Approach

For over 50 years, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been successfully supporting the Government and people of Egypt in their efforts to reduce poverty and to promote sustainable human development policies. The dramatic events that began on 25 January 2011, and the rapidly shifting political, economic and social environment that resulted, provided Egypt with new development opportunities.

UNDP is working with Egypt to consolidate democratic gains by promoting an inclusive process that respects the rights of all citizens; addressing urgent economic needs of the most vulnerable; and answering the need for strong accountable institutions. At the same time, UNDP remains committed to and engaged in a wide range of development issues that have been on the country’s agenda for some time and which require on-going attention. These issues include employment and livelihoods; access to basic social services; and sustainable management of the natural environment. All of UNDP’s programming has a special focus on youth, women and all vulnerable groups.

RESULTS

Democratic governance

UNDP provided critical support to Egypt’s first Parliamentary and presidential elections during the transitional period. Results include:

- UNDP mobilized US$14 million from international donors;
- UNDP provided international and national experts to support the electoral process and train electoral authorities; UNDP helped issue almost 120,000 national identification cards for women, enabling them to vote while also improving the credibility of results.

Throughout all of its governance work in Egypt, UNDP continues to place a strong emphasis on human rights. Results since January 2011 include:

- UNDP conducted 304 human rights training courses benefiting 10,898 law enforcement agents and human rights practitioners including lawyers and civil society representatives, as well as 131 additional “awareness sessions” on human rights principles benefiting 20,370 civil servants, police sergeants and students.
- To protect the rights of the girl child and break the silence on the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), UNDP’s support to a pilot programme called the FGM-free village model across a number of governorates resulted in the promulgation of Egypt’s Child Law, which criminalizes the practice of FGM. In 2012, Egypt declared 70 villages FGM-free.
- UNDP helped increase legal access by the poor, especially women, by establishing 10 legal aid offices within family courts in five governorates, benefiting more than 20,600 persons.
UNDP Egypt Resources Mobilized: 2011-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Funders</th>
<th>Total Amount (US$ Millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democratic governance</td>
<td>Australia, Austria, Belgium, Egypt, Germany, Ireland, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, European Union, Department for International Development (DFID-UK), Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Sawiris Foundation, Canadian International Development Agency, UNDP, UN Women</td>
<td>$27.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment and energy</td>
<td>Egypt, Finland, Italy, UNDP, Global Environment Facility</td>
<td>$14.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty reduction</td>
<td>Egypt, Japan, Arab African International Bank, Dana Gas, International Development Research Centre (Canada), Islamic Development Bank, Mansour Group, UNDP</td>
<td>$56.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crisis prevention and recovery</td>
<td>Australia, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, UNDP</td>
<td>$2.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>$101.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNDP Egypt

Poverty reduction

UNDP’s poverty reduction work in Egypt focuses on improving employment opportunities and improving on its social insurance and social benefits schemes. Results include:

- With UNDP support, the Social Fund for Development has created an average of 285,000 jobs per year during the past four years, 25 percent of them for women, relying heavily on microcredit and training courses for would-be entrepreneurs; UNDP has also helped integrate job creation and income generation within many of its other programmes, which combined have helped create a total of 38,250 jobs and has helped over 11,200 people (including 5,200 women and members of six farmers associations and four non-governmental organizations) to increase their income by improving productivity, product quality and marketing skills.

- UNDP has created 2,164 information technology (IT) clubs for youth, 90 percent of which offer Internet access. The IT clubs are in all governorates; house 25,919 computers; have served over one million users since the project’s inception and provided more than 8,000 job opportunities nationwide.

- UNDP partnered with the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology to provide youth with important vocational training in IT as well as communication and presentation skills, to increase their employment prospects. A total of 20,000 youths were trained and later employed in private sector IT companies and call centres.

- UNDP helped the Government of Egypt develop a conditional cash transfer model that is being piloted in 65 of the poorest villages across two governorates. Over 13,000 families are receiving cash transfers as an alternative to direct social welfare subsidies.

- UNDP’s support to the Government’s effort in reforming the social insurance system have resulted in the issuance of more than 780,000 smart cards for social insurance payments, in addition to the establishment of a wide array of service points and cash dispensing machines. UNDP also helped the Government develop a comprehensive database on the poor which has helped target more effective social subsidies and social protection programmes.

Sustainable management of the natural environment

UNDP provides advice to the Government on environmental management policies and best practices.

- UNDP worked with the Ministry of Environment to establish 10 natural protectorates across Egypt while also introducing income generation activities for local people that improve livelihoods and promote community engagement in conservation efforts. For example, the Medicinal Plants Conservation Project in the St. Katherine Protectorate, South Sinai, helped protect fragile resource and created more than 350 jobs generating adequate income for over 1,200 people. The project received the prestigious Equator Prize in 2012 for local community sustainable development solutions.

- UNDP supported a comprehensive assessment of the physical and socio-economic impact that climate change will have on Egypt’s most vulnerable sectors, including coastal zones, water resources and agriculture. The assessment will help policymakers in the decision-making process as they plan for the short-term and long-term environmental future of Egypt and its people.

For more information:
United Nations Development Programme
Office of Communications
One United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
www.undp.org

April 2013