WFP Egypt’s Country Strategic Plan (CSP) started on 01 July 2018 and is expected to end on 30 June 2023. The CSP focuses on strengthening national capacity to tackle the underlying causes of vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition while responding to humanitarian needs. Furthermore, the CSP promotes the exchange of knowledge and best practices on food security and nutrition through South-South Cooperation.

Egypt is ranked 115 of 189 countries in the 2018 United Nations Development Programme Human Development Index, up five ranks from 2014. National poverty rates increased to 27.8 percent in 2015 from 26.3 percent in 2012.

In the poorest areas of the country, 20 percent of children have never attended school, and a further 13 percent are expected to drop out of school in their early years of education. Women’s illiteracy rate stands at 35 percent compared to 18 percent for men.

As a response to food security challenges, the Government implements an extensive social protection system that assists vulnerable members of the population. WFP’s programmes support these social safety nets through various interventions. WFP has been operating in Egypt since 1968.

Operational Updates

- The Ministry of Education (MOE) and WFP held a roundtable discussion on the empowerment of adolescent children. The discussion, which was attended by government representatives, non-governmental organizations, private sector and community school graduates, highlighted the importance of vocational and entrepreneurship training for vulnerable adolescents, especially school drop-outs above the age of 15.

- To help address child labour, WFP provided on-the-job training to enhance the capacity of 124 Child Protection Committee (CPC) members in case management of children identified at risk.

- More than 3,600 teachers, head of community schools and IT departments developed their capacity to access the Egyptian Knowledge Bank through WFP-led trainings in eight governorates. An online community channel was created to connect teachers with their peers, directorate of education and WFP field staff to promote the exchange of information.

- In June, heads of community schools and school feeding departments at the central and governorate levels started using the Class Management Application, which was developed by MOE with the support of WFP, to assist the collection of timely data (such as attendance and distribution of assistance) for evidence-based decision making.

- Awareness-raising sessions on first aid, emergency preparedness and irrigation techniques were held at the Community Hubs in Luxor, reaching 230 community members including school workers, farmers and family members of community-school children.

- As part of WFP’s refugee response, WFP supported 100,349 Syrian, African, Yemeni and Iraqi refugees through food assistance. Other support included livelihood trainings benefiting 165 beneficiaries and nutrition support to 3,760 pregnant and lactating women (PLW).

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Photo Caption: Starting May 2019, WFP has extended food assistance to an additional 24,000 refugees. ©WFP/Mohammad
WFP is supporting the launch of the new National Nutrition Institute website with the provision of content for enhanced user experience. The website will serve as the nutrition information platform under the Presidential Initiative ‘100 Million Health.’

To promote income diversification among farmers, WFP provided eight trainings on livestock raising and bee keeping, supporting 219 women and men. As part of WFP's ongoing in-kind micro-credit scheme, a total of 611 women and 336 men received livestock for livelihood support.

WFP provided microloans to 526 mothers of community school children, supporting the economic empowerment of women through small business.

**Monitoring**

According to WFP monitoring of food assistance for refugees coming from Syria, focus groups discussions (FGDs) in Damietta and 6 October City have shown that most participants consider the assistance as an essential contribution to their basic needs. Given the increase in market prices, participants voiced the need for an increase in the voucher value and an extension of the voucher’s redemption period.

Based on FGDs with assisted pregnant and lactating refugees in Damietta and 6 October City, all interviewed mothers indicated that they have become increasingly committed to their monthly check-ups after having enrolled in WFP’s assistance programme. Recommended improvements included the contraction of a health clinic in Mansoura and the use of electronic vouchers so that vouchers may be redeemed at nearby stores.

**Highlights**

**WFP partnership with China’s National Food and Strategic Reserve Administration**

On 20 June, WFP and the National Food and Strategic Reserve Administration of China (NAFRA) signed a collaboration agreement to promote global food security through innovation and South-South cooperation. The agreement aims to strengthen cooperation between China and WFP by promoting the exchange of China’s technology and experiences in various aspects of grain reserve management and facilitating market access for smallholder farmers with other developing countries.

**Celebrating efforts against Child Labour in Assiut**

In recognition of efforts to end child labour, WFP and the Assiut CPC held a celebration highlighting the importance of awareness raising and the role of CPC interventions. The event held at the Assiut Culture Palace included a cultural performance and a student-led drama show on violence against children promoting awareness on child labour and the various CPC interventions.

**Donors**

(In alphabetical order) Canada, Egypt, European Union, Finland, Germany, Japan, Norway, Private Sector, United States