



UNITED NATIONS
EGYPT



2020

UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT EGYPT





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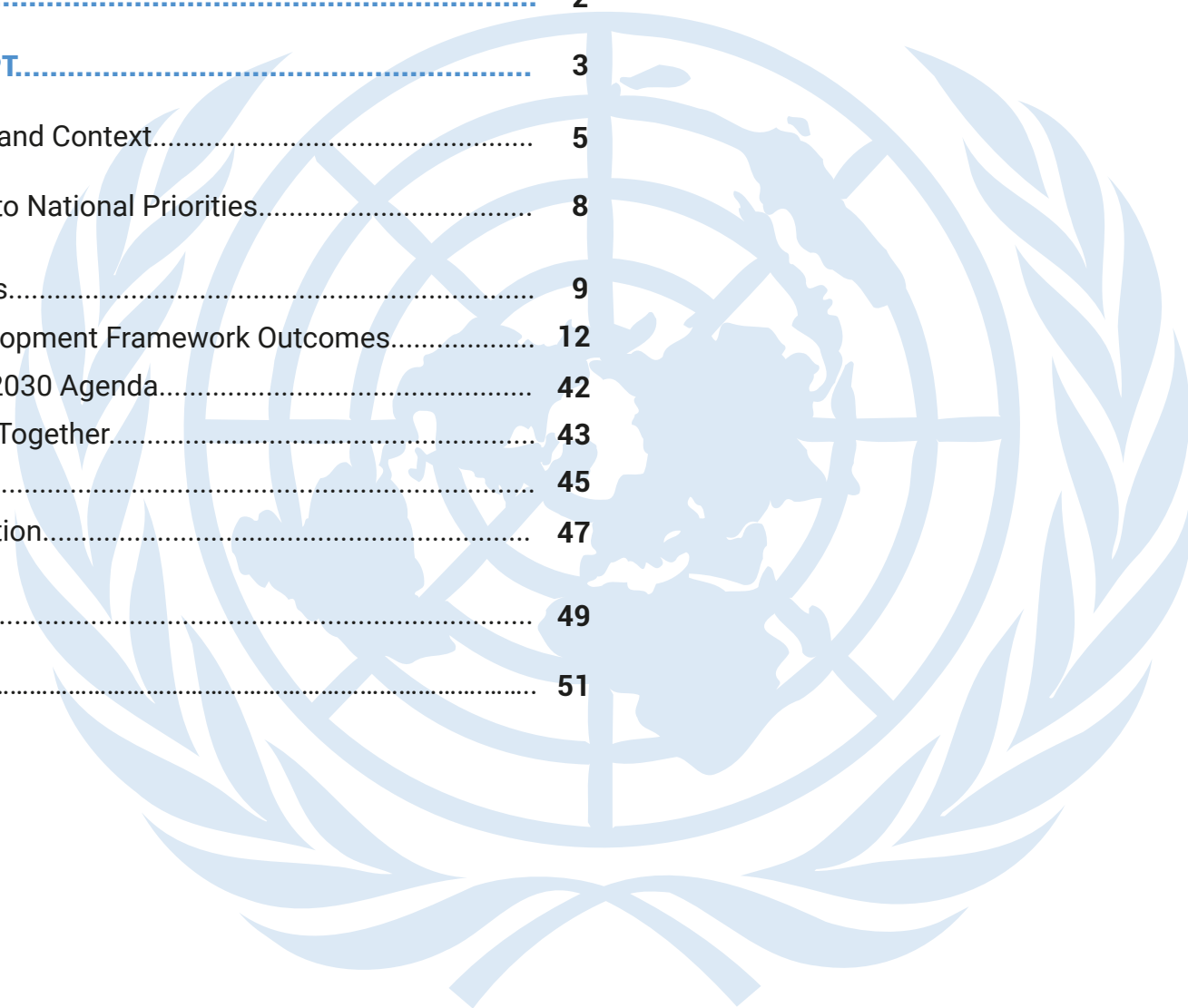
2020 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT EGYPT

March 2021



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Foreword

On behalf of the United Nations in Egypt, I am very pleased to present the 2020 United Nations Country Team Annual Results Report, which details the progress made during the third year of implementing the United Nations Partnership Development Framework 2018–2022. This report marks the collective efforts made by the United Nations in Egypt to advance the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through cooperation with the Government, development partners, civil society and local communities.

2020 was an unusual year in Egypt, as it has been elsewhere due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It changed the lives of people more quickly and profoundly than any of us could ever have imagined which imposed significant challenges to the course of progress towards the achievement of SDGs. This unprecedented situation was highly deliberated on in Egypt to find the best ways to respond and mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic. Egypt was one of the first countries in the region to respond to the pandemic in a timely, decisive and comprehensive manner. The Government of Egypt – in partnership with the entire United Nations team– developed and implemented a joint and coordinated health and socio-economic response including recovery plans that are fully aligned with the national sustainable development strategy, Egypt Vision 2030, and with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To mitigate the impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable, the United Nations collectively worked with the Government of Egypt on multiple fronts, including the enhancement of health systems; the mitigation of economic impact on the labour market, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and high-risk sectors; the delivery of inclusive access to public

services, notably social protection and safety nets, health and nutrition, and educational services; the alleviation of food insecurity; and support to women and girls' continued access to services and to economic opportunities. In addition, the enhancement and protection of the livelihood of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers were core parts of our work in 2020.

Despite the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Egypt remained highly committed to advancing and accelerating its sustainable development commitments within Egypt's Vision 2030 and the African Union's Agenda 2063. A set of new national policies, structural reforms and programmes were launched with the objective to provide a decent life for those left furthest behind.

We are proud of the results of the partnership between the United Nations and the Government of Egypt in mitigating the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and in investing in the SDG agenda. Despite the crisis, Egypt is the only economy in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to achieve a positive GDP growth in 2020.

Egypt has also succeeded in surpassing the worst impacts of COVID-19 on employment and expanded its targeted social protection interventions to the most vulnerable in many regions.

To deliver on the United Nations joint activities in Egypt, US\$192.3 million was mobilized and implemented in 2020.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Government counterparts in Egypt, our development partners, civil society and all stakeholders for their continuous engagement and cooperation with the entire United Nations team in Egypt, and for their contribution and commitment towards the achievement of SDGs.



Elena Panova

*United Nations Resident
Coordinator in Egypt*

UN Country Team in Egypt



28 Agencies, funds and programmes comprise the UNCT in Egypt

Twenty-eight United Nations (UN) agencies, funds and programmes comprise the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Egypt, chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC), the designated representative of the UN Secretary General in the Country¹.

UNCT, in close and strategic partnership with the Government of Egypt (GoE), is fully committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the country.

Anchored by the United Nations Partnership Development Framework (UNPDF) for the period 2018–2022, UNCT continues to rely and build upon its key comparative advantages, drawing on all UN’s expertise, and promoting integrated approaches to achieve nationally defined development results. These results are reflected in the country’s national sustainable development strategy (Egypt Vision 2030) and national plans and frameworks, including the 2030 National Strategy for the Empowerment of Women, while ensuring no one is left behind.

UNPDF 2018-2022 outlines four outcomes that respond to the country’s priorities, which are made operational through the development of biennial Joint Work Plans (JWPs). These four outcomes are 1) inclusive economic development; 2) social justice; 3) environmental sustainability and natural resource management and 4) women’s empowerment.

Through the collaborative work of UNCT in Egypt, UNPDF aims to support national efforts to adopt inclusive and sustainable development pathways; support national efforts to reach the interim 2030 targets of Egypt Vision 2030 and to provide sustainable access to public services for all people in Egypt; support the pursuit of GoE in natural resource management and fostering of a greener economy and society; and ensure women are fully contributing to Egypt’s development and that all rights of women and girl set forth in the 2014 constitution are protected and responded to without discrimination.

Resident:



Non-Resident:



Key Development Partners of UN in Egypt

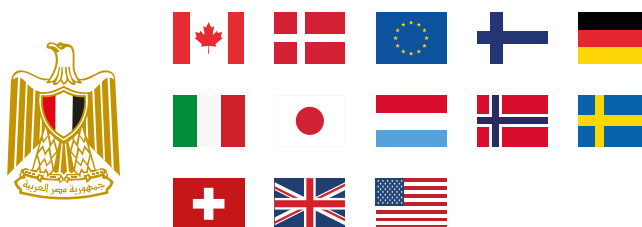
In addition to the strong partnership with GoE, the UN in Egypt continued to foster partnerships with bilateral and multilateral partners – including international financial institutions (IFIs), civil society and private sector during the reporting period.

In 2020, the Minister of International Cooperation (MoIC) in partnership with UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) continued to guide the strategic direction of the UNPDF as the co-chairs of GoE - UN Joint Steering Committee, while outcome-level implementation was overseen by the joint Results Groups (RGs) that are co-chaired by relevant line ministers and heads of UN agencies. Ministers of Planning and Economic Development, Social Solidarity, and Environment and the President of the National Council of Women co-chaired the RGs for the Prosperity, People, Planet and Women outcomes, respectively. UN also maintained a close partnership with the Departments of Multilateral Affairs, International Cooperation, and Human Rights and International Humanitarian and Social Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UN further strengthened its partnership with the Ministries of Health and Population, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Education and Technical Education during the reporting period.

UN also maintained its strong partnerships with key bilateral and multilateral development partners. In 2020, approximately 60 per cent of financial contributions to UNPDF came from bilateral and multilateral partners, with the European Union, United States of America, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and the United Kingdom as the top donors.

Concurrently, UN strategically engaged and coordinated with the development partners community in Egypt through the Development Partners Groupⁱⁱ (DPG) coordination mechanism and its thirteen Thematic Groups. In addition to bilateral and multilateral development partners, UN also maintained its partnership with a number of key global thematic funds, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria among others, as well as Global UN Funds, including UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) and most recently the Joint SDG Fund.

Bilateral Partners



Multilaterals



Civil society



Private Sector



Private Sector foundations



Global Funds



Girls Home Schooling: UN Women

Strategic partnerships with IFIs and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) in Egypt were also strengthened by UN in 2020. UNRC and the World Bank Director co-hosted two strategic dialogues between UNCT and IFIs which set forth the overall direction for enhancing partnerships between UN and IFIs in the country. Following the first dialogue, an Economists Network was established at the technical level and continued to meet on a regular basis with active participation of economists from UN entities, IFIs and other development partners including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to exchange on economic development issues and ongoing work.

UN also initiated a joint strategic engagement with a network of the largest INGOs in Egypt with the aim of bringing together the macro-level and policy perspectives that UN operates on with the operational perspective closer to that of vulnerable groups and communities, allowing a more comprehensive and grounded analysis. Moreover, UN partnered with the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) in the implementation of different interventions, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, including distribution of non-food items, organizing health awareness campaigns and medical convoys to screen migrants.

Furthermore, UN maintained and further enhanced partnerships with key partners from the private sector, including the Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI) and the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham), as well as a number of foundations including the Coca-Cola Foundation and its Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN) and the L'Oréal Foundation.



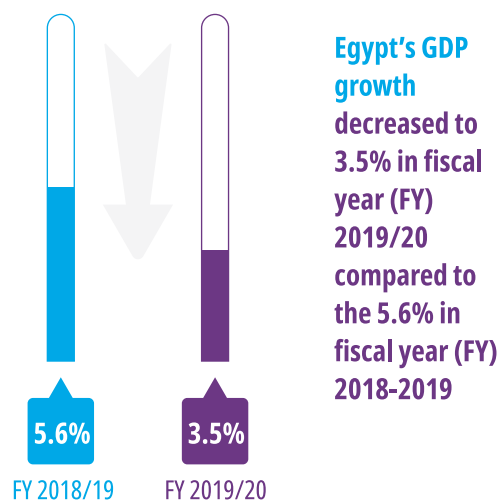
Better Agricultural Practices in Fayoum : FAO



1

Key Developments in the Country and Context

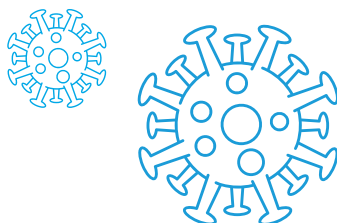
In 2020, COVID-19 posed significant challenges to the course of progress towards SDGs in Egypt, as in many parts of the world. As outlined in this chapter, decisive government measures in close collaboration with development partners helped to mitigate some of the negative impacts, yet large sections of society remain directly and indirectly impacted by the pandemic. By the end of 2020, the risks emanating from COVID-19 on the economy and society remained at large.



Egypt's GDP growth decreased to 3.5% in fiscal year (FY) 2019/20 compared to the 5.6% in fiscal year (FY) 2018-2019

Egypt's GDP growth decreased to 3.5 per cent in 2019–20 fiscal year (July - June) compared to 5.6 per cent in fiscal year 2018–2019. Growth estimates for the first half of 2020–21 registered a growth rate of 1.35 per cent . IMF forecasts Egypt economic growth for 2020–21 as 2.8 per centⁱⁱⁱ . These forecasts reflect the continued impact of COVID-19 on the economy, especially through reduced tourism revenue. However, in 2020, Egypt emerged as the only economy in the MENA region with a positive economic growth.

In 2020, Egypt emerged as the only economy in the MENA region with a **positive economic growth**.



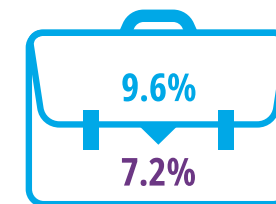
Further data collection and analysis by the UN system revealed the extent of the impact on specific groups and sectors. For example, a UN survey among Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) showed that the pandemic has had a differential impact on MSMEs (a sector that employs close to 10 million people^v) with micro and small enterprises being more harshly hit and left more uncertain about the future than medium enterprises. More than 90 per cent of the sample was adversely affected by the pandemic and the containment measures, with an average of 17 per cent of their workers being laid off and the expectation of dismissing a further 3.9 per cent^{vi} . A rapid assessment survey on the impact of COVID-19 on women revealed signs of increased violence against women and a sharp rise in the time spent on housework by women^{vii} .

By end of 2020, it appears that Egypt had already surpassed the worst impacts of COVID-19 on employment. The quarterly employment data shows that although COVID-19 had significant effects on employment, especially for women, the economy has recovered to pre-COVID-19 employment levels. By December 2020, the unemployment rate fell to 7.2 per cent, down from 9.6 per cent at the peak of COVID-related restrictions during the second quarter of 2020^{viii} .

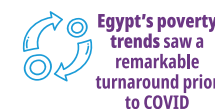
UN's preliminary assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 revealed the specific vulnerabilities of key sectors and identified 14 socio-economic groups with additional vulnerabilities during the pandemic (including women, children, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers,..etc..).

The total number of women in the workforce reduced by about 25 per cent between the first two quarters of 2020 but by the end of 2020, the number of women in the workforce was back to pre-COVID levels^{xi} . However, with key economic sectors such as tourism still ailing from the impacts of the pandemic, it is reasonable to assume that employment in many sectors is not yet back to normal.

By December 2020, the unemployment rates fell to 7.2%, down from 9.6% at the peak of COVID related restrictions during the second quarter of 2020



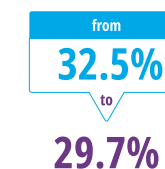
Egypt's poverty trends saw a remarkable turnaround prior to COVID-19. In terms of the national poverty line, poverty trends showed a steady increase up between 2000 and 2018. Thanks to macroeconomic structural reforms, targeted social protection and interventions in the most vulnerable regions , the poverty rate began to see a reversal in trends between 2018 and 2019 and into early 2020. Measures of poverty as per both the national definition and extreme poverty both registered a drop from 32.5 to 29.7 per cent and 6.2 to 4.5 per cent respectively^{xi} . These hard-won gains in poverty reduction are now at risk of erosion due to COVID-19. UN's initial estimations forecast a 4 per cent (roughly 4 million people) increase in poverty due to COVID-19^{xii} .



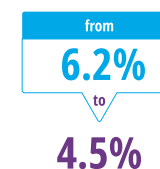
Egypt's poverty trends saw a remarkable turnaround prior to COVID



Poverty measures as per national definition registered a fall



and extreme poverty registered a fall



The Government of Egypt acted swiftly and decisively in the face of COVID-19. A COVID-19 policy tracker was launched by the Government, while the National Council of Women (NCW) issued regular women policies tracker on the responsiveness of policies and programmes affecting women during the pandemic. A 100 billion EGP stimulus package was announced with a focus on tourism and related sectors – those most affected by COVID-19. Government expanded the coverage of Takaful and Karama cash transfer programmes by 60,000 households and introduced direct cash transfer of 500 EGP to irregular workers, which benefited over 1 million workers^{xiii}. These measures helped to contain the negative impacts of COVID-19 to a large extent.

The Government was also able to raise resources to meet the added financing needs of COVID-19 response measures. Some of the key finances raised were the US\$7.9 billion loan from the IMF, the maiden issuance of US\$750 million in sovereign green bonds and \$5 billion in Euro bonds in May. Partially to manage the impact of these finances on public debt, the Government has finalized a Medium-Term Revenue Strategy.

context of deep structural reforms the country underwent after 2016 and reflect the emerging opportunities triggered by mitigation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Key legislations adopted in 2020 included the new MSMEs Development Law (Law No. 152 of 2020), which aims to provide financial and non-financial incentives to develop the MSMEs sector, and the new Unified Tax Law (Law No. 206 of 2020), aimed at establishing unified tax procedures for filing and regulating direct and indirect taxes. These were in addition to recent Government efforts to improve the overall business environment.

A new NGO law was adopted, which is expected to ease the working conditions for NGOs in the country by removing obstacles to the establishment of NGOs, inter alia^{xiv}. On the environmental front, a new waste management law was adopted (Law No. 202 of 2020), aiming at improving safe waste management methods for all kinds of waste. The Cabinet also agreed to produce guidelines for environmental sustainability standards that will be factored in when allocating budgets for public projects. All this demonstrates the Government's commitment to addressing emerging environmental concerns.

The most recent parliamentary elections took place between October and December 2020 for the House of Representatives, the main legislative body with the prerogative to approve the State budget, composed of 596 members. The Nation's Future Party achieved an absolute majority gaining 316 seats. Around 162 women have secured seats in the House of Representatives, compared to 89 lawmakers in the previous legislature. Elections for the reconstituted Senate took place in August and September 2020. The Nation's Future Party took 147 seats, becoming the largest party, with the remaining seats distributed among 16 other parties. Some 40 women have secured seats in the Senate.

The Government of Egypt acted swiftly and decisively in the face of COVID-19

-  **A COVID-19 Policy tracker was launched by the Government,**
-  **Women policy tracker issued**
-  **A 100 billion EGP Stimulus package announced**
-  **Extended coverage of Takaful and Karama cash Transfer**

The Government is in the process of updating the national Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) and creating a new National Sustainable Development Agenda (NSDA) to integrate the changing



Nile Sailing during 16 Days of Activism: UNDP



2

UN Development System Support to National Development Priorities

2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

COVID-19 had its impact on the trajectory of the UN cooperation framework in Egypt in 2020. From the outset of the pandemic, the UN system in Egypt in collaboration with (GoE) acted swiftly and comprehensively to readjust in response to the emerging situation and to support a better recovery.

The UN system in Egypt's response to COVID-19 was outlined in its Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) which represented the collective health response led by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Egypt. The UN system came up also with a collective Socio-economic Response & Recovery Plan (SERRP) addressing the immediate socio-economic impact of COVID-19 as well as outlining a transformative recovery process. Both plans were based on an early assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 through a vulnerability lens. Additionally, both plans were translated into action through the implementation of the UNPDF 2020-2021 Joint Work Plans (JWPs) that integrated both response plans within its planned activities.

As outlined in this Chapter, UN continued its work through the UNPDF 2018-2022's four outcome areas, **1) Inclusive Economic Development, 2) Social Justice, 3) Environmental Sustainability and Natural Resource Management, and 4) Women's Empowerment**, to support Egypt's efforts in achieving national set in Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The COVID-19 response and recovery actions were included within the four outcomes results. Additionally, Box 1 in section 2.2 presents different UN efforts towards migrants and refugees as part of the UNPDF results.



Under Outcome 1, **Inclusive Economic Development**, informing policy makers and providing policy guidance to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 on the

economy became priorities in 2020. This was in alignment with Pillars 3 & 4 of SERRP (Economic Response and Recovery, and Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Collaboration). In this regard, a number of knowledge products were produced, and policy dialogues took place for better understanding and preparedness for the “new normal” following the COVID-19 pandemic. These included a strategic foresight exercise for the manufacturing sector in Egypt; an Industrial Performance Index (IPI) to measure the performance of key sectors during the pandemic; a national MSMEs survey to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the sector and responsiveness to the government stimulus package. UN in Egypt also continued to support the institutional strengthening of national partners with the aim to increase their capacity to provide adequate employment opportunities and foster entrepreneurs; to increase accessibility for MSMEs to financial and non-financial services including Business Development Services (BDS), and to enhance protective measures in workplaces in light of COVID-19. Additionally, UN provided technical support to the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) in

the design of the FORSA programme, a graduation programme from the Takaful and Karama conditional cash transfer programme, aiming to move beneficiaries from welfare to the workforce by supporting wages and self-employment. At beneficiaries' level, UN worked on enhancing capacities of small youth-led ventures for increased market accessibility, aided small cotton cultivators and milk collection centres to become licensed producers for wider market opportunities, and promoted increased youth employability skills.



Cairo markets during COVID-19 measures



Under Outcome 2, **Social Justice**, in 2020 UN in Egypt partnered with GoE and national stakeholders to ensure sustainable access to public services, notably

social protection, health, nutrition, child protection and education services in light of the COVID-19 outbreak in accordance to Pillars 1, 2 & 5 of SERRP (Health First, Protecting People, and Social Cohesion and Community Resilience).

This included technical support to MoSS for the expansion of the social protection schemes of Takaful and Karama in terms of beneficiary access to additional, unconditional cash transfers to address immediate food and nutrition security needs resulting from the COVID-19 crisis. In addition to the completion of the Standard Operations Procedures (SOPs) for national case management for child protection, including an annex for children on the move in 2020, an annex for SOPs child protection services in case of emergencies was added to respond to COVID-19. Moreover, to ensure the continuity of the education process during COVID-19, UN in Egypt worked on the digitization of some key national learning modules for both early and higher education, as well as capacitating educational personnel for ICT in support of distance learning. Additionally, online trainings were organized for health managers, supervisors, doctors, nurses and community health workers (CHWs) on infection prevention control (IPC), immunization and provision of essential health services during COVID-19. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) was supplied to frontline health workers, children in juvenile institutions, those in institutional care and prisoners. COVID-19 related health information was produced and disseminated to different target groups. Finally, psychological support was provided on a wide scale to children and families in response to the reported increase in domestic violence. UN in Egypt also provided policy support to GoE in the roll-out of the Universal Health Insurance (UHI) system, the further roll-out of the new education

system for children between pre-primary and Primary 3, development of a five-year Family Planning (FP) national costed implementation plan, and continual work on the strengthening and institutionalization of the child protection system in Egypt. The above came in addition to the work of UN on nutrition, child health, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis prevention, detection, care, and treatment support, as well as youth engagement and empowerment.



Under Outcome 3, **Environmental Sustainability and Natural Resources Management**, in 2020 UN continued its cooperation with GoE on building

resilience and adaptation to climate change; promoting sustainable and inclusive urban planning; strengthening biodiversity management, improving integrated water management systems; enhancing access to clean and renewable energy; improving waste management; and fostering sustainable and efficient agriculture. In accordance with SERRP Pillar 2, UN in Egypt undertook a collective assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture sustainability and food security including the agri-food industry. The assessment that was done in partnership with key government stakeholders provided short- and medium-term policy recommendations for building a more resilient agri-food industry, agriculture, and food security systems. In terms of policy development, UN in Egypt supported key policy outputs in 2020, including the update of the Sustainable Agriculture Strategy 2030, development of the National Housing Strategy and National Urban Policy, as well as ten strategic urban plans. Furthermore, UN continued to support biodiversity management through work in protected areas, enhancing community participation in conserving those areas and promotion of ecotourism in line with the three-year presidential initiative, "Live Green", which aims to mainstream the conservation of biodiversity in tourism. In a similar connection, UN agencies in Egypt worked on integrated water management through strengthening capacities of water users'

associations, as well as the rehabilitation of water systems. Additionally, notable progress was made in 2020 in terms of the phase-out of ozone depleting substances, promotion of renewable energy investments and energy efficiency in the industrial sector, as well as strengthening resilience and adaptation to climate change. It is worth mentioning that the rooftop photovoltaic initiative to generate electricity from solar energy won the British Energy Institution Awards in 2020. 2020 also witnessed the construction of 14 km of a targeted 69 km of dike system to protect the low-lying lands in the Nile delta from sea surges during severe storms. Finally, small holders' farmers were capacitated to adopt resilient climate change-related practices.



Syrian Refugees Nursery Damietta: UNICEF



Under Outcome 4, **Women's Empowerment**, the partnership of UN with GoE in support of policy development informed the costed National Action Plan (NAP)

on female genital mutilation (FGM), the NAP on the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (under development), the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (under development) and the action plan for Gender Unit at the Ministry of Manpower (MoM). Additionally, the work in 2020 included the development of a national case study on violence against women with disabilities, the first of its kind in the country. The study was developed in collaboration with the NCW, Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) and MoSS. UN partnered with national stakeholders to strengthen institutional capacity of various

government counterparts, as well as in private sector and civil society, on topics that include gender mainstreaming in policies and programmes and addressing cases of gender-based violence (GBV).

UN continued to partner with national stakeholders in supporting women to pursue sustainable economic opportunities through microlending and financial education. At the same time, UN continued to contribute towards national efforts to overcome existing gender divides in the ICT sector and science technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, as well as to promote women's leadership in public and private institution. This contributed to increased access for women to income-generating activities, social services and safe spaces. The joint awareness-raising activities contributed to empowering women and girls and increasing understanding of gender inequalities among all people.

The implementation of UNPDF aimed to deliver US\$287 million. By the end of the year, the programme achieved a delivery rate of 67 per cent, with a total expenditure of US\$192.3 million, with the balance carried over to 2021.

Outcome 1, on Inclusive Economic Development (Prosperity) reached the highest delivery rate of 102 per cent with a total expenditure of US\$42,270,242 compared to the planned budget of US\$41,561,774. This was followed by Outcome 3 on Natural Resources Management (Planet) with a delivery rate of 96 per cent. Though Outcome 2 on Social Justice (People) had the lowest delivery rate of 56 per cent, it actually implemented the highest portion of the 2020 expenditure. Finally, Outcome 4 on Women's Empowerment (Women) achieved a delivery rate of 62 per cent (see table 1). For more details, please refer to section 2.6.



2.2 Results of United Nations Partnership Development Framework Outcomes

Outcome 1 Inclusive Economic Development

By 2022, Egypt has adopted inclusive and sustainable development pathways and remains on track to achieve agreed targets for sustainable, resilient and job rich economic development.



Corresponding SDGs



Contributing UN agencies



Corresponding national priorities: Egypt Vision 2030 Strategy; MoTI Industry and Trade Development Strategy 2016–2020; MoTI Creative Industries Strategy; MSME National Strategy; Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy 2030; Executive Plan of Agricultural Development; National Food and Nutrition Strategy 2018–2028; social justice and economic empowerment policies; National Action Plan for Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Egypt (2018–2025).

Joint Programmes: Employment for Youth in Egypt (EYE): Providing a Reason to Stay.

1. Policy development and enhancement

In 2020, UN collaborated with the Government of Egypt (GoE) to develop several policies to promote inclusive economic development and to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on the economy. At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, UN conducted a rapid socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19 in Egypt, which provided an overall direction for the policy advisory work of UN in the country. The impact assessment, which was undertaken jointly by 20 UN entities, identified potential impacts of COVID-19 on key economic sectors and proposed policy interventions at the sectoral and macro levels to protect the most vulnerable groups.

Meanwhile, in partnership with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED), under the umbrella of the inter-ministerial task force on the COVID-19 economic impact, UN generated knowledge products and held events with a high policy advisory focus in a very short duration. This helped position UN as an ‘agile partner’ of the Government and facilitated a better understanding and preparedness for the “new normal” following the COVID-19 pandemic. Among these were two international webinars that discussed digitalization as a means for supporting economic resilience and recovery from COVID-19 and disruptions to global value chains and industrial policies. Additionally, a multi-stakeholder strategic foresight exercise was held on the future of manufacturing in Egypt.



Geographic Focus : Outcome 1

These virtual events brought together national and international experts, as well as representatives from private sector and development partners, and resulted in the identification of key policy recommendations and Government agencies to lead the policy actions. Some of the knowledge products (e.g., the strategic foresight report for the manufacturing sector^{xv}) are being considered by the Prime Minister’s Office and the Cabinet for further actions.

UN also worked on informing policymakers with regards to the performance of key sectors during the pandemic, including MSMEs sector. To this end, an IPI was developed in collaboration with the Industrial Modernization Centre (IMC) of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) through surveying 1,300 industrial firms (large, medium and small) in key manufacturing sub-sectors. Results of this survey showed that IPI recorded 0.413^{xvi} which reflects the negative impact of COVID-19 on the manufacturing sector in the country. This collaboration also triggered consultations and dialogues with relevant stakeholders, including the

World Bank, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), line ministries, national research centres and thinktanks, as well as the general public through social media platforms^{xvii}. Simultaneously, policy advice and recommendations were provided to MoPED on measures needed to support the resilience of the MSMEs sector during COVID-19 and to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic through a national MSMEs phone survey which was conducted in collaboration with the Egyptian Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises Development Agency (MSMEDA), the CAPMAS and the African Development Bank (AfDB). The survey, which reached 1,951 enterprises, assessed the impact of COVID-19 on businesses and the response to the stimulus packages launched by GoE. The main findings of this survey indicated that more than 90 per cent of the sample had been adversely affected by the pandemic and the containment measures, while 30 per cent had experienced dwindling cash flows and expected to only be able to survive, solely on their cash flow, for less than a month. The surveyed enterprises also indicated that they had laid off 17 per cent of their workers, on average, and were expecting to dismiss another 3.9 per cent^{xviii}.

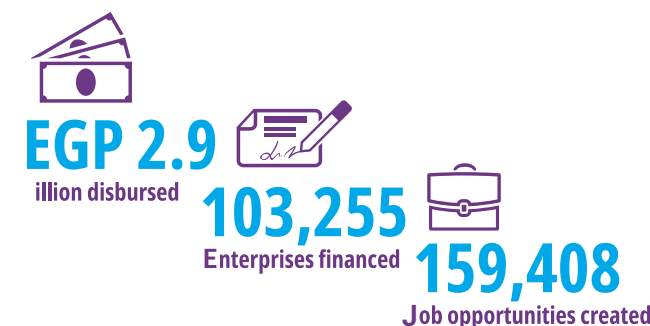
UN also facilitated policy dialogues around the impact of COVID-19 on SDGs. In partnership with the Ministry of International Cooperation (MoIC), UN brought together a wide range of Government, civil society and private sector representatives engaged in the national implementation of measures tackling consequences of COVID-19 and conducted a dialogue on linking the measures with the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. This was done through a webinar on strengthening the integrated planning capacity of national stakeholders involved in COVID-19 recovery policies and building back better towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. Furthermore, a series of sessions on SDGs and COVID-19 was conducted in partnership with the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Egypt. This series built a policy dialogue with over

100 representatives from key private sector players around the impact of COVID-19 on efforts towards achieving SDGs, exploring new priority goals, the trade-offs that may occur, and potential private business mitigating mechanisms to ensure efforts are not hindered.

With a focus on making more effective public expenditure choices as a means for guiding Government policy for economic recovery during the pandemic, UN developed a study on fiscal multipliers in Egypt and proposed policies in light of the results of the country's estimated fiscal multiplier. Furthermore, to promote local economic development and decentralization in Egypt, UN collaborated with MoPED during the reporting period towards developing COVID-19 recovery action plans at the governorate level that prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable communities. To inform and guide the formulation of these action plans, a set of key indicators to collect governorate-level data were identified and national partners (key line ministries and councils) were engaged through sectoral meetings (health, education and economy) and asked to provide data on the selected key indicators^{xix}. UN advised MoPED on the establishment of the Governorate Competitiveness Index, in addition to multi-sectoral expertise to assess the pillars of this Index.

2. Institutional capacity building and strengthening

UN continued to support the institutional strengthening of national partners, including MoTI, Ministry of Manpower (MoM), MoSS, Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities (MoHUUC), Ministry of Local Development (MoLD), MSMEDA, the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), IMC, the Information Technology Institute (ITI), the Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre (TIEC), National Food Safety Authority (NFSA), the General Organization for Export and Import Control, the Central Administration of Plant Quarantine, the Egyptian Holding Company for Silos and Storage, the General Authority for Supply Commodities, the Chamber of Food Industries and the Food Export Council.

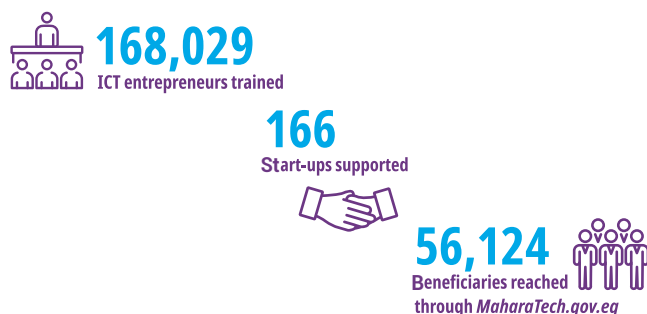


Through UN partnership framework with MSMEDA

Within the framework of the partnership of UN with MSMEDA, approximately EGP 2.9 billion was disbursed as loans for financing MSMEs which reached 103,255 enterprises, of which 43,369 are women-owned/led and 59,886 men-owned/led, creating 159,408 job opportunities (57,658 female and 101,750 male). The collaboration did not only provide financial services, but also contributed to building the capacities of 5,192 beneficiaries (2,763 female and 2,429 male) to effectively run their own projects through 137 training activities. Focusing on the Nile Delta region, UN, through the Employment for Youth in Egypt (EYE): Providing a Reason to Stay joint programme, enhanced the institutional capacities of MSMEDA to facilitate the access of MSMEs to financial and non-financial services, including access to markets, in two governorates. This contributed to supporting 3,952 enterprises of which 102 small and medium enterprises succeeded in concluding business deals with governmental entities. In addition, UN supported MSMEDA in organizing the Turathna Handicrafts Exhibition which gave the opportunity to 630 exhibitors to be acquainted with different international market needs, as well as to conclude business deals worth a total of EGP 60 million. MSMEDA was also supported in conducting a needs-assessment of its One-Stop-Shops, as well as in upgrading five business and technology incubators in the Menoufia governorate.

Building on the Business Development Services (BDS) Facilitation Strategy that was developed in 2019, UN also continued to support MSMEDA in playing the role of a facilitator among governmental and non-governmental actors through providing quality BDS to MSMEs. UN developed a BDS market facilitation manual and trained 15 MSMEDA focal points from different departments, while five MSMEDA senior management staff participated in a BDS market facilitation exposure visit and training in the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITCILO) in Turin, Italy. Moreover, within the framework of the Central Bank of Egypt's (CBE) initiative to establish BDS Hubs affiliated to banks, UN collaborated with CBE and its training arm, the Egyptian Banking Institute (EBI), to update, adapt and further develop the BDS training modules of ITCILO to match the priorities and needs of MSMEs in the Egyptian context. The initiative trained 129 BDS advisors, who are now effectively running the BDS Hubs and have served more than 6,000 clients along more than 15,000 services so far.

In the same context, with the support of UN, TIEC was able to train 168,029^{xxii} ICT entrepreneurs with ideas and support 166 start-ups^{xxiii}, while ITI continued to support capacity development in ICT and entrepreneurship through its comprehensive online platform - MaharaTech.gov.eg, capacitating 56,124 beneficiaries during the reporting period. Additionally, UN provided technical support to MoSS in the design of the FORSA programme as a graduation



Though institutional support to TIEC & ITI

programme from the Ministry's Takaful and Karama conditional cash transfer programme, aiming to move beneficiaries from welfare to the workforce by supporting wages and self-employment. Support to FORSA involved, inter alia, training workshops on UN's entrepreneurship and employability tools such as the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB), Gender and Entrepreneurship Together (GET AHEAD) and Jobs Search Clubs.

In response to COVID-19, UN supported national partners in applying precautionary measures to curb the spread of the virus in workplaces through the production of guidelines and provision of capacity-strengthening activities. To this end, with the support of UN, MoM and Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) inspectorate were capacitated to better report and advise on achieving better working conditions, promote a culture of occupational safety and health, address precautionary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and protect children of working age from possible hazards in the workplace in compliance with national labour legislations and international labour standards. This was achieved through capacitating 439 national inspectors through 18 training workshops in five governorates^{xxiv} and providing tele-advisory services for 527 national OSH inspectors on COVID-19 precautionary measures. MoM also launched a COVID-19 precautionary guiding manual for the workplace with special focus on children of working age.

Moreover, UN supported IMC in their efforts to help the manufacturing sector in coping with the pandemic to prevent the spread of the virus at production facilities. This included launching COVID-19 guidelines for the manufacturing sector in Egypt^{xxv} and supporting the formulation of a helpdesk at IMC, as well as a training programme to enhance the skills of IMC experts on the communication and promotion of the preventive measures regarding COVID-19. These guidelines aim to safeguard the health of employees, as well as strengthen the resilience of the industrial sector. IMC, through

the planned help desk, disseminated information among factories and responded to inquiries about the guidelines' practices and operations during COVID-19.

IMC was also assisted in launching a roadmap for improving PPE value chain. This roadmap attempts to provide guidance to enhance the PPE supply chain in Egypt, to face shortage-related challenges, and to capitalize on rising global demand. The roadmap was designed through deep engagement and in consultation with different stakeholders^{xxvi}.

In line with national plans to achieve a competitive and diversified economy through optimizing the role of urban areas and metropolises, UN continued to support the strengthening of local capacities at governorate level in order to foster local economic development. To this end, a needs-assessment was undertaken in close collaboration with MoHUUC and MoLD to identify current gaps within the public administration staff on the national, sub-national and local levels. This assessment informed the design of a comprehensive capacity building programme which will equip local staff in the Qena governorate with technical skills and tools, and legal procedural and technical knowledge, bringing together economics, finance and urban planning^{xxvii}.

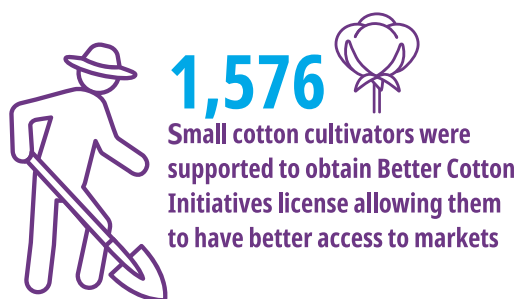
In the food sector, within the framework of the public-private dialogue to improve the policy and regulatory environment in the Egyptian wheat sector, UN raised the awareness of 110 Egyptian public and private stakeholders^{xxviii} (18 female and 92 male) on best international practices for grains inspection and fumigation to enhance Egypt's investments and competitiveness in grain trade. Furthermore, within the framework of Egypt's national strategic vision to develop the local and typical food products, national stakeholders were supported in mapping Egyptian local and typical food products. The mapping identified 426 typical products^{xxx}. This mapping will be used in the preparation of a national contest for local and typical food products in Egypt.

This national contest will be a unique tool linking different institutions, producers, consumers, tourists, importers and buyers with the ultimate goal of developing and promoting typical and local food products.

In the cultural sector, with the assistance of UN, 94 museum personnel (45 female and 49 male) at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) received training to enhance their professional skills through MA courses in Museum Studies at universities, and intensive workshops by the business school. Moreover, UN supported NMEC participation in online seminars and webinars on Heritage Sciences and museum development, organized in cooperation with the Egyptian authorities and universities.

3. The provision of direct services and support to beneficiaries

Despite the limitations imposed by COVID-19, UN supported 1,576 farmers (88 female and 1,488 male) to obtain Better Cotton Initiative (BCI)^{xxxii} license in two governorates^{xxxii}. Farmers included in the BCI programme got better access to markets as they were able to demonstrate the traceability of their produced cotton, as well as the adherence to social and environmental credentials.



Technical support to cotton growers was ensured through a strategic alliance with the Cotton Research Institute and two local BCI implementing partners, as well as through the use of new methods of distance learning and regular follow-ups with cotton growers, field facilitators and cotton researchers. At the same

time, market opportunities were ensured by linking growers and agricultural cooperatives with local buyers and promoting the efforts of GoE to international brands and retailers, as well participation in international events such as World Cotton Day, led by the World Trade Organization. In addition, to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and design services to directly support cotton farmers and their families, UN conducted an assessment and survey to understand the labour demand and supply as root causes for the use of child labour in the cotton value chain in five governorates^{xxxiii}, especially within the context of COVID-19.

On the other hand, the assessment identified financial and non-financial service providers and their service delivery model, as well as an assessment of the challenges in terms of sustainability and scalability with the presence of COVID-19. The outcome of the assessment and the survey will inform the design of new financial and non-financial products that fit with the need of target group and prevent the use of child labour.

To enable rural economic development, with the support of UN, farmers in Gharbia improved their farming and milk-handling practices. Moreover, the milk collection centre was transformed into a dairy hub, responsible for improving the efficiency of the market system and the provision of extension services to farmers. This support was provided through a wide veterinary campaign which was informed by a baseline assessment of the dairy value change in five villages in Gharbia. Concurrently, UN continued to work closely with NFSA on certification of milk collection centres and is expected to attract new leading firms for collaboration.

Based on the findings of the business opportunities study conducted in 2019, UN supported small youth-led ventures in growing their businesses and accessing relevant networks and supply chains, while enhancing the responsiveness of institutions to local

entrepreneurship development in the identified sectors in two governorates^{xxxiv}. To this end, UN capacitated 42 young women with the entrepreneurship skills to start their own microbusinesses. Furthermore, around 4,200 beneficiaries were reached by a social media campaign entitled “The Future of Work” to raise youth awareness on the future of work in light of the ILO declaration. UN further raised the awareness of around 800,000 young men and women on the importance of social entrepreneurship. Furthermore, five Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB)^{xxxv} trainers (all males) from MSMEDA were equipped with the needed skills to deliver the SIYB programme online, who in turn built the capacities of 41 young women and 17 young men on how to start their social entrepreneurship business^{xxxvi}.

Along the same lines, in partnership with Fayoum University, innovative entrepreneurship among students and graduates of Fayoum governorate was promoted as a means to reduce migration and promote alternative livelihood opportunities for women and youth in rural areas. A group of 46 students and faculty members (16 female and 30 male) were trained on the concept of green jobs and green entrepreneurship. The training helped students refine the business plans for eight existing business ideas to become more green, as well as come up with four new green start-up projects. The training material was also expanded to a full training curriculum that will be delivered by the Faculty of Agriculture on a rolling basis^{xxxvii}.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), UN continued to support the skills development of adolescents and youth through the Meshwary (My Journey) project which aims to provide young people with life, employability, innovation and entrepreneurship skills as well as career guidance services. Furthermore, under the auspices of MoYS and in partnership with Plan International, the Youth Challenge 2.0 was implemented under the Generation Unlimited (Gen U) Global Initiative^{xxxviii}.

During the reporting period, the adolescent and youth development and participation programmes reached out to a total of 20,998 adolescents and youth, out of which 15,710 youth and adolescents successfully received Meshwary Training. This is in addition to 4,023 adolescent and youth (1,813 female and 2,210 male) who received active citizenship and civic engagement training including civic participation, citizenship, adolescent and youth-led initiatives, and community engagement. Finally, 1,265 participated in the Sports for Development programme.



15,710

Young youth and adolescents received Meshwary Training providing life, employability and innovation and entrepreneurship skills



UNIDO

“

I have learned that we need to change how we handle pickled vegetables and dairy products so we don't harm ourselves. ”

Safa Abdellah, one of the beneficiaries of Inclusive and Sustainable Local Economic Development in Upper Egypt, Sohag






Y-Peer Support front line workers : UNFPA










Outcome 1: COVID-19 Response Major Highlights

Under Pillar

- 
3 ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY
 Protecting jobs, small and medium sized enterprises, and the informal sector workers
- 
 Guidelines for applying COVID-19 precautionary measures in workplaces and in industrial facilities developed and relevant stakeholders capacitated on
- 
 A road map for improving personal protective equipment (PPE) value chain in Egypt developed

Under Pillar

- 
4 MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION
- 
 A rapid socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19 from a vulnerability lens conducted
- 
 Industrial Performance Index (IPI) to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the manufacturing sector developed
- 
 Wide-scale survey to assess the impact of COVID-19 on MSMEs conducted
- 
 Strategic foresight exercise on the future of manufacturing sector in Egypt organized
- 
 Policy dialogues on digitalization, impact of COVID-19 on SDGs, and disruption of global value chains and industrial policies facilitated
- 
 A study on fiscal multipliers in Egypt conducted

Outcome 2

Social Justice

By 2022 interim 2030 targets are reached with respect to population and sustainable access of all people in Egypt to public services notably quality, inclusive and rights-based protection, social protection, health, nutrition and education services



Corresponding SDGs



Contributing UN agencies



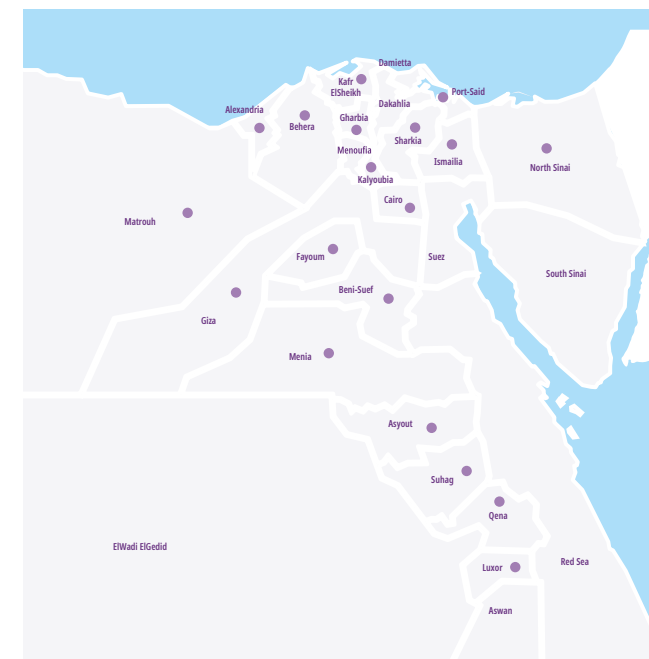
Corresponding national priorities: Egypt Vision 2030; National COVID-19 response plan in Higher Education; Digital Egypt Initiative; National HIV Strategic Plan (2018–2022); TB National Strategic Plan; Maternal and Child Health Strategy; Social Protection Strategy; National Health Insurance Law 2/2018; National Action Plan for Combating Child Labour; National Population Strategy; National Strategy for Childhood and Motherhood; Presidential Initiatives for Social Protection such as Takaful and Karama.

Joint Programmes: Rapid assessment to study the Knowledge Attitudes and Practices (KAP) regarding COVID-19 in Egypt

1. Policy development and enhancement

In 2020, UN in Egypt partnered with GoE and development stakeholders to ensure the sustainable accessibility of public services, notably social protection, health, nutrition, child protection and education services to everyone, and to prioritize the interventions under this pillar especially after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, as these services were highly affected by the repercussions of the pandemic. The policy development and enhancement covered support to social protection measures, especially for those who were hit hard as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including enhancement of child protection measures and support to education and health coverage policies, as well as family planning policies.

To strengthen social safety nets, UN in Egypt worked closely with GoE on multiple policy interventions to support ongoing efforts in expanding and improving Egypt's social safety nets, to ensure they are reaching the most vulnerable households, while also building sustainable paths out of poverty. This included cooperative efforts with MoSS in the expansion of social protection to mitigate the economic shock caused by COVID-19 for the most vulnerable groups through the provision of technical support for the expansion of the non-contributory scheme of Takaful and Karama programme, in addition to the contributory scheme of social insurance concerning policy coordination for COVID-19 responses.



Geographic Focus : Outcome 2

In enhancement of the policy environment for child protection in Egypt



National Plan of Action on Ending Violence Against Children (EVAC) developed



National case management SOPs finalized including SOPs for Children on the Move



Emergency procedures for child protection services in response to COVID-19 developed

Concurrently, UN in Egypt continued to invest in the enhancement of the policy environment for child protection in Egypt. To this end, the overarching policy framework, the National Plan of Action on Ending Violence Against Children (EVAC) was finalized in 2020, outlining stakeholders' responsibilities towards child protection.

Additionally, to further strengthen and standardize the national child protection system, the national case management Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) was finalized, and the Children on the Move's Annex SOPs were launched. This is in addition to an annex drafted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on emergency procedures to ensure the continuity of child protection services in emergencies. Furthermore, the social workforce accreditation scheme was finalized with MoSS.

To ensure that all children, adolescents and youth benefited from equitable access to quality education, UN in Egypt supported GoE with strategic advisory policy services related to early childhood development (ECD) and the new national education system. Cross-sectoral ECD policies were reinforced through the development of the ECD National Strategy, endorsed by the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM). To this end, model ECD centres were established and scaled up nationwide in partnership with MoYS and MoSS, as well as with civil society organizations and private sector companies, benefiting over 44,000 parents. In pre-primary and primary education, effectiveness and efficiency of the national education system was strengthened through further roll-out of the new education system, impacting more than 6 million Egyptian students between the pre-primary phase and Primary 3. This included the promotion of an equity agenda to address the special educational needs of children with disabilities in specialized and inclusive education, as well as the needs of the most vulnerable children in hard to reach areas, including the broader governorates of the Peninsula of Sinai.

In collaboration with MoSS, a situation analysis of basic services in North Sinai was carried out with the support of UN in Egypt. This situation analysis informed GoE on the needs and priorities of local communities in North Sinai. It included a mapping of existing basic services (education, health, water and sanitation, social services, etc.) and identified gaps

in satisfying needs, as well as bottlenecks and challenges that cause deprivations and opportunities to overcome them. A mapping of the socio-economic context of the communities living in North Sinai using a gender-responsive approach was also carried out, identifying major causes of deprivations and possible interventions to help remove barriers to viable livelihood opportunities.

Aiming at reflecting the extent of Risk Communications and Community Engagement (RCCE) in the COVID-19 response in Egypt, multiple UN agencies in Egypt conducted a quick assessment to study the knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding COVID-19 in Egypt. This study helped to pinpoint the knowledge gap and provide a better understanding of the misconceptions and general attitude of the population towards the health emergency, thus strengthening the social dialogue and directing the COVID-19 national health promotion response. The study included a sample of the Egyptian population, as well as of migrant communities.

The country's progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) has been spurred recently through the approval and early implementation of Universal Health Insurance (UHI) law, which aims to ensure adequate and sustainable funding for health and reduces the share of out-of-pocket expenditures. The implementation of the new system started in September 2019 and will be rolled-out in six phases over a 15-year period. UN supported the Law's development and implementation through a structured Health Systems Strengthening approach. This included support to health service delivery via the family health model and patient safety standards and finding options to improve the health financing system, especially with regards to the payment system. A comprehensive assessment of the purchasing system was developed with key members of UHI pricing and purchasing committees. Support was also provided to the development of national quality policy and strategy and to the health information systems, especially with regards to establishing

medical records, and to the development of a UHI policy document for the legal aspects of the law and bylaw with consequent institutional transformation.

On family planning policies and systems, multiple UN agencies in Egypt worked closely with GoE to achieve its Family Planning (FP) goals. This included providing support to develop a five-year national costed implementation plan (2019–2023) for FP in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP). The plan addressed and budgeted all thematic areas of the FP programme, including demand creation; service delivery and access; contraceptive security; policy and enabling environment; financing, stewardship and management; and accountability.

2. Institutional capacity building and strengthening

To ensure quality and equitable education, UN in Egypt prioritized cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE) to ensure the continuity of learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Multiple interventions were supported, including the digitalization of key national modules and training programmes such as Meshwary and the Extra-Curricular Life Skills Based toolkit for school students. A total of 5,156 educational personnel were trained on computer literacy to support the shift to ICT-driven learning methods, of which 1,089 were Community Based Education personnel (958 teachers and 131 supervisors).

Additionally, 1,500 university faculty members were capacitated to develop and deliver distance education curricula. To support the digitalization of the university education curriculum, the necessary E-Learning Infrastructure upgrade to E-learning infrastructure at the National E-Learning Center (NELC: Electronic and knowledge Services Center) was provided. Furthermore, relevant software and tools were installed to facilitate the inclusion and dissemination of nearly

700 courses from different public universities nationwide. Training materials for using the E-learning software were also developed.

On the other hand, 3,763 public schools teachers and supervisors (2,481 female and 1,282 male) were trained on Inclusion Education training packages and 304 members of the educational workforce (271 teachers, 33 master trainers) were trained on Life Skills package (LSCE) in the Sinai Peninsula and nearby governorates. Moreover, the education sector was supported through the designing of a comprehensive model endorsed by MoETE, defining the roles and accountabilities of stakeholders to create a learning-oriented, skills-based and violence-free culture in schools. The implementation toolkits responsive to COVID-19's needs were developed and partially incorporated into the teacher preparedness packages. In addition, more than 4,000 school staff were trained on child safeguarding, with referral pathways also supported by the national CP system in 2020.



3,763

Public schools' teachers and supervisors trained on inclusion education

Physical upgrading of schools continued in 2020 despite COVID-19. A total of 586 schools were physically upgraded and equipped with educational facilities in 2020. MoETE was also supported in establishing 81 new Community Hubs in two governorates in 2020, adding to a total of 2,000 schools supported with technological upgrades in nine governorates. Upon the introduction of technological and physical upgrades, the Community Hubs model offered opportunities for digital learning and

skill-building through the Egyptian Knowledge Bank with links to information services offered by local stakeholders.



586

Schools were physically upgraded and equipped with educational facilities

To support the accessibility of child protection services, the national child protection system in Egypt was strengthened through making child protection interventions mainstream across sectors (social services, education, justice, and health). In 2020, 12,946 at-risk children were reached with child protection services including children on the move, through the institutionalization of case management functions in MoSS, as well as in justice and health sectors.



12,946

At-risk children were reached with child protection services including children on the move

Moreover, the outbreak of COVID-19 stressed the urgent need to build a health system resilient to shocks and accessible to all. In alignment with the national response plans to COVID-19, MoHP, with support from UN in Egypt, established a system for online meetings, trainings and follow-ups. 86 online sessions were organized for health managers, supervisors, doctors, nurses and CHWs, reaching over 5,200 health staff. The sessions covered key topics in IPC and immunization, as well as provision of services to children with disabilities, and to the poor.

To ensure the continuity of essential health and nutrition services through primary healthcare systems, the primary healthcare centers (PHCs) Improvement Plan was developed with MoHP, focusing on governance, the workforce and community engagement. Overall, it is estimated that 1,446,593 children and women received essential healthcare services in the supported facilities.

On the other hand, and in response to the challenges associated with the burden of malnutrition, persistent stunting, increasing wasting and the rapid rise of overweight children, UN in Egypt has been prioritizing and scaling up two interventions: Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and micronutrient supplementation. A new IYCF training toolkit containing modules on maternal nutrition, dietary diversity, responsive feeding and ECD was rolled out by the National Nutrition Institute and MoHP. A pool of 100 master trainers were established to enhance roll-out of the training. The two governorates with a high prevalence of stunting^{xxxix} were prioritized for the roll-out of the most cost-effective interventions. As a result of the initiative, 274 primary health care (PHC) centres (68.5 per cent of PHCs) in the targeted governorates now have at least two service providers trained on the package, and 82 per cent of health facilities are supplied with nutritional material (new guidance, posters, videos, booklets and growth monitoring charts) and growth-monitoring equipment. Multiple outreach activities to promote nutrition were also conducted, engaging religious leaders, youth, local authorities and private companies. Moreover, UN supported MoHP to implement the new Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) comprehensive package, to be applied in health facilities to improve the quality of healthcare services provided to children from 6-59 months.

UN in Egypt worked with MoHP in developing strategic frameworks, including HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis (TB) national strategies to strengthen the HIV and TB national response capacity and to ensure that the most underserved and excluded populations and groups have access to quality prevention, care and treatment support. For the TB national response, the programme notably contributed to strengthening the capacities of the National Tuberculosis Programmes (NTP) to detect and treat TB patients, with emphasis on improved management and treatment of multidrug- and rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis (MDR/RR-TB) to achieve Egypt's vision 2030 to end TB. In 2020, and despite the adverse impact of the COVID-19 crisis, NTP expanded its outreach, detecting and notifying 696 TB cases among migrants and refugees within urban informal settings and 222 among persons in enclosed settings such as prisons.

UN also directly contributed to the efforts of the National Aids Programme to scale-up and expand HIV-related care and treatment services on the national level through supporting MoHP in conducting six training workshops on clinical care and management of HIV for healthcare service providers within governmental facilities to ensure the availability and provision of affordable and adequate healthcare support for people living with HIV, as well as their families. Furthermore, UN strengthened counselling and referral services to support government voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) by providing over 100 gynecology and psychology consultations to women living with HIV through private providers. UN in Egypt also supported the National AIDS Programme in establishing a dedicated hotline to provide remote counselling and HIV information which has received over 1,600 calls and consultations since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, UN in Egypt procured and supplied medical and non-medical equipment to support four new VCT centres in Gamasa, El-Marg, Minya and El Qanater prisons, as well as the continued capacity building of prison health staff.

On the other hand, to increase the utilization of FP services, UN in Egypt provided support to the Two Is Enough national project led by MoSS, contributing to increased utilization in ten governorates. The number of NGOs providing FP services increased to 65 in 2020, including 32 new FP clinics nationwide. Additionally, on-the-job training was provided to 28 physicians and 29 nurses at these new NGO clinics. Likewise, a monitoring system was developed with 64 indicators to enhance targeted intervention of the new FP clinics. This resulted in 31,230 new FP adopters and 69,411 FP continuers by the end of November 2020. 731 social workers from the targeted 10 governorates^{xi} were trained to induce and retain demand for FP and health services. 1,536,434 door-to-door visits were conducted by the end of November with 253,000 referral services^{xii}. Additionally, as service providers play an important role in the provision of quality FP services, whether medical or counselling, 443 physicians (383 female and 60 male) and 270 (all female) nurses were trained on FP to enable them to provide this service in the course of their usual work.



31,230 New family planning adopters

69,411

Continuers as a result of UN support to Two is Enough national project

To strengthen National Supply Chain Management, MoHP developed SoPs on reproductive health logistic management information systems with the support of UN agencies in Egypt. SoPs spelt out the management and control process from receiving contraceptives to reaching the last mile beneficiaries. Accordingly, all 27 governorates were trained on SoPs, and developed their own action plans. To ensure effective monitoring of the quality of FP services provided, an automated accreditation and award system for the FP clinics under MoHP was developed and supported.

To ensure that some of the most vulnerable people are protected, UN in Egypt partnered with the Public Prosecution Office (PPO) to strengthen the capacity of PPO to contribute to a better protection of human rights within the criminal justice system. 40 prosecutors in two governorates were trained on the protection of human rights. Furthermore, UN in Egypt continued working on the development of a specialized training manual on human rights and on the establishment of a tailored archiving system (database software) for the Human Rights Department under PPO, including the necessary software for the automation of international cooperation in criminal matters requests.

To support youth engagement and the catalyzation of knowledge around population issues, harnessing the demographic dividend, MoYS identified youth centres that most urgently needed support from UN to establish Population Awareness Clubs (PACs), selecting 100 youth centres to become hubs for youth engagement and empowerment. Over the past few years, the PACs network has developed and grown, consisting of a large number of community volunteers and trainers that are fully capacitated on engaging different target audiences on various population issues, including gender-based violence, harmful practices and age-appropriate reproductive health. By 2020, 191 youth centres are having PACs and provide inclusive environment for young men and women.



191

Youth centres have population awareness clubs (PACs) and provide inclusive environment for young men and women

Moreover, in 2020, the youth centres management team received multiple trainings on management skills, M&E and youth engagement. With this enhanced capacity, MoYS are now well positioned to take ownership over PACs and continue investing in their activation to contribute to population issues on a national level, in alignment with the National Population Strategy. Youth engagement was also strengthened and maintained through online workshops that capacitated 328 youth (136 female and 192 male) on facilitation skills, edutainment technique skills to disseminate information, and knowledge on sexual and reproductive health.

3. The provision of direct services and support to beneficiaries

To ensure the safe reopening of nurseries after the lockdown as result of COVID-19, a guideline for safe reopening of nurseries was developed and distributed, along with hygiene kits, to 567 nurseries. Additionally, to support parents during this unique situation, 246 facilitators were mobilized, trained and were provided with access to the internet. The trained facilitators organized interactive parenting sessions, covering topics such as prevention of COVID-19, proper nutrition, hygiene and psychosocial support.

While the pandemic brought about many uncertainties, it reinforced the need and importance of digital transformation in education. In the year 2020, multiple UN agencies in Egypt supported the Government in the delivery of quality and equitable education during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, UN agencies continued to strengthen the capacities for delivering quality formal and non-formal learning opportunities. A total of 626,776 children accessed an improved and adequate learning environment, including 183,071 children in North Sinai, South Sinai and Ismailia. As part of the COVID-19 response, 12,104 of most vulnerable children in community schools were supported with distance/home-based educational materials including 5,084 refugees.

To ensure the nutrition of vulnerable children, UN in Egypt continued to support the social protection integrated national First 1,000 Days programme in collaboration with MoSS, targeting the Takaful and Karama programme. The targeted group included children under two years of age and their mothers, working to prevent the irreversible consequences of malnutrition among children by addressing the underlying factors of poverty and food insecurity. Additionally, to prioritize specific vulnerable groups within the socio-economic impacts of the crisis, UN in Egypt worked in close cooperation with MoSS to target 40,000 beneficiaries of the Takaful and Karama programme and supported them in registering children under two and their mothers in 27 governorates with unconditional monthly cash transfers as a top-up to the MoSS cash transfers to address the immediate food and nutrition security needs of families.

Prior to COVID-19, the National School Feeding Programme was complemented, assisting 3,500 community school children with 100 metric tons of daily nutritious in-school snacks (fortified date bars). While encouraging attendance, the fortified snacks also reduced short-term hunger and provided 25 per cent of children's daily nutritional needs. In alignment with the Takaful and Karama programme and to further incentivize retention in schools, monthly cash transfers were provided in the form of vouchers to families of community school children with a minimum of 80 per cent attendance. Following the closure of schools, the conditionality of school attendance was removed, and monthly cash assistance was extended to families of community school children, as well as to teachers negatively affected by the pandemic, reaching about 192,765 family members in 11 of Egypt's poorest governorates.

UN in Egypt also supported the procurement of essential PPE to support healthcare workers, particularly frontline workers, including six million surgical masks, three million gloves, 380,000 gowns, large alcohol packages and sanitizers, disinfectants

(chlorine 5 per cent), and hygiene and dignity kits to frontline health workers, girls and women in quarantine or isolation. Moreover, Computer Tomography scanners for MoH were installed in two governorates with the highest new infections rate^{xliii}. To improve infection prevention and to support early diagnosis, treatment and care of communicable and non-communicable diseases in closed settings, 44,000 surgical masks, 17,000 hand sanitizers, 5,000 solid bars of soap and 5,000 bottles of chlorine were procured and provided to prison administrations. This is in addition to 48,000 face masks and 3,160 disinfectant bottles provided to three juvenile institutions for children in contact with the law, housing 380 children, including 44 girls. Similarly, given that the set-up and limited resources of care institutions pose health and child protection risks for the children in these institutions, 14,521 children and 9,791 employees in 618 care institutions were supported across the country to improve IPC following the developed protocols for COVID-19 prevention in care institutions. Additionally, 10,000 people with HIV received hygienic kits lasting three months.

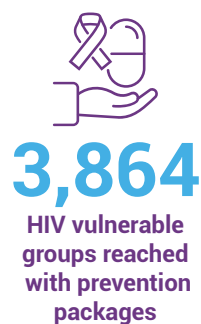
Overall, a total of 129,474 healthcare workers, including 40 medical professionals of seven prison were supported by multiple UN agencies in Egypt. UN in Egypt supported the healthcare workers with PPE, RCCE materials, MNCH supplies and communication materials, and rapid training on essential MNCH services, as well as connection to GBV prevention and response information and services.

In the same context, UN agencies in Egypt collaborated under the joint UN COVID-19 coordinated response to support MoHP in developing and distributing 300,000 booklets on nutrition and home isolation for patients and their families. The jointly developed messages were disseminated by the MoHP through national mass media platforms to ensure reaching all population.

Additionally, several initiatives were undertaken by UN for health prevention messaging on COVID-19, targeting different groups including youth, drug users, and those living in close settings. UN and Y-Peer Egypt worked on reaching a wider population of youth with simplified messages on social media to address misinformation amongst young people on COVID-19. The campaign reached 500,000 youth with social media posts and videos of hand washing challenges. Furthermore, an innovative podcast programme, PEERCAST, developed from youth to youth, raised awareness on COVID-19 as well as family planning. The podcast reached 6,300 people with correct information on COVID-19, transmission, and precautionary methods. Similarly, over 9,300 volunteers from the Egyptian Youth Initiative consisting of university students from faculty of medicine, nursery and pharmacy, have been trained to engage with peers and community members on COVID-19 prevention and positive parenting to mitigate the pandemic primary and secondary consequences. On the other hand, the guidelines on preparedness, prevention and control of COVID-19 were translated and distributed to prison administrations in Egypt to support those in prisons and other detention settings.

Furthermore, over 29,000 people (15,521 female and 14,076 male) were provided with in-person psychosocial support in primary healthcare units. In response to COVID-19, more than 88,000 were additionally reached, including 63,408 children and caregivers (44,538 female and 18,870 male) with mental health and psychological support services (MHPSSP) through phone counselling. This is in addition to the 33,557 persons reached by psychological support services (PSS) social media messaging and more than 33,000 calls to Takaful and Karama programme families with COVID-19-related stress management messaging. This was in response to the reports of social workers on heightened anxiety of and increased violence against children within households.

UN in Egypt continued its support of the juvenile justice reform process in Egypt, with a strong focus on rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with the law. During 2020, vocational training workshops curricula for carpentry, welding, tailoring and furniture painting were delivered – 103 children (23 girls and 80 boys) benefitted from the upgraded vocational trainings in eight institutions^{xiv}. In addition, 192 children (60 girls and 132 boys) benefitted from life skills sessions and 74 children (3 girls and 71 boys) benefitted from literacy classes. In collaboration with Terres des Hommes, 14 psycho-social support sessions were provided to 225 boys. UN agencies also continued to expand the application of non-custodial alternative measures for children in conflict with the law. 518 children in contact with the law (492 in conflict with the law and 26 victims; 479 boys and 39 girls) were supported through legal and social services in 12 governorates. 22 per cent accordingly benefitted from non-custodial alternative measures – an increase from 10 per cent in 2019. Non-custodial measures have expanded as per valuable lessons on the application of diversion, informing the diversion draft law.



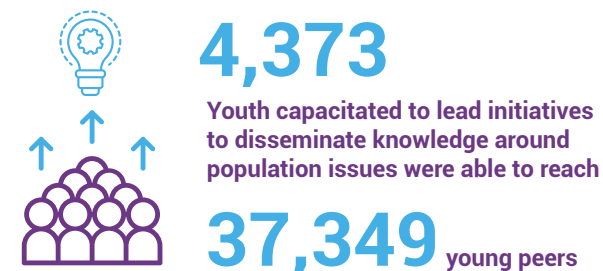
Moreover, UN in Egypt supported the HIV national response through reaching 3,864 persons (496 female and 3,368 male) among key populations and vulnerable groups in five governorates^{xiv} with a HIV-defined prevention package. Additionally, the programme supported 2,083 individuals to access HIV

counselling and testing services to contribute to the national strategy towards ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Youth engagement was strengthened and maintained in 2020. Through UN support, 5,014 youth and adolescents were engaged in youth-led initiatives in their communities. Of them, 4,373 youth were capacitated to disseminate messages and knowledge around

population issues, including family planning, age-appropriate reproductive health, gender-based violence and harmful practices. The youth engaged were able to reach 37,349 young people, taking part in various interactive sessions and discussions, as well as through different edutainment modalities, including theatre, sports, music and arts for development, among others. Moreover, about 25 medical students from around Egypt received capacity building on planning, design and implementation of awareness and advocacy campaigns at a community level, particularly in the area of sexual and reproductive health knowledge and awareness. Additionally, a series of peer-support workshops were conducted to address and measure the effect of peer support on enhancing HIV treatment adherence in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. 16 peer supporters from six governorates^{xvi} were selected and capacitated on relevant peer-support skills, as well as tools for tele-support and follow-up for treatment adherence.

Lastly, in order to support Egypt's youth to better cope with COVID-19, multiple UN agencies cooperated with MoYS in building the capacity of 28 youth to use the future – termed Futures Literacy – to reimagine the concept of wellbeing in 2050. In doing so, they became better able to make use of the potentialities of the present and increase their resilience to achieve greater wellbeing the future.



Box 1: UN Support to Migrants and Refugees

In 2020 UN in Egypt has continued supporting the efforts of GoE to address the needs of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in vulnerable situations, providing humanitarian and protection assistance across the outcome areas of UNPDF.

In terms of policy development and enhancement, as referred to above, UN in Egypt supported the drafting of the annex to the National Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on case management to target migrants, refugees and victims of trafficking, as well as the development of the child victim identification indicators for Children on the Move. This included an extensive consultation process with national stakeholders. Moreover, the launch of Egypt's Universal Healthcare Insurance System (UHI) in early 2020 and the inclusion of refugees therein was an important step, despite the remaining challenges for migrants and refugees. Further, UN also stood ready to support the government in the process of drafting an asylum law.

UN in Egypt has been supporting GoE in the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the Global Refugee Compact (GCR) that were adopted in December 2018. UN contributed particularly to improving the knowledge and understanding of the mixed-migration profile in Egypt, identifying different concerned groups present in the country and collecting disaggregated data of all registered refugees and asylum seekers. It also actively supported GoE in preparing the second edition of the International Forum on Migration Statistics which was carried out in Cairo in January 2020, gathering over 700 experts from around the world.

In terms of capacity building, UN contributed to the training of government representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and health providers in key areas including countering smuggling and trafficking, assisting victims of trafficking (VoT), border and security management, international refugee law and protection principles, and first aid and health care practices. UN in Egypt, focusing on education in emergencies, designed two manuals to address the necessary skills for teachers and educators on irregular migration, and on refugee awareness issues.

It also supported the establishment of a government-run shelter for VoTs in Egypt. In addition, it assisted the Ministry of Emigration and Expatriate Affairs (MoEEA) in launching Bedeya Digital, the online training platform for youth at risk of irregular migration.

In terms of the provision of direct support in 2020, UN in Egypt was able to reach more than 300,000 refugees, migrants, and host community members with such assistance.

In particular, vulnerable beneficiaries such as children, women and girls with specific needs, and victims of trafficking received specialized and tailored assistance and support. Direct support activities spanned a broad variety of interventions including mental care and psychological support (such as MHPSS phone services), protection counselling, legal assistance, different forms of cash assistance, medical and health services (from lifesaving operations to HIV treatment to the distribution of hygiene and dignity kits), the provision of education grants and educational supplies, vocational and livelihoods trainings, skill building and income-generating activities and nutrition support (such as the distribution of food boxes). Migrants and refugees from Syria, Eritrea, Sudan and South Sudan were the main beneficiaries of these activities.





Outcome 2: COVID19- Response Major Highlights

Under Pillar

1 HEALTH FIRST:
Protecting health services and systems during the crisis

5,200
Health staff trained through on-line sessions on key topics related to COVID-19

129,474
Health workers directly supported in response to COVID-19

14,521
Children and 9,791 employees in 618 care institutions were supported to improve infection prevention and control

6 million
Masks, 3 million gloves, and 380,000 gowns of PPEs supplied for front line health workers

300,000
Booklets distributed in support to MoHP on nutrition and home isolation for patients and their families



500,000
Youth reached through Y-Peer social media campaign to address misinformation on COVID-19

Under Pillar

2 PROTECTING PEOPLE:
Social protection and basic services

567
Nurseries receiving hygiene kits and guidelines for safe reopening

5,156
Educational personnel trained on computer literacy to support shift to ICT driven learning methods

1,500
University faculty members capacitated to develop and deliver distance learning curricula

12,104
Vulnerable children in community schools supported with instance / home-based educational materials including 5,084 refugees

192,765
Children and their families receiving cash assistance as an alternative to school meals

40,000
Takaful and Karama children under 2 and their mothers received additional unconditional monthly cash transfer



Emergency procedures for child protection services in response to COVID-19 developed



29,000
In-person psychological support (PSS), 88,000 phone counselling, and 33,557 reached through PSS social media messaging

Under Pillar

5 SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



Online platform "Bedaya Digital" launched supporting youth at risk of irregular migration



Covid-19 preventive measures: UNICEF

Outcome 3

Environmental Sustainability and Natural Resources Management

By 2022 Egypt's natural resources, and its urban environments, are managed in an inclusive, sustainable and productive manner to mitigate environmental hazards and reap the benefits of a greener economy and society.



Corresponding SDGs



Contributing UN agencies



Corresponding national priorities: Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy 2030; Executive Plan of Agricultural Development; National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction; Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 (Egypt Vision 2030); Reduce GHG emissions from Energy Sector (SDS) KPI 5 under Energy Pillar; Increase solar energy contribution in the fuel mix for electricity generation (SDS) KPI 11 under Energy Pillar; Increase percent of properly managed of solid municipal waste and hazardous waste (SDS) Environment Pillar KPI 5; National Water Resources Management Strategy till Year 2050; Energy Efficiency Strategy; Egypt's compliance with the Montreal Protocol; Industry and Trade Development Strategy; SMEs and Entrepreneurship National Strategy (2020-2025); National Strategic plan for urban development 2052.

Joint Programmes: Rapid assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security in Egypt, "Our health is our capital ... and our hope lies in what we grow" campaign; Overarching Strategy for the Servicing Sector of the HCFC Phase-out.

1. Policy development and enhancement

In 2020, and as part of COVID-19 response, UN worked collectively to support policy response to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the food and agriculture sector, as well as post-crisis recovery planning for a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient food system in Egypt. In this respect, a joint UN^{xlvii} assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture, food and nutrition security in Egypt was undertaken in partnership with GoE. Partner ministries of this rapid assessment included the Ministry of Agriculture & Land Reclamation (MoALR), MoPED, Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade, MoLD, MoSS and NFSA, with support from local directorates of education and NGOs. This was in addition to agri-food industry representative bodies, business and financial support institutions (e.g., Chamber of Food Industries, Agriculture Export Council, Central Administration of Plant Quarantine, Industrial Modernization Centre, MSMEDA, Food Export Council, National Bank of Egypt, as well as field experts).



Geographic Focus : Outcome 3

The assessment covered the implications of COVID-19 on food availability, the supply chain and household access to food, particularly within poor and vulnerable groups. It also identified short- to medium-term interventions to mitigate the shocks on the lives of rural people, supporting authorities and the public in making informed decisions during and after the current crisis. The assessment additionally identified key bottlenecks in the agri-food sector, with regards to supply, demand, labour, production and finance, which would certainly become more critical after the COVID-19 outbreak. Key findings were translated into policy recommendations for the food sector in Egypt and disseminated to all ministries, policy makers, industry representative bodies, private sector and international organizations. Recommendations of the study informed strategic priorities for investing in building resilience and sustainable development programs for rural communities, as well as short- to medium-term priority interventions for increasing the resilience and competitiveness of agri-food SMEs.

Meanwhile, UN supported MoALR to update the Sustainable Agriculture Development Strategy (SADS) 2030 and prepare a medium-term investment plan of action. Approved by the Minister, the investment plan focused on identifying investment opportunities for achieving SADS targets that are considered key contributors to the achievement of SDG 1 and SDG 2 in Egypt.

With key UN contribution to sustainable and inclusive urban planning, several important steps took place in 2020 at different levels. This included the launch of the first National Housing Strategy in the Arab World by the Ministry of Housing Egypt in October 2020. The strategy represents a unified integrated vision to direct the housing sector effectively over the next twenty years and fulfils the aspirations of all Egyptians in obtaining adequate housing, while recognizing the primary role of the Government in regulation and empowerment. The Strategy is consistent with national strategies and plans, including the SDS (Egypt Vision 2030) and Egypt's National Strategic Plan for Urban Development 2052, in addition to global and regional commitments to SDGs, the New Urban Agenda (NUA)^{xlviii}, and the Arab Strategy for Housing and Urban Development.

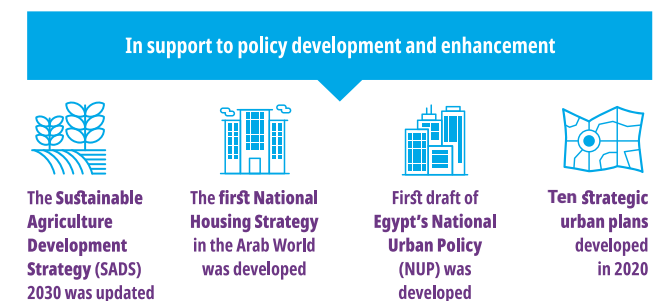
In the same context, UN worked with GoE on the development of the first draft of Egypt's National Urban Policy (NUP) in 2020 through a participatory approach, including key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Housing, General Organization for Physical Planning (GoPP), Ministry of Finance (MoF), MoLD, MoPED and experts in different fields. NUP provides an overarching coordination framework to achieve more compact, socially inclusive, connected, and integrated cities and territories that foster sustainable urban development and are resilient to climate change. The drafted NUP identified a key gap for the first time in the urban development sector –that is, the existing unbalanced system of cities that, as a result, leads to unbalanced territorial urban development.

NUP provides recommendations for restructuring this imbalance in order to promote sustainable development and capture the agglomerate benefits of cities.

On the other hand, at local and district levels, UN supported the Government in developing ten^{xlix} strategic urban plans during 2020, in alignment with the National Vision Egypt 2052, SDGs and NUA. This included the development of Sharm El Sheikh's strategic plan that employed an innovative approach, where a more comprehensive lens was applied to include additional sectors such as energy, tourism, and sustainable mobility. This approach helped Sharm El Sheikh to adopt a more diverse and robust set of economic activities that are sustainable and promote better quality of life, as well as elevating its global tourism ranking upon the application of the strategic plan recommendations. Additionally, a development urban plan for the area surrounding the Pyramids plateau and a Land use plan for both sides of Ahmed Al-Orabi Axis (Al Tawara' canal) was developed and the land acquired. This was an output of a joint UN programme with GoPP for strengthening development, planning and management in Greater Cairo. These plans were adopted by the Engineering Authority of the Armed Forces and the Governorate of Giza, respectively. A development plan was also produced for Al Rowaysat in Sharm El Sheikh, which in the past had been an informal community. The development plan promotes an integrated urban development vision that can absorb low-income residents of Sharm El Sheikh. UN supported the implementation of the amended building law no. 119, mandating strategic plans at the district level with a pilot project in the El Badary district acting as a step towards the decentralization roadmap. As a result, investments plans for 18 village,s as well as El Badary city, were prepared and made ready for Government programming and funding, including the Presidential programme on upgrading villages – the Decent Life Initiative, Hayat Karima.

With regards to promoting non-motorized transport, UN supported the Government in developing a detailed

design package for the redesign of Street 51 in Ras el Bar City as a pedestrian and cycling friendly location. Additionally, UN also worked with the Ministry of Housing on redeveloping downtown Cairo where the government is re-envisioning the center of the city. Through this partnership, UN's vision to include bike lanes and bike sharing has been integrated into the proposed masterplan. The system is expected to be on the ground in 2021. Finally, UN continued to support the development of the Western Bus Rapid Transit Corridor, which should break ground in early 2022.



2. Institutional capacity building and strengthening

Throughout 2020, UN worked closely with the Government on strengthening biodiversity management. In this regard, to ensure a clean, safe and healthy environment leading to diversified production of resources and economic activities, supporting competitiveness, providing new jobs, eliminating poverty and achieving social justice, UN assisted the Ministry of Environment in the implementation of the Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) in three protected areas (PAs) of Wadi Rayan and Qaroun in Fayoum, as well as in Wadi El Gemal National Park in the Red Sea. This included participation of the local communities in the protection of the areas through communication development, tourism, co-management of protected areas, and benefit sharing. Additionally, GoE worked, with UN support, on the promotion of eco-tourism through the

presidential three-year initiative, Live Green, that aims to mainstream conservation of biodiversity into tourism and reconnect travelers with Egypt's countless ecological sites and protected areas. Together with other initiatives toward the greening of key touristic cities, these activities help to durably link key sectors of the Egyptian economies with the environmental services, creating win-win investments. In this regard, business modelling strategy for the 30 PAs in Egypt was completed in 2020.

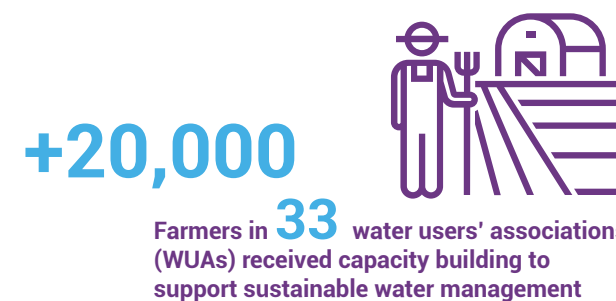
Moreover, using Biosphere Reserves as an application of the ecosystem approach for the integrated management of land, water and biodiversity, two initiatives were launched in 2020. One was to assess the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on Biosphere Reserves through the collection of necessary data pertaining to the positive and negative externalities of COVID-19 on the environment, society and economy of the Biosphere in Egypt. The other aimed at improving the management of Biosphere Reserves in Egypt. In preparation of an index toolkit, a questionnaire addressed to Biosphere Reserves managers was launched to define the indicators, set the benchmark of good management practices and define the needed procedures to improve the management of biodiversity and ensure that biosphere reserves are considered learning sites for the implementation of MEAs-Biodiversity cluster. To this end, it is worth noting that the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Site Assessment Report for world natural heritage sites for the year 2020 praised the Wadi El Hitan site as one of the geological World Heritage sites in Egypt. The report commended the efficient management of the site, its security and use of good governance mechanisms.

UN provided technical support for building capacities in biodiversity management to 119 government staff across various entities. With the aim to increase water efficiency and productivity for agricultural use and advance the achievement of SDG target 6.4, 45 experts (35 male and 10 female) from MoALR and the

Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MoWRI) were trained on data collection and analysis for the preparation of crop maps, in addition to installing improved agrometeorological stations to measure water evapotranspiration in two pilot sites – Sakha Research station in Sharqia. Through the support received, the experts were able to prepare detailed land use and crop maps with high accuracy for three sites (Malawi, Sidi Ghazi and Zankalon) for four cropping seasons. In addition, eight multidisciplinary team members (four male and four female) were trained on advanced water accounting using the methodology developed by the Dutch IHE Delft institute in Fayoum oasis and 20 multidisciplinary specialists (eight male and 12 female) in Kafr el Sheikh and Minya received on-the-job training on water accounting assessment and analysis. Based on these efforts, the newly established water accounting unit at MoWRI planning sector conducted draft case studies of rapid water accounting to analyze water scarcity issues and develop more efficient water-use practices. Moreover, capacity development was provided to 46 water quality monitoring staff (15 of them are females) from eight governorates on water reuse risk assessment and management, standards for the quality of reused water, public health and environmental impact of water reuse including, pathogen and chemical exposure, system reliability, and hazardous events.

In the same context, a baseline assessment on the water productivity of strategic crops at country level was conducted in 2020, as well as a survey of 150 farmers (115 male and 35 female) in the three pilot sites to analyze the impact of farmer practices on water productivity. Based on the findings, three farmer field schools were initiated to improve water productivity of sugar crops in the Minya governorate. Finally, an innovative methodology and pilot assessment to analyze gender dynamics in agricultural water use was also conducted. The assessment provides a set of recommendations and strategies to inform more efficient, equitable and gender-responsive programming in water efficiency.

In a similar connection, UN agencies in Egypt worked on integrated water management by strengthening the capacities of water users' associations (WUAs) as well as rehabilitation of water systems. Accordingly, 33 WUAs received capacity building and awareness sessions on integrated water management in 2020. In cooperation with the Central Directorate of Irrigation Improvement at MoWRI, UN supported the implementation of a community awareness and capacity building campaign on sustainable water management for water associations in six governorates in Egypt, namely: Fayoum, Gharbia, Sharkia, Kafr El Shiekh,, Mounefya and Aswan. In this regard, about 20,000 individual farmers who are members of these associations, received awareness on the benefits of modernizing their irrigation systems and on the financially efficient mechanisms to achieve such modernization.



It also included the development of demonstration sites as well as a series of public interaction activities conducted by experts from the Ministry, and pioneering farmers and associations. Moreover, UN supported the full rehabilitation of one drinking water system in 2020 despite the hinderances due to COVID-19. Additionally, more than 50 employees from the affiliated Water and Wastewater Companies in different governorates were trained on site selection, design, operation and maintenance of River-Bank Filtration units as an alternative water production technology that uses river bank soil as a natural filter, therefore saving more than 90 per cent of the cost, 85 per cent of the implementation time, and being more resilient to Nile level fluctuation and surface pollution.

UN efforts in 2020 have also contributed to enhanced access to clean and renewable energy, investments in clean energy technology, affordable financial schemes for clean energy acquisition, and set up of the market environment leading to greenhouse gas emission reductions in relevance to Egypt's prospects towards a green economy and green recovery after COVID-19. In that context, UN continued its support for increased employment of roof-top Photovoltaic (PV) systems to generate electricity from solar energy. UN Egypt PV Project carried out with IMC, continued implementation of the pilot projects^{li} in different types of buildings and facilities including factories, hotels, and residential compounds. The objective of supporting implementation of pilot projects is to demonstrate technical and financial feasibility of small-scale solar power systems for generating electricity with the ultimate target to upscale the use of these systems on a national level. The technical support extended to the New Administrative Capital has resulted in the signing of a contract for the installation of 16 MW of PV systems on the roofs of the government buildings in the new capital. Despite the difficulties faced by the PV market this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the total installed electricity generation capacity of PV systems supported by the PV project has increased from 6.9 to 8.2 megawatts, reducing emissions of 9.740 tons of CO₂ eq per year. The total number of solar power stations has exceeded 100 and this year included new types of buildings such as schools, universities and historical buildings. Nevertheless, towards the end of 2020, the interest in solar power stations started to increase again. At the end of the year, the Egypt PV project was rewarded for its achievements and selected as winner of the British Energy Institute Award in the low carbon category.

Egypt Photovoltaic (PV) project supported by UN received the British Energy Institute Award in the low carbon category in 2020



Additionally, towards the end of 2020 and with UN support, a revolving fund of US\$4 million was set and a business frame created with the National Bank of Egypt (NBE), dedicated to finance projects promoting solar thermal technology adoption in the industrial sector. The fund will serve as a loan facility to ensure that the industrial sector is supported by an appropriate financing scheme.

4 US\$ million

Revolving fund set to finance projects promoting solar thermal technology in industrial sector



To secure the sustainability of the action, UN provided support to the National Renewable Energy Authority (NREA) to enhance their capability of testing solar water heaters (SWH) components. This was achieved through software and hardware upgrades of their laboratory, and capacitating NREA staff through a series of trainings with the objective to learn the testing protocols and procedures as part of the SWH laboratory accreditation with total 20 participants (9 female and 11 male) from three governmental bodies – NREA, the Egyptian Organization of Standardization (EOS) and the Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC). In addition, a study tour was organized, consisting of 12 participants from these governmental bodies as part of the laboratory accreditation. The laboratory accreditation was delayed due to the COVID-19 outbreak and is planned to be completed in 2021. Additionally, to assure the deployment of the framework for certification of the SWH personnel in the Egyptian market, a documentation was developed for SWH components, systems installation and maintenance personnel minimum requirements with incentives and/or regulations. Finally, capacity building was provided to 557 stakeholders (99 females and 458 male) categorized from governmental entities, private sector companies, service providers and start-ups concerned with clean energy for the industrial sector. The main goal of the training was to capacitate the participants on the

industry requirements, optimize the efficiency of various industrial systems, reduce greenhouse gases emissions, and support business development.

Finally, two pilot solar water pumps that use clean renewable solar energy for irrigation were installed in 2020, out of a targeted 100 pumps. Nonetheless, it is expected that the full target will be achieved over the course of 2021.

On the other hand, and in line with the Government's commitment to phase out ozone depleting substances by 2030 and to meet Egypt's compliance with the Montreal Protocol and HCFC phase out obligations, UN worked together with the government to reduce the industry's contribution to global warming. In this regard, in 2020, UN assisted GoE to reduce HCFC consumption by 35 per cent compared to baseline and to ban the import and export of HCFC-141b (in bulk, contained and pre-blended polyols) by 1 January 2020. UN continues to support GoE to reduce HCFC consumption by 70 per cent compared to baseline by 2025. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed with three new companies – CMB, Modern Chemofoam and Insutech – to introduce alternative new technologies for ozone depleting substances.

35%

Reduction in HCFC consumption achieved through UN assistance in line with the government commitment to phase out ozone depleting substances



Moreover, UN supported the Government in the transformation of the foam manufacturing sector, the residential air conditioning sector and the commercial air conditioning sector by replacing ozone depleting substances through the introduction of new technologies, with zero ozone depleting and low global warming potential (GWP) alternatives in each sector. The support consisted of equipment and technical

assistance for these sectors to enable them to comply with the Egyptian regulations regarding the phase-out of ozone depleting substances. Within the support to the Overarching Strategy for the Servicing Sector of the HCFC Phase-out^{lii}, gas identifiers were supplied for the training and refrigerants surveillance program. Fifty participants (20 female and 30 male) were trained on how to use the equipment, from the General Organization of Import and Export Control, Chemistry Administration, the Egyptian Organization for Standardization, Consumer Protection Agency, Vocational Training at the Ministry of MoTI, Vocational Training at MoM, and MoETE were trained on how to use the equipment. This will enable these government entities to carry out their responsibilities efficiently.

In an effort to provide support to enhanced waste management systems, in line with the First National Waste Management Law 202/2020, UN, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment inaugurated a Central Treatment Facility (CTF) for healthcare waste treatment in the governorate of Gharbia. The facility introduces hybrid autoclaving systems as a new technology in Egypt for treating hazardous healthcare waste, using shredding and sterilization, without generating harmful emissions associated with incineration – in particular, the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). The unintentional release of POPs is now internationally banned by the Stockholm Convention, a multi-lateral environmental agreement signed and ratified by Egypt. The facility capacity will treat about five tons of hazardous healthcare waste per day, equivalent to half the amount hazardous healthcare waste generated by the governorate of Gharbia. Facility ownership was transferred to MoHP and the assigned staff for operation were trained. The facility is presented as a MoHP model that should be replicated when transforming hazardous healthcare waste treatment systems from the use of incineration technology to shredding and sterilization technology using hybrid autoclaving systems. Additionally, a specialized training program

(using international experiences) was developed for staff working in the field of healthcare waste management to be implemented nationwide. Accordingly, training was conducted for 111 Waste Management Officers (74 per cent were female) in healthcare facilities belonging to MoHP in the governorates of Gharbia, Dakahlia and Sharkia. The training also included 101 directors from healthcare facilities in the three governorates to promote the implementation of best environmental practices in the sound management of healthcare waste. Furthermore, 115 trainees from the officials related to the healthcare waste management in 19 governorates were trained to be endorsed as trainers by MoHP to be able to train healthcare facilities staff in their governorates. An online training platform on sound management of healthcare waste was developed and will be extended to all waste management officers in Egyptian healthcare facilities. Furthermore, five model healthcare facilities, including two in the Gharbia governorate, were equipped with the appropriate consumables and tools required for the implementation of the sound management of the healthcare waste plan developed by the UN initiative. The other three healthcare facilities include two in Sharkia and one belonging to Cairo University.



5 Model healthcare facilities equipped for sound healthcare waste management

With respect to climate change resilience and adaptation, it is worth mentioning that according to the Climate Change Performance Index report for 2019, Egypt has jumped up to 24th place (from 28th place in 2018) out of 57 countries. Furthermore, according to the Prime Minister Decree no. 1129 for the year 2019, the National Council for Climate Change was restructured to be headed by the Prime Minister instead of the Minister of Environment with the involvement of all line ministries. This Decree requires line ministries and concerned authorities to assign one of their relevant

units to work on climate change issues with the aim of submitting the required data, implementation and follow-up plans and programmes to reduce the effects of climate change. The initiative of uplifting the Council came in response to the 2015 Paris Agreement, to ensure the mainstreaming of climate change into all national plans and policies.

To support the government in its endeavor to strengthen resilience and adaptation to climate change, UN assisted in the construction work of the soft dike system to protect the low-lying lands in the Nile Delta from sea surges during severe storms. Construction for the first 14 km out of the targeted 69 km of the dike system is completed. On the other hand, construction work has started on the remaining 13 km within the domain of the Kafr El-Sheikh governorate, while approximately 12 km within the domain of each of the Port Said, Damietta and Dhekalia governorates were awarded, and construction initiated.



14 km

Of construction work of the soft dike system to protect low-lying lands in Nile Delta completed

Moreover, in preparation of the climate resilient Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) plan whose formulation will start in early 2021 with the direct support of UN, a six month training programme has been completed for 111 government employees from different government sectors in eight coastal governorates overseeing the Egyptian Mediterranean Coast.

Additionally, through the Industrial Energy Fund, a joint initiative between UN, the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, the Energy

Management Assistance (EnMA) service was extended to 11 companies during 2020 despite challenges pertaining to COVID-19. The Industrial Energy Fund aims to capitalize on the accumulated knowledge and expertise towards sustainable economic development in the country and to increase in the competitiveness of the industrial sector, while addressing the issues of the environment through mitigation of climate change and the environmental footprint.

Along the same lines, to enhance the assessment of the impact of climate change on Nile sedimentation in Egypt, UN supported a technical study on the impact of the increased frequency of flash floods due to the impacts of climate change and corresponding sedimentation problems on the reliability of water supply intakes (clogging) along the Nile in Egypt. The study analyzed flash flood events that have affected the water intakes and provided recommendations on mitigation techniques to be implemented within the Wadi systems.

Furthermore, as part of the Sustainable Management of Kharga Oasis Agro-Ecosystems in the Egyptian Western Desert project implemented in partnership with MoALR, an agro-biodiversity and a socio-economic analysis of the Kharga oasis was conducted. Through the analysis, five crops suitable to the site's environmental conditions were selected by farmers and stakeholders for cultivation using climate-smart practices.

In the same respect, UN is collaborating with MoALR, MoWRI, MoSS, MoLD, the Egyptian Meteorological Authority, the Agricultural Research Centre and local universities to train 400 men and 200 women representing 30 local community associations on the design and implementation of climate change adaptation interventions, provision of technical backstopping at community level, and ensuring sustainability of results and activities. This training was conducted over more than 100 sessions. Additionally, 77 governmental staff (72 male and 5 female)

were trained on climate change and 117 agriculture extension agents (110 male and 7 female) were trained on climate adaptive measures as part of the natural resource management training programme.

30

Local communities' associations capacitated to design and implement climate change adaptation interventions



Aligning with Egypt's national priority, UN worked on the promotion of sustainable and efficient agriculture in 2020 within different aspects. UN supported national authorities and agri-food businesses to improve the food safety of key crops in compliance with international standards, to expand Egypt's export potential and trade balance. To this end, a market analysis and food safety assessment for selected key export-oriented horticultural value chains was conducted, as well as an analysis of market opportunities in some export markets. The findings are being used to raise awareness and build the capacity of agri-food businesses under the umbrella of the Agricultural Export Council (AEC) and the Horticultural Export Improvement Association (HEIA), as well as of regulatory authorities such as the National Food Safety Authority (NFSA) and the Central Plant Quarantine Administration (CAPQ).

Additionally, UN has supported MoALR, the General Organization for Veterinary Services, the National Laboratory for Quality Control of Poultry Production, and the Central Laboratory for Evaluation of Veterinary Biologics in strengthening surveillance systems, improvement of laboratory capacities and vaccine effectiveness trials, as well as disease mitigation and policy advice. This was done through engaging a total of 1,290 veterinaries and laboratory workers (619 male and 671 female) in different related capacity building activities. UN efforts in this area have resulted

in improved animal health laboratory diagnostic capacity for influenza and coronaviruses by using state-of-the-art molecular diagnostic technology; enhanced national capacity for avian influenza (AI) vaccine evaluation, reducing the average time lapse for an AI vaccine batch evaluation from nearly 100 days to 55 days; strengthened national capacity for designing, developing and reinforcing animal health policies and related instruments, including national Preparedness & Response plans, prevention and control strategies and SOPs; and a strengthened livestock early warning system at both central and field levels. For the latter, UN worked on establishing and operationalizing district-level epidemiological networks in 230 districts of Egypt by equipping staff with TADInfo, a data management system dedicated to animal and zoonotic disease information management and analysis.

230

Districts equipped to have established and operational district-level epidemiological networks



This is in addition to establishing laboratories networking for data and genetic material information sharing as well as the Four-way Linking Taskforce as an important platform for sharing regular and up-to-date epidemiological and genetic information between animal (MoALR) and public health (MoHP) technicians and officials, following the One Health approach. Finally, UN in collaboration with MoALR contributed to the development of national capacities for awareness, surveillance, monitoring and integrated management of the Fall Armyworm (FAW) pest. MoALR officials (89 male and 2 female) were capacitated on the use of the FAW Monitoring and Early Warning System (FAMEWS), a free mobile application for the real-time global monitoring of FAW developed by UN, as well as integrated pest management techniques and the production of

biological pest control agents. The MoALR Agricultural Pesticide Committee was also equipped with 55 mobile phones, traps and laboratory equipment.

In terms of institutional capacity building for sustainable and inclusive urban planning, UN supported a capacity building program with on-the-job training for three staff members from GoPP to be able to manage and oversee the GIS enterprise system, as well as a training course on quality control and regional planning that targeted more than 25 staff from GoPP headquarters and its regional centres. Additionally, within the same area of support to sustainable urban planning, UN continued to provide capacity building to the Transport Regulatory Unit (TRU) within the New Urban Communities Authority to develop, oversee and regulate the transportation plans/projects in the new communities. In 2020, UN provided support to TRU in the design and plan of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor in Greater Cairo.

3. The provision of direct services and support to beneficiaries

In response to COVID-19 and to enhance protective measures for food supply workers for sustainable production, a joint UNⁱⁱⁱ collaboration together with MoLAR launched a campaign under the slogan, “Our health is our capital ... and our hope lies in what we grow”. The campaign targeted the rural population and aimed to ensure the continuation of precautionary measures against the health hazards of COVID-19, the importance of healthy nutrition, and the food safety measures to be adopted during agri-food production and food handling. The campaign included awareness spots that were broadcasted on several television and radio stations (CBC, Al-Hayat, Agricultural TV Channel and DMC) and special posts for different social media platforms, reaching nearly 30 million viewers and listeners.

Similarly, with the aim to promote the use of digital technologies to disseminate COVID-19-related

information, UN expanded the scope of its digital agriculture extension services to include information related to food safety. UN created the El Mufeed mobile application, which was updated with an additional theme on, “food safety recommendations for COVID-19 prevention”, specifically related to safe handling of fruit and vegetable products from the farm to the table.

Additionally, to enhance awareness on combating COVID-19 and on water conservation, targeting school students in the Arab Region within age groups 8–12 years and 13–18 years, UN supported the development of interactive informal activities with links to Egyptian Knowledge Bank materials and modules. Two training webinars were held with participation of 52 Egyptian educators (including more than 30 female participants) representing national and UNESCO-associated schools.

Moreover, a short (two minutes) animated video in Arabic was developed and posted as well as three posters that highlight the role of clean freshwater in combating COVID-19 and promoting water conservation, especially at the household level. The video clip was viewed more than 11,000 times on Facebook.

Meanwhile, in 2020 UN agencies in Egypt continued to promote sustainable and efficient agriculture from beneficiaries’ side, through reduction of crop losses, resource management, promotion of the social and economic wellbeing of farmers, and pre- and post-harvest handling improvements, among other things. In this context, UN delivered a package of interventions including communicating information on weather forecasts and related agricultural recommendations, providing training on improved agricultural practices, promoting collective management of land and water resources, in addition to facilitating access to high quality inputs and mechanization, promoting canal lining and the use of solar-powered irrigation.

Farmers also benefited from value-adding services

through established and rehabilitated agro-processing units that are managed by local community-based associations. Women within supported villages were trained and hired to work in these units. Moreover, youth and women were offered training on raising poultry and goats and on beekeeping to support them in establishing their own small projects through micro-lending schemes that were provided through partnerships with community development associations within the intervention villages. Accordingly, in 2020, a total of 34,183 small scale farmers were supported for increased production and sustainable agriculture. This included 30,000 (17,500 female and 12,500 male) small-scale farmers and livestock producers in the southern Egypt governorates of Asyut, Sohag, Qena, Luxor and Aswan were supported through capacity-building activities, establishment and rehabilitation of assets, and facilitating access to finance.

34,183

Small scale farmers in 8 governorates supported for increased production and sustainable agriculture



These activities contributed to improved incomes for 5,300 female and 3,500 male small-scale food producers by up to 50 per cent from crop production thanks to higher yields, up 50 per cent in wheat and 30 per cent in sugar cane, and from growing highly profitable medicinal and aromatic plants that generate 300 per cent profits, and the use of intercropping that increases return by 30 per cent. On the other hand, production cost was reduced by 30 per cent through improving irrigation and farmland management, and the use of clean solar energy in irrigation. Furthermore, livelihood diversification activities that prioritize female participation contributed to a 30 per cent increase in

beneficiary income from small-scale livestock production. Moreover, an additional 4,183 farmers were provided with technical support for enhanced crops and livestock productivity covering Kafr El Shiekh, Beni Suef, Beheria and Minya, in addition to the four governorates mentioned above.

Training and technical support provided resulted in a significant reduction of two crops (Artichoke and Pomegranate) losses. The support provided included provision of small processing units for grade 3 pomegranates, which is mainly for juice making. Financial support was also provided for agro-processors to access loans for processing and storage facilities.

UN agencies in Egypt have also continued to work on strengthening resilience and adaptation of vulnerable communities to climate change during 2020 despite COVID-19 affecting beneficiaries' outreach. One of the climate adaptive interventions included establishment of an Early Warning System (EWS) that reached small holders' farmers through SMS messaging with relevant weather information that directly enhances their climate adaptation capabilities. During 2020, a total of 616 small holder farmers (109 female and 507 male) were reached through this system, bringing the total cumulative number of beneficiaries reached since its inception to 3,056 (379 female and 2,677 male).

Moreover, a total of 1,283 smallholder farmers (1,027 male and 256 female) were trained on various climate adaptive measures and techniques despite COVID-19 restrictions that hindered interventions considerably. Of them, 374 farmers (295 male and 79 female) were prepared as climate change leaders. Additionally, a total of 3696 beneficiary farmers (2841 male and 855 female) were trained on good agricultural practices that included adaptation to climate change.

Furthermore, 93 of the most vulnerable communities were reached in Upper Egypt in 2020, mainly in Asyut, Sohag, Qena, Luxor and Aswan with the aim to improve adaptive capacity of target communities in the face of anticipated climate-induced reduction in food production. Based on joint monitoring with MoLAR, 91 per cent of targeted communities reported improved capacity to manage climate shocks and risks, and an overall high Climate Capacity Score^{liv}.

30,000 smallholder farmers^{lv} and rural women in these communities were engaged through raisingsessions on the impact of climate change, adaptation measures and benefited from improved access to weather information. Additionally, trainings on climate-smart practices helped to strengthen their resilience, along with access to off-farm employment and micro-lending schemes.

With regards to strengthening biodiversity management at the beneficiaries' level, a total of 2400 women in protected areas were trained on the production, packaging, pricing, and marketing of local goods. Additionally, 24 recreational boats in Wadi El Rayan protected area were maintained for local communities. This is in addition to a tutoring programme in English and Italian for 500 local communities, including 200 women in Wadi El Gemmal protected area; as well as establishment of four traditional crafting outlets for women to sell their products in the area. A new visitors' attraction destination was established in Qatrani mountain in Qaroun protected area, creating 200 new job opportunities for local guides and other support services, including camping catering.

2,400

Women in protected areas (PAs) trained on production and marketing of local products






Outcome 3: COVID-19 Response Major Highlights

Under Pillar

3 **ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY**
Protecting jobs, small and medium sized enterprises, and the informal sector workers

 "El Mufeed" digital agriculture extension services mobile application updated to include COVID-19 related food safety recommendations

 30 million viewers and listeners reached through "Our health is our capital" campaign targeting rural population for precautionary health, food safety and food handling measures

Under Pillar

4 **MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION**

 Joint UN assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture, food and nutrition security in Egypt conducted

Sundried Tomato Farms, Luxor: WFP



Outcome 4 Women's Empowerment

By 2022, women are fully contributing to Egypt's development and all women and girl's rights set forth in the 2014 Constitution, are respected, protected and responded to with no discrimination.



Corresponding SDGs



Contributing UN agencies

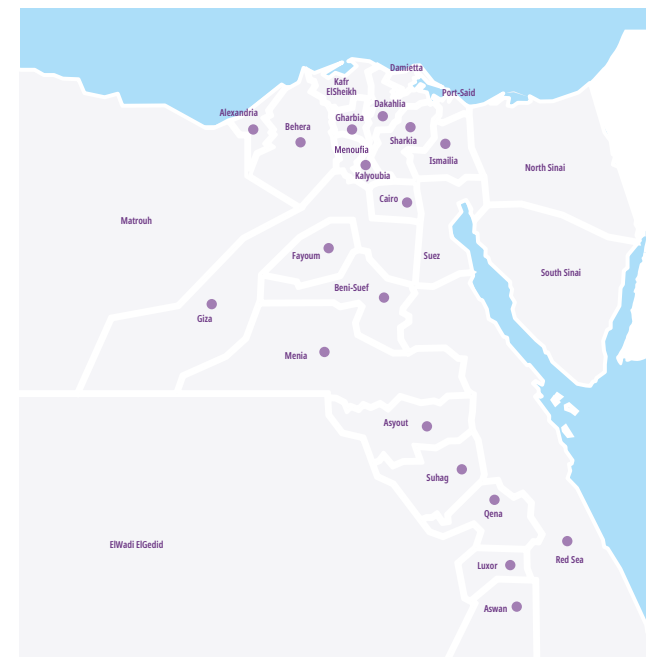


Corresponding national priorities: Egypt's Vision 2030; National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030; National Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Abandonment Strategy; National Strategy on combatting violence against women (2015-2020); Cairo call for Action for the Eradication of Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation; the National Childhood and Motherhood Strategy (2018-2030); Ending Violence against Children Strategic Framework; Digital Egypt Builders initiative; National Social Protection System (Takaful Programme); MoSS Income Generation Programmes for Women, Micro-credit; National Strategy for Micro-finance in Egypt.

Joint Programmes: Promoting Productive Employment and Decent Work for Women in Egypt (ILO/UN Women); Women's Economic Empowerment for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth (UN Women/UNIDO); Essential Services Package (ESP) for Women and Girls Subject to Violence (UNFPA, UN Women, UNODC, UNDP, WHO); Global Joint Programme to Eliminate FGM (UNICEF/UNFPA).

1. Policy development and enhancement

In 2020, UN in Egypt continued and expanded its collaboration with key national counterparts to inform the design and implementation of policies, mechanisms and knowledge products to further promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, in line with Egypt's Vision 2030 and the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Women 2030 (NSEW), as well as other relevant national strategies and plans and commitments under SDGs. The partnership of UN with the Government of Egypt in supporting policy development informed the costed National Action Plan (NAP) on female genital mutilation (FGM), NAP on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (under development), the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (under development), and the action plan for Gender Unit at MoM. Furthermore, in partnership with national stakeholders, UN produced a number of policy briefs and studies during this reporting period. Among the themes covered were the paid/unpaid care economy, divorce, fatherhood, ending violence against women and girls (VAWG), and gender socialization.



Geographic Focus : Outcome 4

The work included a national case study on violence against women with disabilities – the first of its kind in the country – developed by UN in collaboration with NCW, CAPMAS and MoSS.

FGM remains one of the most pressing forms of VAWG in Egypt. To support the sustainability of the work of the National Committee for the Eradication of FGM, UN – through the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Joint Programme to Eliminate FGM – advocated and provided technical advice for the development of the first ever costed NAP on FGM by GoE.

The first costed national action plan (NAP) on FGM developed with UN support



A final draft of this NAP was completed, based on NCW and NCCM-led consultations with key stakeholders, including the rights' holders themselves (girls and women). The NAP is an important step in strengthening the elimination of FGM in Egypt, putting in place key milestones and indicators to measure progress and design a clear accountability framework for all stakeholders.

On women's economic empowerment, and in line with NSEW, UN supported a series of actions to increase women's access to decent work. UN partnered with MoM in drafting the action plan for the Ministry's Gender Unit. The Action Plan will guide the Unit's activities during the coming year. The Unit will commence its activities with the dissemination of gender equality training to MoM Directorates at the governorate level and undertaking a participatory gender audit for the Ministry. The Action Plan, which was presented to the Minister of Manpower for endorsement, was informed by UN technical support on UN conventions related to gender equality, in addition to the gender mainstreaming tools in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Through the provision of technical advice by UN, ten companies signed and adopted the Women's Empowerment Principles^{vi}. Most of the policies that were put in place by these companies focused on anti-harassment and anti-discrimination, insurance, allowances, safe transportation, and safe environment. As a result of capacity building activities held in 2019 through the Human Resource and Gender Academy, established within the Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI), two additional medium-sized pharmaceutical companies in Alexandria reviewed their human resources policies to be more gender inclusive, bringing the total number of companies that have adopted gender-responsive HR policies with UN support to thirteen. The main elements that the two companies included in their policies were ensuring that the recruitment process was gender neutral with no biases based on gender, religion, geography

or ability; equal pay among men and women; emphasizing the rights of all women during maternity leave and breastfeeding hours; promoting safety in the workplace; and other elements that ensure policies are gender inclusive.

Reaffirming its commitment to implement the constitutional provisions that pertain to women's leadership and decision-making, in 2019 GoE began the process of developing the country's first NAP on the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 on Women Peace and Security and subsequent resolutions. The development of this NAP on UNSCR 1325 is under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NCW and the Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA). In 2020, in addition to initial drafting of aspects of the NAP and development of baseline research to inform the fuller draft, the Government, under the leadership of NCW, conducted consultations with government and civil-society organizations.

With a view to informing the emerging National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, UN, in collaboration with CAPMAS, supported the review of availability of gender statistics. As part of this process, training was conducted on gender sensitization and gender statistics for statistical divisions in five line ministries. Furthermore, the draft report (review of the gender statistics chapter) was validated during a national consultation organized by CAPMAS.

National review of gender statistics done to inform the emerging National Strategy for the Development of Statistics



With the advent of the pandemic in the country, key strategies in the area of policy development and enhancement were modified to align with public health measures. Egypt was one of the first countries worldwide to outline the gender dimensions of COVID-19's impact and the required measures to mitigate this through the policy note, Egypt's Rapid Response to Women's Situation during the COVID-19 Outbreak, by NCW and its subsequent national tracker on gender-related measures on COVID-19^{vii}. UN supported the conduction of a nationally-representative telephone/mobile phone survey to collect data insights on the impact of COVID-19 on various aspects of women's well-being – such as, household income, violence within the family and unpaid care work, as well as to gauge public awareness levels of COVID-19 mitigation and response measures^{viii}. Additionally, in order to formulate the different policy options that can alleviate the negative economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis on women leading MSMEs, UN, in partnership with NCW and MSMEDA, conducted an opinion poll of 440 women leading MSMEs to identify the most important new challenges and needs to be able to sustain their businesses^{ix}.

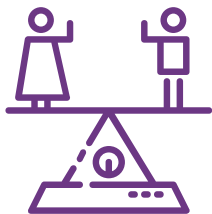
During the pandemic, UN in Egypt also conducted a rapid gender assessment to understand the gendered social and health impacts of COVID-19 on women living with HIV (WLHIV) and key populations. This assessment captured individuals' ability to access healthcare, employment, social and familial support. It resulted in a set of recommendations to guide the HIV response regarding strengthening women's access to sexual and reproductive health services in Egypt and provided a snapshot of critical strategic data on WLHIV's and key populations' access to health and social services during COVID-19. It also identified new priority programmatic interventions, such as community engagement sessions and gender-based violence (GBV) trainings to CSOs and government counterparts.

2. Institutional capacity building and strengthening

UN partnered with national stakeholders in strengthening institutional capacity of various government counterparts, private sector and civil society partners on gender equality and women's empowerment. In 2020, more than 3,700 employees, social workers, facilitators, medical service providers and criminal justice practitioners (50 per cent female) were trained on topics that include gender mainstreaming in policies and programmes and addressing cases of GBV.

+3,700

Various government stakeholders trained on gender mainstreaming in policies and addressing cases of GBV in 2020



In support of Egypt's national efforts to fulfil both SDG 5, Gender Equality, and SDG 16, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and as outlined in NSEW, UN in Egypt supported the national, Women's Citizenship Initiative, that aims at issuing national identification cards for women. A national identification card grants any citizen registration, voting, health and social rights, among others. Through the partnership of UN with the Government, an additional 80,000 Egyptian women in nine governorates^{ix} were able to get free-of-charge national identification cards during the reporting period.



80,000

Women in nine governorates supported to get national identification cards

UN continued to support MoSS in the implementation of Takaful and Karama cash transfer programme^{xi}. To this end, UN supported the development of a positive parenting programme for the households participating in Takaful and Karama, which engaged 13,000 parents in multiple positive parenting sessions that promote fatherhood and positive gender socialization. The positive parenting programme also supported regular interaction with 100,000 Takaful and Karama households through a real-time information system using RapidPro. At the same time, UN supported the inclusion of the Waai Programme for Community Development to the beneficiaries of Takaful and Karama through training 600 female rural leaders and 100 MoSS staff members on enhancing awareness and knowledge of vulnerable groups on social protection services.

113,000

Takaful & Karama parents and households reached through UN supported positive parenting programme



Strengthening national institutional capacities in Egypt is a vital component for responding to the issue of VAWG. Thus, UN in Egypt continued to provide institutional capacity-building support to national partners. Building on the adoption of the first national referral pathway for women and girls subjected to violence in 2019 by NCW, UN continued during this reporting period to support the coordinated interventions between national stakeholders involved in providing protection and response in VAWG cases, namely the Ministry of Justice, the Forensic Medical Authority (FMA), the Prosecutor General Office, and health and civil society partners. This was done through a capacity strengthening programme which ensured a comprehensive understanding of the most prevalent forms of VAWG in Egypt, updated legislative context, endorsed

referral pathway, and means of implementing a coordinated response between legal, medical and social services.

To this end, and in partnership with NCW, through the Council's GBV Coordination Unit, technical and financial support was provided to design and implement capacity building programmes for 1,550 duty bearers in the legal, medical and social protection sectors to address VAWG in 2020. This included public prosecutors, members of the administrative court, judges and family prosecutors; forensic doctors and medical staff of NGO clinics in five governorates^{lxii} and in five university hospitals^{lxiii} who were trained on GBV case management, monitoring and referrals. This is in addition to the members of the Women's Complaint Office (WCO) in NCW and equal opportunity units in line ministries who were trained on VAWG legislative framework, internet VAWG crimes, and how to receive and communicate complaints, as well as monitoring and evaluation. Moreover, building on a series of training workshops targeting service providers at MoSS shelters, NCW's WCO and community based organizations (CBOs), UN conducted 12 supervision meetings targeting case managers in shelters and CBOs to enhance their capacities on provision of case management and psychosocial support to women and girls survivors of violence. In addition, UN conducted an advanced training workshop on psychosocial support to women and girls, building on the first phase conducted in 2019, targeting 48 of the lawyers and social workers of WCO of NCW.

Building on extensive public awareness raised around availability of services, with UN technical and financial partnership, survivors' access to the referral system was further enhanced in 2020. Lawyers at WCO of NCW received a record 52,439 complaints and the number of legal aid cases filed in courts during the reporting period amounted to 2,120 cases, which were referred to a network of volunteers. WCO hotline working hours were extended and new reporting mechanisms for female survivors of violence were also

introduced, including a WhatsApp number, an answering machine to register women's complaints during non-working hours and an emergency intervention unit.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, in partnership with UN, eight women's shelters affiliated with MoSS continued to provide services to women and children. Shelter staff were able to meet the needs of survivors, while avoiding exposure to the COVID-19 virus and protecting their safety and well-being by adopting a phone-based approach for case management and other forms of services. At the same time, UN supported the mainstreaming and application of a set of prevention measures in the shelters for newly hosted women and their children. As a result, a total of 202 women and 164 children were hosted at the shelters. Moreover, a total of 8,615 survivors accessed protection and essential services. This included an array of financial, health, social and legal services ranging from psychosocial and family counselling services, to medical and financial assistance, and income-generating opportunities. Moreover, through the broader support of UN, 864 survivors gained increased knowledge of shelter services and different forms of VAWG, such as FGM, early marriage and more.

8,615

Survivors of VAWG accessed protection and essential services



Additional 140 women increased their knowledge of COVID-19 symptoms and prevention measures after attending awareness-raising sessions implemented by MoSS shelters. Furthermore, six additional community dialogues were held in six governorates^{lxiv}, to increase the use and knowledge of the shelters, reaching at least 297 women and girls.

In partnership with the Government, UN also facilitated the introduction of new medical services for survivors of violence^{lxv} at three FMA specialized clinics for women victims of violence in three governorates^{lxvi}. This has, in turn, decreased the time lapse between assault and examination of victims seeking medical attention, hence reducing the risk of lost evidence. Moreover, new tools and technologies that were made available at the clinics, such as colposcopes, a UV lamp and toluidine blue stain, have resulted in improved examinations and detection of evidence on the body, as well as on clothes. The Prosecutor General's Office has also since reported receiving more conclusive evidence and technical opinions from FMA on assault and rape cases. On the other hand, in partnership with UN, child protection mechanisms were also enhanced to provide the necessary response to cases at risk and survivors of FGM and child marriage by strengthening the capacities of 341 service providers (231 female and 110 male), including medical professionals, Child Helpline and Child Protection Committees staff and social workers. In order to further sensitize local communities on FGM, another 431 community members (403 female and 28 male) were provided with capacity-building trainings. 2,820 women and girls also received FGM social sensitization at PHCs, 17 of which received additional counselling^{lxvii}. As a result of the institutionalization of case management functions, through UN's support, 65 GBV survivors subjected to sexual violence or harmful practices were identified through MoSS case management units and accordingly provided with services^{lxviii}, and 18 girls received social and legal services through NCCM's Child Helpline and Child Protection Committees^{lxix}.

UN supported national efforts to ensure the continuous provision of better quality HIV testing among pregnant mothers as a routine medical follow-up service, by conducting a series of 25 online training workshops that benefited 1,395 maternal health care staff (339 supervisors and 1056 service providers) in 1,229 PHCs across 14 governorates. As a result, significant increases were seen in HIV testing in PHCs where

more than 85,000 pregnant women have benefited from the services and around 200 WLHIV received peer support to address psychosocial needs.

3. The provision of direct services and support to beneficiaries

UN in Egypt continued to partner with national stakeholders to support women in pursuing sustainable economic opportunities, through micro-lending and financial education. At the same time, UN continued its contribution towards national efforts in overcoming existing gender divides in the ICT sector and STEM fields, as well as promoting and supporting women's leadership in public and private institutions. This contributed to increased access of women to income generating activities, social services and safe spaces, while awareness-raising activities contributed to empowering women and girls, and increasing the understanding of gender inequalities among women, men, girls and boys.

In a collaboration between UN in Egypt, the MoSS Takaful Foundation and partner NGOs, 10,000 women continued to receive revolving micro-loans to start their income-generating activities, with a total value of EGP 40 million in nine governorates^{lxx}, while an additional 5,970 women received in-kind loans for ducks, goats and beekeeping in five governorates^{lxxi} and 1,364 women were trained on these animal production microprojects in collaboration with MoALR.

10,000

Women received micro-loans with a total value of EGP 40 million



This enabled approximately 58 per cent of the women to increase their incomes by 30–50 per cent, which helped secure food and ensured that their children remained in schools, thus reducing the risk of early marriage and child labour. Furthermore, to measure and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on women receiving microloans, a rapid assessment was conducted through partner NGOs in six governorates^{lxxii}. Results showed that the COVID-19 crisis severely impacted their livelihoods with decreased demand for their products and limited working hours and access to markets. Women reported having resorted to negative coping strategies such as the stopping of economic activity and not being able to repay the instalments of loans. In response, UN negotiated with the partner NGOs managing the loan capitals to allow for a grace period with no penalty to women facing difficulties in repaying instalments.

Through UN support, in collaboration with NCW and CSOs, 200 Egyptian women from four governorates^{lxxiii} received financial literacy training using the Financial Education for Egyptian Women tool, designed and developed in 2019. The training introduced basic financial concepts to the beneficiaries and equipped them with the necessary knowledge and tools to better manage their personal finances. To further disseminate the training and ensure its sustainability, 20 trainers from NCW's network of trainers and staff participated in a 'Training of Trainers' on the tool and started rolling out beneficiaries' training^{lxxiv} reaching more than 200 beneficiaries during the reporting period.

To support the realization of NSEW targets for women in leadership roles and holding key positions in public institutions and companies, UN in collaboration with the International Finance Corporation, the American University in Cairo, and the Egyptian Institute of Directors qualified 78 women at executive management level to serve on corporate boards of Egypt's Stock Exchange and the Financial Regulatory Authority listed companies through a variety of

certified training courses on corporate directors management, advanced management and finance for non-financers.

With the ultimate goal of breaking down barriers that impede women from pursuing careers in STEM fields and further developing their skills, 45 female beneficiaries in the 13–30 age group were provided with hands-on exposure to coding and robotics as well as awareness of career opportunities in the STEM field through a combination of face-to-face and online tutorials and exercises. Participants also received a robotic kit which allowed them to continue to further develop their skills. At the same time, the L'Oréal-UNESCO Fellowship Programme for Women in Science recognized and awarded three outstanding young Egyptian women researchers: two postdoctoral researchers for their work in astrophysics and drug delivery science; and one PhD student for her research on biotechnology.

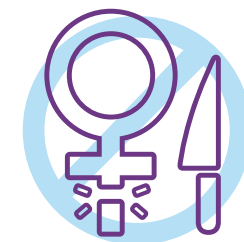
In alignment with the NSEW, the UN in Egypt continued to raise public awareness around issues of GBV, including VAWG, and promote positive social norms towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. More than 13 million people were reached during 2020 through awareness-raising campaigns organized by the UN in Egypt, in partnership with various ministries, institutions and civil society organizations, at both national and community levels. In addition, with the support of UN in Egypt, key national campaigns and messages reached 12.5 million views on social media.

Under the overall umbrella of the National Committee for the Eradication of FGM, and in partnership with relevant ministries and local civil society organizations, UN continued to support and facilitate interventions to raise awareness and promote behavioural changes in the social norms surrounding FGM during the reporting period. To this end, UN in Egypt partnered with NCW's Knocking Door Campaign on the elimination of FGM which reached 12,993,061 people^{lxxv} in 26 governorates through home visits and community events held by 13,324 social workers. This was complimented by a

national radio and social media campaign entitled, Protect Her from FGM, which had an outreach of 12.5 million and a high engagement rate (1.1 million, or 9 per cent).

13 million

Persons reached through NCW Knock the Door Campaign on elimination of FGM in partnership with the UN



national radio and social media campaign entitled, Protect Her from FGM, which had an outreach of 12.5 million and a high engagement rate (1.1 million, or 9 per cent).

Moreover, UN supported community mobilization and sensitization activities that witnessed the active engagement of 82,163 persons (49,480 female and 32,683 male) from local communities in four targeted governorates that are characterized as having high FGM prevalence^{lxxvi}, through awareness seminars, docudrama workshops and activities towards public declarations of FGM abandonment. Also, 31,731 community members took part in awareness-raising sessions which provided them with information on the negative impacts of FGM from medical, social and legal perspectives and enhanced their capacity to be advocates for others.

With the same aim in mind, 3,644 people were also engaged in social norm change initiatives in 2020 in partnership with NCW and civil society organizations. This included 2,712 men and boys who took part in interactive sessions on the role of men and boys in ending VAWG; 156 people who took part in intergenerational dialogues to bridge different generations and to actively involve youth in discussing FGM and child marriage with local and religious leaders; 458 participants (233 female and 225 male) who benefited from girl empowerment capacity development

packages; and 318 community leaders and volunteers (207 female and 111 male) who were capacitated to raise awareness and lead behavioural change towards FGM in their communities. Youth actively participated as change-makers in eliminating FGM through the effective use of edutainment and interactive techniques such as sports day, interactive theatre and youth cinema/film, and drawing workshops, reaching 958 children through sports (373 female and 585 male), 722 (343 female and 379 male) through theatre, and 141 (87 female and 54 male) through drawing events.

Driven by the realization that changing mindsets and behaviours around gender equality and women's empowerment requires extensive awareness-raising targeting both men and women, UN in Egypt partnered with NCW in engaging men and boys through the implementation of the second phase of the, *Because I am a Man*, campaign. Focusing on sports and gender equality, and in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), the campaign also supported a football tournament entitled, *Football-Gender champions – because I am a man* championship, which was held across Egypt reaching 86,820 persons (15,812 women, 57,127 men, 13,136 children, 473 disabled men and 272 disabled women). The tournament featured sensitization sessions followed by football matches, engaging young football players, coaches and football fans on gender equality and positive masculinity. Different topics were addressed, including self-image, manhood and stereotyping in family and gender roles in the society. Along the same lines, 1,140 beneficiaries (787 female and 353 male) were introduced to the importance of positive fatherhood through video and audio campaigns in Qalyubia, while an additional 301 beneficiaries (208 female and 93 male) gained knowledge on the topics of early marriage, choosing a life partner and dealing with family problems^{lxvii}.

Furthermore, UN supported CSO partners and local volunteers in strengthening the implementation of community activities, engaging men and boys and

communicating messages regarding an end to VAWG. To this end, local NGOs and young volunteers were certified with a Diploma in Applied Drama for Women's Health and Empowerment, while 15 other volunteers acquired the skills of writing scripts and the technicalities of the Marionette Theatre along with the knowledge of how to use these skills to raise awareness on the issue of early marriage. As a result, through four door-to-door campaigns 1,130 families were introduced to the issues of early marriage, positive fatherhood and GBV.

In partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports' (MoYS) *Meshwary* programme, 6,583 children (3,582 girls and 3,001 boys) participated in the *Dawwie* digital literacy for girls' empowerment programme. Among those attending the training, 46 per cent reported an increased understanding of gender equality. Furthermore, over 1 million people were reached through *Dawwie* digital platforms and over 400,000 people engaged with content on girls' struggles and solutions during COVID-19. Additionally, UN used community hubs to improve and empower women to access the virtual world and gain the necessary knowledge to become part of the global action towards improving their status and existence in the community. This was done through interactive capacity-building webinars that provided boys and girls, teachers, and parents of community schools with key messages on gender, early marriage, the importance of education for girls and GBV. At the same time, the awareness of 145 students (65 female and 80 male) from three applied Technical and Vocational Education and Training schools in Cairo and Alexandria was raised on gender issues through interactive performances at their schools and an internship programme, as well as participating in online webinars to discuss gender issues at the learning spaces. This resulted in a behavioural change for men to accept their female peers as technicians in non-traditional sectors (mainly electricity).

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UN joined forces with NCW and a number of therapists and institutions to raise public awareness on the psychological

impact of COVID-19 on women and their families and to provide practical tips on how to deal with these impacts and anxiety-related symptoms. To this end, seven videos entitled "Our Mental Health is a Priority" were released on various digital platforms, garnering 200,000 social media interactions, with a direct viewership of more than 52,000.

UN supported the National AIDS Program with 106 gynaecological and psychological consultations for women living with HIV in 10 governorates^{lxviii}. Due to fears over going to hospitals for treatment during COVID-19, UN supported the National AIDS Program to contract 20 private health providers across six governorates to ensure that women continued to seek healthcare during the pandemic. In total, 97 women and girls belonging to the most underserved populations benefited from outreach services including access to prevention and testing services and awareness-raising activities through partnerships with local CSOs. Another workshop was conducted, capacitating 14 CSOs on establishing intersectional HIV and gender sensitive programs. In an effort to synergize governmental support with community-based support, UN provided financial support and technical guidance to a network of WLHIV to strengthen peer-to-peer support for children, adolescents, and pregnant mothers. Other forms of support to the network included awareness-raising on prevention of mother-to-child transmission and prevention of COVID-19, adherence to HIV treatment, and mental health support. Continuous advocacy efforts have also been exerted with selected healthcare facilities to secure healthy and safe deliveries for WLHIV in coordination with the National AIDS Program, hospital staff and their peer support networks.

As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the support of UN, the Egypt Network for Integrated Development (ENID) shifted the activity of the readymade garment factory in Qena to the production of medical masks to meet the high demand in Qena. This created 119 jobs, as well as training for 102 women who produced 613,425 masks during the period between April and December 2020.



Outcome 4: COVID19- Response Major Highlights

Under Pillar

1 HEALTH FIRST:
Protecting health services and systems during the crisis



1,395

Maternal health care staff trained through 25 online training workshops on improved quality of HIV testing among pregnant women



85,000

Pregnant women have benefited from the above service



20

Private health providers across 6 governorates contracted

Under Pillar

3 ECONOMIC RESPONSE & RECOVERY
Protecting jobs, small and medium sized enterprises, and the informal sector workers



Launched a women's financial inclusion programme targeting 125,000 women in Upper Egypt

Under Pillar

5 SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



+400,000

People engaged on girls' struggles and solutions during COVID-19 on Dawwaie Digital Platform

Under Pillar

2 PROTECTING PEOPLE:
Social protection and basic services



8

Women's shelters continued their services provisions during COVID19- applying precautionary measures



7

Videos entitled "Our Mental Health is a Priority" produced and broadcasted to raise public awareness on the psychological impact of COVID19- on women

Under Pillar

4 MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION



A nationally representative phone survey on the impact of COVID-19 on women wellbeing



An opinion poll for 440 women leading MSMEs to identify the impact of COVID-19 on their businesses



A rapid gender assessment on social and health impacts of COVID-19 on women living with HIV



A rapid assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on women receiving microloans



Empowering Female Syrian Refugees UNFPA

2.3 Support to Partnership and Financing the 2030 Agenda

In 2020, UN in Egypt intensified its efforts to leverage partnership, with GoE, private sector and civil society, for advancing and financing SDGs.

In partnerships with GoE and with the financial support of the Joint SDG Fund^{lxxxix}, UN deployed the first elements of an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) approach to SDGs whereby the cost of SDGs, available financing flows, resulting gaps and financing strategy options are reviewed. To this end, UN initiated a joint partnership with MoPED, MoF, NCW, MoSS and MoIC to map regular budget and investment plan locations to SDGs and, in particular, to social protections and women's empowerment. During the reporting period, UN began developing SDG tagging methodology for the public budget, which will be linked to other UN efforts to calculate the SDG financing gap.

Furthermore, in support of SDG 5, Gender Equality, UN secured partnership with GoE to strengthen the system-wide use of gender responsive budgeting tools, and to pilot these tools through specific policy support in the area of the paid and unpaid care economy. At the same time, UN and MoF explored, during the reporting period, the possibility of issuing a nationally sovereign Gender Bond, to overcome key bottlenecks in the advancing of gender equality and women's empowerment. If the Bond goes to market, Egypt would be one of the first countries in the world to issue a socially responsible sovereign bond to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. UN also continued to advocate for and strengthen private sector commitment to advancing women's leadership and the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs).

2020 also witnessed the finalization of the design phase of the UN comprehensive programme to support the acceleration of Egypt's Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) which would, in turn, support the realization of SDG 9, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. The programme design was informed by intensive multi-stakeholder consultations and aims at linking the industrial development efforts of GoE, UN, development partners, financial institutions, private sector, academia and civil society organizations to create greater synergy and ease in leveraging larger investments for ISID.

Moreover, UN continued to advocate for the establishment and strengthening of governance structures for SDGs, localization of SDGs and identification of broad policy orientations to accelerate SDGs, including prioritization of SDG 1, No Poverty, social protection, human development and women's empowerment.

This builds on the findings of the UN Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) engagement since 2018^{lxxx} and is pursued in the context of COVID-19 to identify SDGs that are likely to be resilient to the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic and SDGs that will need particular attention in this decade, leading to 2030.

Applying a whole-of-society approach towards the achieved SDG 2, Zero Hunger, UN partnered with private sector and civil society organizations. Through these partnerships, vulnerable beneficiaries in marginalized communities were reached and the partners were able to deliver better together and reach more people in need. During the COVID-19 response, cooperating partners supported UN with rigorous data collection and validation of community school children and their families to reach beneficiaries in need through unrestricted cash-based transfers to help overcome the challenges they faced as a result of the pandemic. Meanwhile, the rapid response capacity of civil society organizations and their access to marginalized communities complimented the efforts of UN in a cost-effective and timely manner.

UN also introduced innovative approaches to increase efficiency, scalability and access of cash-assistance nationwide by partnering with Egypt's largest financial service providers, Fawry, and the Egypt Post Office. This resulted in leveraging additional resources from bilateral development partners and private sector organizations to expand their partnerships with UN under the framework of their emergency aid and corporate social responsibility strategies.



UN/MOIC partnership meetings, Marriott Hotel, November 2020, Source: UNRCO

2.4 Results of UN Working More and Better Together

Operating as One

The United Nations in Egypt strengthened and expanded its efforts to enhance the operational efficiency of UN interventions in Egypt.

Under the umbrella of UN reform towards a more One UN, UN agencies in all countries have been requested to develop a Business Operation Strategy (BOS). For countries that did not already have a One Strategy in 2019, which was the case with Egypt, it has been required to develop a BOS 2.0, relying on new tools and requirements developed by UN Development Coordination Office (DCO).

UNCT, through the Operation Management Team (OMT) members and the related thematic working groups, Finance, Human Resources, Administration, Procurement, and ICT, worked together in order to finalize BOS.



26 common services have been identified in BOS, and the estimated cost avoided to implement these common

services reaches US\$8.22 million

BOS covers three-year cycles, from 2020 until 2023, with an annual review for each cycle. 26 common services have been identified in the strategy, and the estimated associated cost avoided to implement

implement these common services reaches US\$8.2 million, including an estimated labour cost avoidance of US\$1.12 million. These common services are led for the majority by the Administration working group (e.g., Building Maintenance, Common Travel Services, Event Management) while their implementation may require the involvement of the other groups. Other services range from phone services to staff training, to central vendor database development and a Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer audits, as examples. The implementation of these services will contribute to enhanced synergy and the mutualization of UN action and thus enhance the overall efficiency of UN activities within the country. The final BOS was presented to the UN Country Team and endorsed on 27 October 2020.

Communicating as One

UN in Egypt managed to promote “communicating as one” in 2020.

On the coordination level, UN Communication Group (UNCG) developed its UNCG Egypt Annual Workplan that strategically positioned UN in Egypt as an effective and strategic development partner and ensured effective visibility and engagement of the joint activities. In 2020, UNCG coordinated activities around joint communication initiatives, and joint campaigns. 2020 was also a special year due to it being the 75th anniversary of UN in Egypt. Many joint communications activities took place within UN75, including the COVID-19 response, the annual 16-day campaign to end gender-based violence, and similar events that spotlighted climate change, youth initiatives and calls to end FGM.

As part of the COVID-19 Joint Campaigns, agencies adapted to the cross-posting of COVID-19 related public information materials from WHO Egypt on the social media platforms of various agencies. UN platforms and channels also recalibrated their content

towards the COVID-19 pandemic and collaborated in producing social media campaigns to promote messages to inform the population of the seriousness of the crisis, change needed to individual behaviors, the promotion of social distancing, and best health practices. Three main campaigns were launched in cooperation with UN agencies: Masks, Stigma and Workplace Readiness. These awareness campaigns were launched on the social media networks of UN and the Ministry of Health and Population, reaching more than 10 million people. In addition, UNCG developed a series of UN staff videos in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, under one goal – helping the country overcome the pandemic. In this regard, UN staff members shared their video stories on how they were supporting each other, their families, and vulnerable people during the coronavirus outbreak and how they worked to keep themselves healthy in mind and body, as well.

2020 marked the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and its founding Charter. To mark this occasion, in January 2020 the Secretary General launched a global conversation asking people through surveys and dialogues about their hopes and fears for the future, along with their priorities for international cooperation. In this regard, UN agencies in Egypt produced social media campaigns promoting the UN75 global survey through contextualizing the messages locally to promote the survey amongst the public and urging people to take part. Additionally, the documentary of UN in Egypt for 75 years, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs, marked a collaborative work in producing a historic documentary showcasing the work of 18 UN agencies since their inception in Egypt.

In addition, two webinars were organized by UN agencies in Egypt to address the priorities for action identified in the global discussions on the occasion of the UN 75th anniversary, aimed at addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the future of multilateralism and the accessibility of basic services

such as healthcare, safe water, sanitation and education during the pandemic. Panelists from the United Nations in Egypt, senior Government representatives, development partners, private sector and civil society organizations, and academia reflected on global priorities, challenges and identified national opportunities to tackle them. Moreover, two dedicated webinars on Persons with Disabilities (PwD) were organized under the theme of, Research and Innovation in Assistive Technologies (AT), and, Women with Disabilities, Innovation and Assistive Technologies, in collaboration with NCW and the American University in Cairo. The webinars brought together development partners, AI and AT experts, academic institutions and high-level governmental personnel, to shed light on the needs of PwD and the role of ATs on their lives with a special focus on women and girls with disabilities.

Stepping Ahead of COVID, was a walk held at the iconic Pyramids of Giza, and joined by a number of Egyptian public figures, government officials, athletes and PwD including all types of disabilities, while advocating physical distancing and COVID-19 protection measures. This walk was managed in partnership with MoYS, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the Egyptian Sports Federation for Intellectual Disabilities, to raise awareness on the importance of assistive technologies for the empowerment and independence of PwD. Also, the lighting up of national monuments in solidarity with international campaigns took place in 2020. This included the lighting of the Giza Pyramids Plateau on the occasion of UN Day and the 16 days of activism to end gender-based violence.

Finally, UN took part in Egypt's Global Partnership Narrative in cooperation with MoIC with its main objective, People at the Core, through showcasing development programmes and their impact on people as a means to boost inclusive growth and bolster credibility by making Egyptians feel empowered by their own development narrative and including them in the development story of Egypt.



2.5 Lessons Learned

Though the outbreak of COVID-19 had its impact on many aspects in 2020; yet, it was also an opportunity for innovation that opened new areas of cooperation.

How Egypt is managing the impact of COVID-19 offers several important lessons and shines light on emerging opportunities. The resilience of the Egyptian economy to COVID-19, as described in Chapter 1, is a direct result of the strong reforms that the Government of Egypt had championed since 2016. One obvious example is the strengthening of the Takaful and Karama social protection programme over the recent years, providing a good foundation for the Government to ensure continued support to the most vulnerable during the COVID-19. Hence, an important lesson that Egypt's experience renders is the role of socio-economic reforms in delivering much-needed resilience during crisis periods. This only adds to the need to focus efforts on the second wave of structural reforms.

Further, COVID-19 has opened new opportunities and pushed frontiers in many areas. Digitalization has leap-frogged in several sectors and governance. The database on informal workers created in the context of COVID-19 can be an important tool to further design targeted support and pave way for enhanced formalization of the economy. The demand for additional financing has provided impetus to tap into new forms of financing such as sovereign green bonds. UN system needs to partner with the Government in building on these emerging opportunities to accelerate progress towards SDGs.

Similarly, on UN side, challenges posed by COVID-19 created new windows for managing systemic challenges, and ways to build back better. COVID-19 restrictions have caused delays and suspension of activities; reduced community

engagement and public consultations due to social distancing measures; and shifted priorities for counterparts, whether governmental or developmental partners, affecting performance in already planned interventions. Additionally, insufficient and restrictive donor funding resulted in pipeline breaks and limited reach to vulnerable communities. COVID-19 movement restrictions also hindered assistance to be delivered to vulnerable migrants in a timely manner. In some contexts, it imposed economic hardship on local communities, which additionally affected their willingness to engage and participate.

For businesses, the economic contraction at the outset of the crisis reduced demand for investment in green technologies. Similarly, it posed a challenge for entrepreneurs, start-ups and MSMEs with the restrictions and precautionary measures affecting supply and demand, training and mentorship, workers mobility, and access to new customers. Moreover, COVID-19 put more girls and women at risks of domestic violence, FGM and forced marriage during the lockdown.



Preparedness to digital alternatives has eased the impact of COVID-19 and opened new avenues for innovation in advocacy

Despite all of the above, adaptation and flexibility during crises can be conducive for positive unintended outcomes such as employment of digital solutions to reach beneficiaries and as a delivery modality. Preparedness to digital alternatives has eased the impact of COVID-19 and opened new avenues for innovation in advocacy. Digital platforms for online training and mobile applications were developed to be accessible to all nationwide, in addition to the increased use of WhatsApp and SMS messages on mobile phones to

transfer information. However, the online delivery modality also posed the risk of leaving behind the most marginalized in the community due to lack of ICT equipment and access to internet, as well as digital illiteracy. For this, further solutions were sought to ensure the inclusion of these communities. Capacities enhancement in digital literacy was capitalized on and support was provided to these vulnerable groups to access to the internet. This allowed reach to women in villages that are not usually reachable for face-to-face trainings, thus, in fact, opening new channels for outreach. Further, to help MSMEs overcome their challenges, remote mentorship was provided to them and others were supported in a shift to mask production to address the high demand resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak. Additionally, for MSMEs who were not ready for digital transformation and COVID-19 work constraints, help was provided to reach existing and new customers through enhancing the MSMEDA marketplace. Moreover, together with NCW, UN agencies worked closely to provide immediate legal and medical assistance to many women subjected to violence, receiving cases through the national hotline and providing referral as needed. The referral pathway endorsed in 2019 turned out to be crucial during the rise of the pandemic, allowing national stakeholders to work together smoothly to provide protection and services. To overcome funding challenges, blending funding from various sources (public, private and NGOs) enabled increased outreach and collective impact, as well as continued donor engagement with innovative approaches towards resource mobilization.

Additionally, one of the lessons learnt that was amplified by COVID-19, although it applies at all times, is the importance to develop knowledge and evidence-based policies and to work towards constructing a sense of ownership by local government, local stakeholders, men and women, and NGOs in supported communities for the design and planning of priority strategies and activities. Consultations throughout the design and planning of activities, along with follow-up and monitoring, as well as reporting of challenges and recommending

solutions ensure the relevance of activities to local context, inclusion of different groups in the community, and effective implementation, and contribute to a higher sense of ownership and reduced prospects of conflict and dispute. The local government is central to achieving results and sustaining their effects. Hence, it is important to work towards constructing a sense of ownership towards development projects by the local government. Finally, social norm change can be effected through advocacy campaigns and ground-level implementation, focusing on linking evidence-based findings (in this case through IMAGES) with action at the policy and implementation levels, and using innovative tools for outreach, capacity building and institutionalization.



2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

UNCT started the year with an overall planned budget of US\$287 million of which 25 per cent was to be mobilized. By the end of the year, UNPDF had delivered US\$192.3 million through its programmes with a delivery rate of 67 per cent against the 2020 JWP, with the balance carried over into 2021.

Outcome 1, Inclusive Economic Development (Prosperity), reached the highest delivery rate of 102 per cent with total expenditure of US\$42,270,242 million compared to the original planned budget of US\$41,561,774 million. This was followed by Outcome 3, Natural Resources Management (Planet), with a delivery rate of 96 per cent. Though Outcome 2, Social Justice (People), had the lowest delivery rate of 56 per cent, it actually implemented the highest portion of the 2020 expenditure. Finally, Outcome 4, Women's Empowerment (Women), achieved a delivery rate of 62 per cent (see table 1).

In terms of output areas, Social Protection witnessed the highest expenditure at US\$68.7 million, comprising 35 per cent of overall expenditure, reflecting the perceived comparative advantage of UN in Egypt vis-à-vis the national priorities and the COVID-19 pandemic. On the other hand, the delivery rate of support to Economic Policies was at 143 per cent compared to what was originally forecasted at the start of the year, in response to the GoE request for integrated policy advice from UN on the reopening of the economy and post-COVID recovery (see table 2).

Other notable thematic areas that witnessed high delivery rates were support to Entrepreneurship and MSMEs, Health and Nutrition, and Education which had expenditures of US\$37.6 million, US\$25 million and US\$14.6 million, respectively. Moreover, UN

continued to invest in Green and Circular Economy, as well as Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, with a combined expenditure of US\$15.7 million. An expenditure of US\$6.7 million went to supporting national efforts to reduce the exposure of women and girls to violence and harmful practices and to strengthen adequate protection and response services.

Figure 1: Budget Forecast and Expenditure (Jan-Dec 2020)

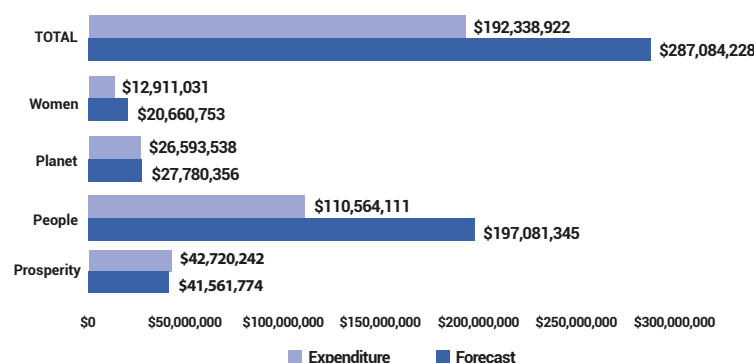


Table 1: Delivery rate per UNDPF Outcome Areas (Jan-Dec) 2020

Outcome	Forecast	Expenditure	Delivery Rate
Prosperity	\$41,561,774	\$42,270,242	102%
People	\$197,081,345	\$110,564,111	56%
Planet	\$27,780,356	\$26,593,538	96%
Women	\$20,660,753	\$12,911,031	62%
TOTAL	\$287,084,228	\$192,338,922	67%

The main source of funding for UNPDF continued to be non-core resources, representing more than 98 per cent of 2020 expenditure. To this end, UN received funding from 37 development partners, of which 89 per cent were bilateral and multilateral development partners, 9 per cent were global/multilateral funds, 1 per cent were from the private sector and 1 per cent were foundations and philanthropies.

UN also secured funding for four joint programmes during 2020, namely:

1. A UNICEF-WFP joint programme focused on improving quality and access of vulnerable children to modernized community-based education, financed by the European Union with a total budget of €20 million over the period between 2020-2022.
2. A UNDP-ILO-UNICEF-UNWOMEN-UNCTAD joint programme focused on ensuring that costing of Egypt Vision 2030 objectives and SDGs targets, assessment of the current landscape and trends of financing flows, and associated financing gaps, are available and set durably with the required capacities, at the heart of all public and private financing policies, financed by the Joint SDG Fund with a total budget of US\$914,529 over the period 2020–2022.
3. A FAO-UNDP joint programme focused on scaling-up climate ambition on land use and agriculture through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), financed by Germany with a total budget of US\$6 million over the period 2021–2025.
4. A UNICEF-UNODC joint programme on community-based responses, diversion with and without a restorative justice approach, alternative measures to deprivation of liberty and restorative justice approaches in cases of children and adolescents in conflict with the law to be used by the justice system, financed by Italy with a total budget of €420,700 over the period 2020–2022.

Table 2: Delivery rate per UNDPF Output Areas (Jan-Dec) 2020

Outcome/Output	Forecast	Expenditure	Delivery Rate
OUTCOME Prosperity			
1.1 Entrepreneurship & MSMEs	\$36,461,792	\$37,571,470	103%
1.2 Employability	\$4,109,647	\$3,283,095	80%
1.3 Economic Policies	\$990,335	\$1,415,677	143%
Subtotal 1	\$41,561,774	\$42,270,242	102%
OUTCOME 2: People			
2.1 Education	\$78,918,000	\$14,596,816	18%
2.2 Health & Nutrition	\$34,687,599	\$25,058,581	72%
2.3 Social Protection	\$78,463,966	\$68,716,614	88%
2.4 Youth	\$1,781,000	\$1,282,626	72%
2.5 People living with HIV	\$3,230,780	\$909,474	28%
Subtotal 2	\$197,081,345	\$110,564,111	56%
OUTCOME 3: Planet			
3.1 Sustainable & Inclusive Urban Planning	\$3,908,776	\$2,240,822	57%
3.2 Resilience & Adaptation to Climate Change	\$6,119,945	\$6,591,917	108%
3.3 Water & Biodiversity Management	\$2,822,000	\$2,873,958	102%
3.4 Green & Circular Economy	\$9,329,670	\$9,105,922	98%
3.5 Agriculture Production & Food Security	\$5,599,965	\$5,780,918	103%
Subtotal 3	\$27,780,356	\$26,593,538	96%
OUTCOME 4 : Women			
4.1 Leadership and Political Empowerment	\$887,925	\$510,813	58%
4.2 Economic Empowerment	\$6,119,945	\$3,083,655	44%
4.3 Social Empowerment	\$4,458,828	\$2,567,769	58%
4.4 Protection	\$8,323,000	\$6,748,793	81%
Subtotal 4	\$20,660,753	\$12,911,031	62%





3

UNCT Key Focus for Next Year

In 2021, UNCT Egypt's key focus will be to continue to deliver on its commitments towards SDGs implementation, as articulated in UNPDF 2018–2022, while also launching the process for development of the next UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2023–2027. UNCT will continue to make collective efforts to support GoE with COVID-19 response and recovery. Promotion and advocacy for fundamental values, standards and principles of the UN Charter will continue to be at the core of UNCT work. UNCT will also increase its efforts towards supporting the development of an integrated national financing framework, while at the same time focusing on harmonizing of business practices to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

SDG Implementation

Implementation of UNPDF will continue, while the design process of the next UNSDCF, due to start in 2023, will be initiated in partnership with GoE. In 2021, UNSDCF will be informed by the UNPDF mid-term review and end-of-programme evaluation, as well as by the common country analysis (CCA). Additionally, innovative approaches (e.g., foresight) and consultations with a broad spectrum of stakeholders will be utilized to identify and agree on the priorities of UNSDCF, in alignment with the revised Egypt's Vision 2030.

Supporting Egypt's third Voluntary National Review (VNR), which will be presented at the 2021 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, will be a priority for UNCT. To this end, UNCT will be providing knowledge and expertise, including on integrating the Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) agenda, SDG progress monitoring and ensuring broad stakeholders consultations.

Special focus will be also given to tackling key national priorities, such as climate change, gender equality and ending VAW, digitalization and social justice, as well as to supporting flagship initiatives such as the Decent

Life (Haya Karima) Initiative, the National Family Development Action Plan, the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030 and Closing the Gender Gap Accelerator.

COVID-19 Response

UNCT Egypt will continue to partner with GoE in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 and building back better, through the implementation of the Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP) and through integrating the COVID-19 response into the 2021 JWPs. As requested, UNCT will also support GoE in the development, roll-out and operationalization of the COVID-19 national deployment and vaccination plan (NDVP), as well as its communication pillar.

Leaving No One Behind, Human Rights and Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda

In 2021, UNCT will continue to partner with GoE to meet the country's international obligations under the UN Human Rights mechanisms to promote gender equality and to advocate on the commitment to LNOB. To this end, LNOB analysis and the human rights-based approaches will be integrated into all workstreams with a view to reaching those furthest behind first. UNCT will also continue to take forward the recommendations of the 2019 Gender System-wide Action Plan (SWAP) Scorecard and will introduce two additional SWAP Scorecards on Disability Inclusion and Youth, placing gender equality and human rights at the centre of its work

Strategic Financing and Partnerships

A top priority for 2021 will be to continue expanding efforts to develop an integrated national financing framework (INFF), for which initial elements were deployed in 2020, in partnership with GoE. An assessment of the financing landscape of SDGs in the country will be undertaken and capacities for linking the national budget with SDGs will be built. UNCT will also support national effort to estimate the annual and total costing for achieving SDGs, in close collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other key IFIs. This will, in turn, enable

UNCT to work with GoE and partners to finance the funding gaps.

UNCT Egypt will also launch its comprehensive programme to support the acceleration of Egypt's inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) during 2021. Under the leadership of a national coordination body, the comprehensive programme will be focusing on six key areas, namely industrial policy and governance investment promotion; green industry; smart cities and sustainable industrial parks; value chains; and mainstreaming industry 4.0. The national coordination body will be chaired by the Minister of Trade and Industry, bringing together all ministries relevant to industrial development and representatives from private sector and development partners, and ensuring synergies between funding and investment from different partners with the overall aim of fostering ISID in Egypt.

Moreover, partnerships with key partners, including IFIs, multilateral and bilateral development partners, and civil society organizations will be further strengthened through systematic UNCT-IFI dialogues to enhance collaboration in the context of the Country Common Analysis (CCA) and the design of the new UNSDCF, establishment of UNCT-INGO strategic platform, and holding strategic dialogues with the European Union (EU) and its member states around EU's new Neighborhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – Global Europe. Opportunities for strategic partnerships with key private sector platforms and champions (e.g., FEI, AmCham and regional business associations) will be further explored and promoted to unlock expertise and capital towards SDG-related country priorities.

Business Innovation

Implementation of priority initiatives identified in the new Business Operation Strategy will be launched in 2021 to advance harmonization of UN in Egypt business practices, improve efficiency and reducing costs. UNCT, in collaboration with region offices of UN entities based in Cairo, will jointly work on the planning for the UN Common Premises in the new administrative capital.

List of Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
BDS	Business Development Services
BOS	Business Operation Strategy
CAPMAS	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics
CBE	Central Bank of Egypt
CBO	Community based Organization
CCA	Country Common Analysis
CHWs	Community Health Workers
DCO	United Nations Development Cooperation Office
DPG	Development Partners Group
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EU	European Union
FEI	Federation of Egyptian Industries
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FMA	Forensic Medical Authority
FP	Family Planning
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GoE	Government of Egypt
GoPP	General Organization of Physical Planning
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IMC	Industrial Modernization Centre
INFF	Integrated national financing framework
IPC	Infection Prevention Control
IPI	Industrial Performance Index
ISID	Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development
ITI	Information Technology Institute

LNOB	Leaving No One Behind
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychological Support Services
MNCH	Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
MoALR	Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Office
MoETE	Ministry of Education and Technical Education
MoHP	Ministry of Health and Population
MoHUUC	Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities
MoIC	Ministry of International Cooperation
MoLD	Ministry of Local Development
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoM	Ministry of Manpower
MoPED	Ministry of Planning & Economic Development
MoSS	Ministry of Social Solidarity
MoTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
MoWRI	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
MoYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium enterprises
MSMEDA	Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises Development Agency
NAP	National Action Plan
NCCM	National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
NCW	National Council of Women
NFSA	National Food Safety Authority
NREA	National Renewable Energy Authority
NUA	New Urban Agenda
NUP	National Urban Policy
NSEW	National Strategy for the Empowerment of Women
OMT	Operation Management Team
PAs	Protected Areas

PHCs	Primary Healthcare Centres
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PPE	Personal Protection Equipment
PV	Photovoltaic
PwD	People with Disabilities
RCCE	Risk Communication & Community Engagement
RGs	Results Groups
SADS	Sustainable Agriculture Development Strategy
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDS	Sustainable Development Strategy
SERRP	United Nations Socio Economic Response & Recovery Plan
SOPs	Standard Operation Procedures
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
SWAP	Gender System-wide Action Plan
SWH	Solar Water Heaters
TB	Tuberculosis
UHI	Universal Health Insurance
UNCG	United Nations Communication Group
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNPDF	United Nations Partnership Development Framework
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WCO	Women's Complaint Office
WLHIV	Women Living with HIV
WUAs	Water Users' Associations

End Notes

- i** Non-resident Agencies: ITC, OHCHR, UNCTAT, UNEP; Economic Commissions: ECA, ESCWA
- ii** The thirteen DPG thematic groups are: Agriculture and Rural Development; Education and Skills Development; Environment and Energy; Governance; Gender and Development; Health; Macroeconomics and Public Finance Management; Small and Medium Enterprises; Migration and Protection; Transport; Social Protection; and Urban Development; and Water.
- iii** <https://www.egypt-business.com/web/details/2110-egypts-economy-records-growth-rate-of-2-in-the-second-quarter/412423>
- iv** <https://www.imf.org/en/Countries/EGY>
- v** Egypt Economic Census 2018
- vi** UNDP (2021) Rapid Assessment of the Impact of COVID-19 on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Egypt, Results of a Telephone Survey
- vii** <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/>
- viii** CAPMAS (2021) Trends in Employment and Unemployment (capmas.gov.eg)
- ix** ibid
- x** <https://www.presiden-cy.eg/en/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D8%A6%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9/%D9%85%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%AD%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D9%83%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%85%D8%A9/>
- xi** CAPMAS (2020) Results of Household Income and Expenditure Surveys
- xii** UN in Egypt (2020) Leaving No One Behind in the time of Covid-19
- xiii** Egypt Ministry of International Cooperation, <http://enterprise.press/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/MOIC-COVID-19-April-4.pdf>
- xiv** <https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/50/1201/399221/AIAhram-Weekly/Egypt/New-NGO-law-in-force-.aspx>
- xv** The report with the results of the multi-stakeholder strategic foresight exercise is available on: <https://egypt.un.org/en/110152-futures-time-covid-19-re-sults-strategic-foresight-exercise-manufacturing-sector-egypt>
- xvi** IPI measures the impact of COVID-19 on the manufacturing sector in Egypt: below 0.5= reduction; 0.5= no change; above 0.5= increase. The full report of IPI Egypt is available on: https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2020-10/Impact_of_COVID19_Industrial_Performance_Index_En.pdf
- xvii** IMC is planning to update the IPI periodically, thus the UN provided a capacity building programme, to IMC experts, covering IPI methodology, sampling, analytical tools and report writing.
- xviii** Given that MSMEs employ a total of 9.9 million workers, the survey anticipated that 2.1 million workers will be laid off as a result of COVID-19. The vast majority (81.5 per cent) of the layoffs are from the micro enterprise sector.
- xix** The data findings will be consolidated into a report to inform the governorate-level action plans in 2021.
- xx** Qalyubia and Menoufia
- xxi** More information about Turathuna Handicrafts Exhibition can be found on: <http://turathna.eg/en>
- xxii** Approximately 25 per cent were women
- xxiii** Beneficiaries were registered in TIEC initiatives including Egypt Forward, Innov Egypt and National Technology Leaders online platforms and the Accelerator Programme
- xxiv** Alexandria, Beheira, Fayoum, Kafr El-Shaikh and Sharqia
- xxv** The Guidelines are available on: https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2020-08/COVID19_Guidelines_Egypt.pdf
- xxvi** The PPE roadmap is available on: https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2020-09/PPE_Roadmap_Egypt.pdf
- xxvii** Implementation of the capacity building programme was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will commence in 2021.
- xxviii** Participants included representatives of the National Food Safety Authority, the General Organization for Export and Import Control, the Central Administration of Plant Quarantine, the Egyptian Holding Company for Silos and Storage, and the General Authority for Supply Commodities, in addition to private sector representatives from commodity trading companies.
- xxix** Including MoTI, MSMEDA, Food Export Council and the Chamber of Food Industries.
- xxx** The mapping report is available on: https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2020-08/Inventorying_of_Egyptian_Terroir_Food_Products.pdf
- xxxi** The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) is an international framework for sustainable cotton production which represents 22% of the global cotton production. More information can be found on: <https://bettercotton.org/>

- xxxii** Damietta and Kafr El-Shaikh
- xxxiii** Alexandria, Beheira, Fayoum, Kafr El-Shaikh and Sharqia
- xxxiv** Qalyubia and Menoufia
- xxxv** The Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) programme is a management training programme developed by the UN with a focus on starting and improving small businesses as a strategy for creating more and better employment for women and men, particularly in developing economies.
- xxxvi** Six received seed funding to launch their businesses.
- xxxvii** The faculty plans to offer this course as a permanent undergraduate course following its adoption into the University by-laws.
- xxxviii** Egypt was one of 36 countries that implemented the Gen U challenge which aimed at promoting young people's engagement through social entrepreneurship and innovation. More information on Gen U can be found on: <https://www.generationunlimited.org/>
- xxxix** Gharbia and Qalubia.
- xl** The distribution of the 32 new FP clinics in 10 governorates is as follows: Behera (2 clinics)- Giza (1 clinic)- Fayoum (3 clinics), Minya (4 clinics), Assiut (3 clinics), Sohag (7 clinics), Qena (4 clinics), Luxor (5 clinics), Aswan (2 clinics) Cairo - Al Asmarat (1 clinic).
- xli** The figures are accumulative relying on social workers that received training in the previous year.
- xlii** Alexandria and Cairo.
- xliii** Cairo and Giza.
- xliv** One in Alexandria (for boys), one in Bani Suef (for boys), three in Cairo (two for boys and one for girls), one in Giza (for boys) and two in Kafr El Sheikh (one for boys and one for girls).
- xlv** Cairo, Giza, Qalubiyah, Alexandria and Minya.
- xlvi** Alexandria, Gharbia, Baheira, Sharqia, Giza, Cairo
- xlvii** This was a collective work of the Rome-based UN organizations FAO, IFAD and WFP in collaboration with UNIDO
- xlviii** The New Urban Agenda, adopted at Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador, on 20 October 2016, presents a paradigm shift based on the science of cities and lays out standards and principles for the planning, construction, development, management, and improvement of urban areas. The New Urban Agenda works as an accelerator of the
- xliv** Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 11.
- l** These includes strategic urban plans for Sharm El Sheikh, Al Roysat, Al Badary, Sadfa, Mahlet Demna, El Hussuniya, Ras El Hekma (2 plans), Ahmed Orabi Axis (both sides) and Pyramid Plateau
- li** Cairo, Beni-Swief, Minya, Assiut, Sohag, Qena, Luxor and Aswan governorates.
- lii** These are pilot projects to install small scale roof-top solar PV power stations in different types of buildings to demonstrate the technical and financial feasibility of using these systems for generation of electricity. Pilot projects are implemented by owners of the buildings with technical and limited financial support from Egypt PV project.
- liii** Implemented jointly by UN Environment and UNIDO
- liv** This was a joint campaign of FAO, IFAD and WFP
2017-2021 Programme Indicator Compendium, October 2020 Update, WFP. The Corporate Results Framework (CRF) Indicator Compendium provides the methodology to collect, interpret and report on outcome and output indicators.
- lv** These are the same 30,000 farmers receiving increased productivity and sustainable agriculture support
- lvi** The Women's Empowerment Principles are a set of Principles for business offering guidance on how to empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community.
- lvii** The policy paper includes an analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on women and the short- and medium-term response measures adopted by the GoE. It focused on four pillars: the impact on human endowment (health, education and social protection); women's voice and agency (eliminating VAWG, and women's leadership and representation); the impact on economic opportunities for women, and d) promoting data and knowledge. The policy paper also calls for additional measures to be taken in each of these areas. As a key tool under the Policy Paper, the NCW issued four Gender Policy Trackers, capturing the GoE's response to the crisis through a gender lens.
- lviii** The survey findings showed that 11 per cent of women were exposed to violence by their partner during the week preceding the survey; 19 per cent of households witnessed an increase in violence among family members; and 33 per cent of households witnessed an increase in family problems.
The poll revealed that 44 per cent of the respondents had to close their businesses until the situation ends, while 36 per cent mentioned that they were able to promote
- lix** their products and services through online platforms and 68 per cent of women respondents identified that they need marketing support.

- Ix*** Beheira, Beni Suef, Gharbia, Luxor, Minya, Qalyubia, Qena, Sohag and Sharqia
- Ixi*** Approximately 89 per cent of the recipients of Takaful and Karama Programme are women.
- Ixii*** Alexandria, Assiut, Cairo, Dakahlia and Minya
- Ixiii*** Ain Shams, Assiut, Banha, Dakahlia, Kasr El-Ainy and Minya
- Ixiv*** Alexandria, Cairo, Dakahlia, Fayoum, Giza and Qalyubia
- Ixv*** New medical services introduced include preventive medicine, emergency contraception, psychological support, and extended service hours, with the deployment of emergency doctors.
- Ixvi*** Alexandria, Cairo and Mansoura
- Ixvii*** Targeted locations are Assiut, Aswan, Qena and Sohag.
- Ixviii*** Alexandria, Ismailia, Assiut, Sharqia, and Sinai
- Ixix*** Assiut and Sohag
- Ixx*** Assuit, Aswan, Beheira, Beni Suef, Fayoum, Luxor, Minya, Qena and Sohag
- Ixxi*** Assiut, Aswan, Luxor, Qena and Sohag
- Ixxii*** Assuit, Beni Suef, Fayoum, Luxor, Qena and Sohag
- Ixxiii*** Aswan, Beni Suef, Cairo and Red Sea
- Ixxiv*** For certification purposes, each trainer is required to roll-out at least three beneficiaries' training.
- Ixxv*** This figure is disaggregated as 4,774,565 female, 2,160,754 male, and 6,057,742 unidentified. After removing the estimated 30% overlap: 9,095,143 people.
- Ixxvi*** Assiut, Aswan, Qena and Sohag
- Ixxvii*** The five initiatives are Better Life Association in Assuit in the village of Fazara, Maan Foundation in Sohag, El-Salah Association in Assuit, in the village of Tattallia, Assuit and the village of Khairallah El Amany El gamela Association.
- Ixxviii*** Alexandria, Assiut, Cairo, Dakahlia, Fayoum, Gharbia, Giza, Ismailia, Minya and Qalyubia
- Ixxix*** More information can be accessed here: <https://jointsgdfund.org/programme/un-joint-sdg-fund-support-egypt-integrated-sdgs-financing>
- Ixxx*** The Full MAPS Engagement Integrated Report can be accessed here: <https://egypt.un.org/en/109413-maps-engagement-integrated-report>

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