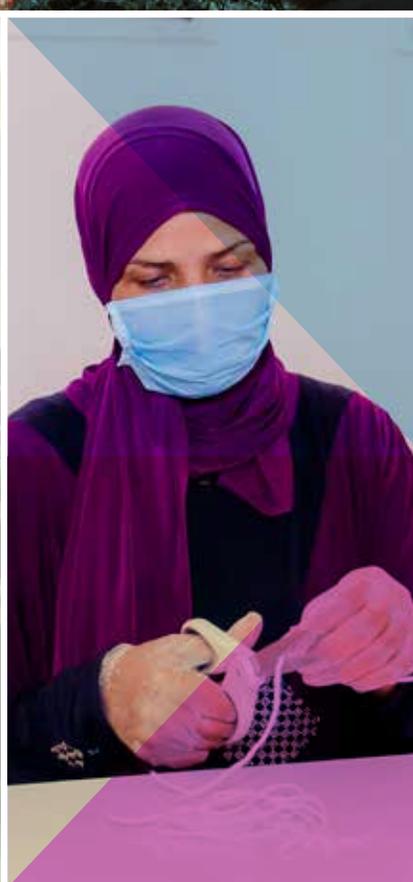




United Nations Development Programme in Egypt

# DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS Issue 2

## Achievements Report





Nature-based solutions are catalysts for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs portray a vision of hope for humanity – a world with no hunger or extreme poverty, and a world of good health, quality education, gender equality, clean water, affordable clean energy and decent work for all. To achieve these goals, we recognized that we needed to transform our cities, our societies, our economies, our consumption patterns, and most of all, our relationship with nature, both below water and on land.

Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator



**UNDP EGYPT ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT**

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UNDP Country Office in Egypt.

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AmCham	American Chamber of Commerce
CCCPA	Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding
CO	Country Office
CI	Collective Intelligence
CTF	Central Treatment Facility
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ENID/ EI Nidaa	Egyptian Network for Integrated Development
I4D	Innovation for Development Lab
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ICT4CC	ICT for Comprehensive Community Development
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IFs	International Futures forecasting methodology
ITI	Information Technology Institute
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
LED	Local Economic Development
MAPs	Mainstreaming, Accelerating and Policy Support
MCIT	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
MoLD	Ministry of Local Development
MoPED	Ministry of Planning and Economic Development
MoSS	Ministry of Social Solidarity
MSMEDA	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MTRS	Medium-Term Revenue Strategy
NCW	National Council for Women
NSDA	National Sustainable Development Agenda
NSP	National HIV Strategic Plan
ODS	Ozone Depleting Substances
PV	Photovoltaic
PwDs	Persons with Disabilities
SDS	Egypt's Sustainable Development Strategy
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TK&K	Takaful and Karama programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNPDF	United Nations Partnership Development Framework
VNR	Voluntary National Review

## FOREWORD

### *Dear readers,*

It is a great pleasure to introduce this new issue of *Development Pathways*, a report that takes stock of the work of UNDP and our partners in promoting sustainable development in Egypt.

Development is about people. And *Development Pathways* brings people and their stories to the forefront—the people we work for and the people we work with.

In this report, we showcase the many positive and tangible results achieved through UNDP projects throughout the country over the past four years.

Behind these achievements lie the day-to-day stories, determination and inspiration of our beneficiaries, our government counterparts and development partners. These achievements have been made possible by the support, generosity, and investment of our donors.

For more than 50 years now, UNDP has supported the Government of Egypt in its development pathways, providing essential policy support to help identify innovative approaches and mechanisms to secure the dignity, prosperity and wellbeing of Egyptians while conserving natural resources for future generations.

Over the past four years we have focused on three main areas: Inclusive Growth and Innovation; Climate Change and Environment; Social Inclusion and Local Development.

Throughout this period, we have worked tirelessly to support job creation and address inequalities to ensure no one is left behind.

In 2019 alone, we helped create over 260,000 jobs for some of the most socially vulnerable people in Egyptian society. By the end of 2022, we hope and expect this number to have increased to 700,000 jobs.

In partnership with MSMEDA, we have provided technical support for disbursing 2.9 billion Egyptian pounds as loans for financing MSMEs. In this way, even despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we have helped over 630,100 enterprises and created over 960,000 job opportunities.

UNDP was quick to take the technical lead in supporting Egypt's socio-economic response to the pandemic, and we continue to assist in recovery efforts by helping the government build resilience through securing jobs and livelihoods and rapidly expanding social protection networks, systems, and programmes.

As part of our continuous efforts to ensure no one is left behind, last year we commissioned a ground-breaking study on the situation of women with disabilities in Egypt – the first-ever study of this kind in this country and one of very few such studies worldwide. The findings will help us to increase the effectiveness of our actions to protect the most vulnerable in society.

To help Egypt reduce its GHG emissions, UNDP has supported the Government in its efforts to shift to renewable energy. In 2018, for example, our Energy Efficiency Programme helped Egypt to achieve annual energy savings of 24.5 MkwH, which is enough to provide power to 8,000 households.

We are also very proud of our projects to save energy. For example, our project 'Egypt-PV' won the "Low Carbon" category of the 21<sup>st</sup> annual competition "EI Awards" for the year 2020 organized by the British Energy Institute, recognizing the outstanding projects in the energy sector from both governmental and private institutions at the international level. This year we are supporting the Government of Egypt in preparations for hosting COP27.

After a 10-year pause, UNDP Egypt is now again producing the Egypt Human Development Report. We will continue investing in human development and putting people at the very centre of the development process.

UNDP Egypt is now working on its new country programme for 2023–27. #FutureSmartUNDP will continue responding to the socio-economic and health impacts of the pandemic on people and institutions in Egypt, supporting positive recovery and building forward better.

And we will continue to invest first and foremost in people as the main cornerstone of development, working closely with our many national and international development partners to improve the lives of millions of Egyptians.

Yours,



**Alessandro Fracassetti**  
UNDP Resident Representative

# UNDP Egypt in Numbers



Ranked **No.1** for transparency among United Nations entities globally *(According to the 2020 Aid Transparency Index)*



More than **50** years of experience leading development work and providing knowledge and policy support in Egypt



**45** Ongoing projects supported by UNDP in Egypt in 27 Governorates



**30** Donors

# UNDP Egypt in Numbers

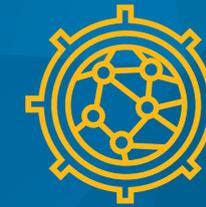
**78**

UNDP personnel working with



**81**

partners and implementing partners



And with access to a global development network in

**177**

Countries and territories



**\$294** million mobilized between 2018-2021



In 2020, **\$1** million was mobilized to directly support the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Egypt.



## Accelerating for the SDGs

With less than a decade left to achieve the SDGs, UNDP is tapping into innovative solutions to secure the prosperity and well-being of all Egyptian people. Together with our partners, we are paving the way towards a green, resilient, and inclusive future. Our approach is based on empowerment, inclusion and equity to make sure no one is left behind.

UNDP offers transformative solutions to achieve the SDGs in Egypt, tapping into collective collaboration. Through our programmes and projects, we provide support to strengthen national capacities and expand the options and opportunities available to partners and beneficiaries in Egypt by helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2030.

## HOW WE WORK

### Next Generation UNDP

In 2018, UNDP adopted a people's centered country programme strategy, to attract top talent to help Egypt achieve the SDGs.

#NextGenUNDP is driving the future of development. Next Generation UNDP is built on more than 50 years of experience and strategic alliances, designed to achieve integrated development results at speed and at scale during quiet and turbulent times, leveraging innovation and technology.





**IN FOCUS:** UNDP works with partners, leveraging its strengths and mandate in human development to successfully address complex challenges eradicate poverty, accelerate structural transformations, build resilience to crises and shocks and leave no one behind.

## Fostering Human Development

Our strategic plan 2018-2022 focuses on three strategic development pillars, directly contributing to accelerating Egypt's Sustainable Development Strategy 'Egypt Vision 2030'.

Over the past years, we used innovative approaches to accelerate digital transformation, protect the environment and help tackle climate change, support the health system, create new jobs, advance social inclusion, empower women and girls and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting the government, businesses, and citizens.



## Strategic Focus Areas



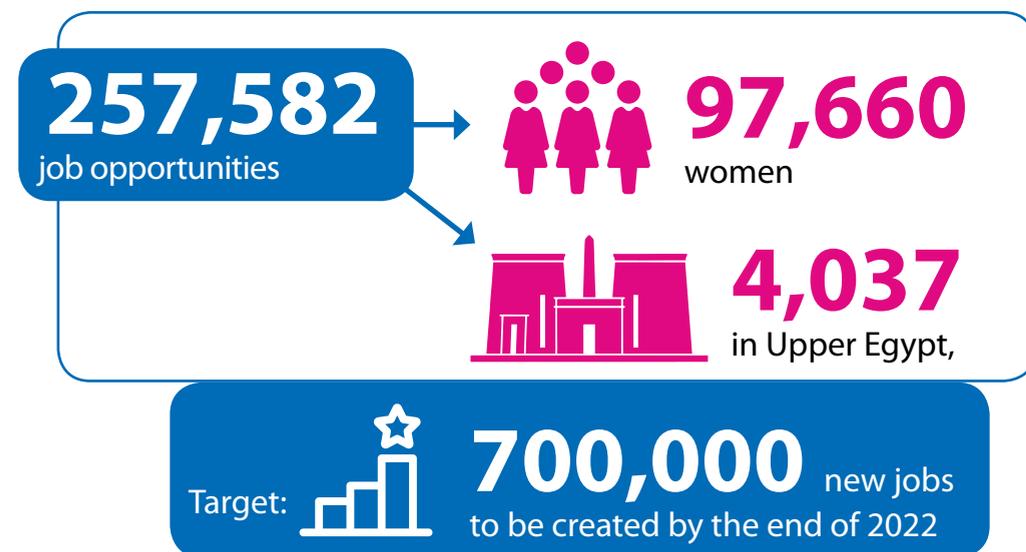
# UNDP IN ACTION

## Inclusive Growth and Innovation

By investing in information and communication technology, we are paving the way to economic growth and employability for women and youth. UNDP supports and sustains youth innovations in partnership with public and private sectors, investors, and academia, and reinforces entrepreneurship skills, financial and non-financial support to MSMEs. This is complemented by supporting other prerequisites for sustained growth: good governance, transparency, integrity, as well as peace and security.

### Creating Jobs for all

In 2021, UNDP directly supported employment and entrepreneurship for the most vulnerable population across all governorates with:



# PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEVELOPMENT

## Empowering MSMEs

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises are the backbone of every economy. UNDP has a strategic partnership with the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency dating from 1993. Together we have been supporting the creation of an environment for MSMEs to thrive as millions of Egyptians work in MSMEs, directly or indirectly, and many more depend on them for their livelihoods. Our strategic partnership has encouraged growth of MSMEs, job creation (for women and men, young people and persons with disabilities), and alleviated poverty throughout Egypt and helped businesses access financial and non-financial services, adopt new technologies and innovations and also adapt to challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Between 2018-2021 through UNDP-MSMEDA Partnership: **22.5** billion Egyptian Pounds were disbursed as loans for financing MSMEs which reached **799,530 enterprises** and created **1,408,254 job opportunities**.



UNDP Egypt's long term strategic partnership with MSMEDA, has been building people's capacities to run their own businesses. Between 2017 and 2020, MSMEDA held **1,023 training workshops** on entrepreneurship which reached at least **17,139 beneficiaries**.



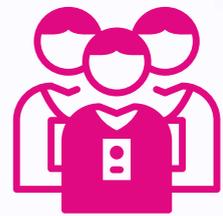
MSMEs Directly Empower Women: **44%** of the total number of beneficiaries are women and **45% of the total were in the age group between 20 and 35 years old**.



## Establishing a Knowledge Society

Through digitalization and innovative development solutions, UNDP is assisting the Government of Egypt in the processes of digital transformation of key institutions that serve millions of citizens on a daily basis, such as the Egypt Post Office.

UNDP supported efforts to build the capacities of more than



**50,000**

Egypt Post employees in more than **4,000** branches across Egypt and establish an Internal Audit Function to improve and ensure Egypt Post's risk management system.



## Crowdsourcing Creativity and Entrepreneurship

To encourage social entrepreneurship and increase jobs and incomes using ICT solutions - UNDP enhanced the capacities of



**25,000** SMEs

& Social entrepreneurs, through our Egypt ICT Trust Fund project "ICT for Comprehensive

Community Development", in partnership with MCIT, reaching more than **30 million** through online and offline services. The project has received **23 international** recognitions for sustainable impact.



## Sustaining Peace and Security

UNDP supports the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA) in its efforts as an African Union accredited center of excellence and a knowledge partner on peace and security issues. UNDP collaborated to strengthen CCCPA's institutional capacity as the Aswan Forum's Secretariat, through a series of high-level workshops that brought together more than **300 experts** from national governments, regional and international organizations, civil society and think tanks, to advance the implementation of "sustainable development" and "sustaining peace" agendas in Africa.

Building on the inaugural Aswan Forum and its conclusions that brought together more than **600 participants from all over the world** representing **70 countries** and **10 International and Regional Organizations**, the second edition in 2021, advanced a positive and forward-looking agenda as Africa charts its pathway for recovery post COVID-19.

## Leaving No One Behind

UNDP contributes to the socio-economic empowerment of women and youth in rural Upper Egypt via skills formation for employability and jobs creation and rural livelihood for local youth - through the Egypt Network for Integrated Development (ENID/EI Nidaa). Over the past few years, ENID/EI Nidaa has been consolidating its knowledge on best practices for around **50 different activities** in **60 different rural locations** in collaboration with over **70 local NGOs and Community Development Associations**.

### The Egypt Network for Integrated Development (ENID/ EI Nidaa) 2019-2020



**75%**  
of women received  
training in Upper Egypt

**4,590**  
job opportunities were  
created (72% for women)

**45** villages  
were reached.



## Social Inclusion and Local Development

UNDP invests in **'Leaving No One Behind'**, to achieve the SDGs for all, eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and end all forms of discrimination especially among persons with disabilities and vulnerable populations. UNDP continues to support the Government of Egypt in expanding its social safety net programme to boost economic growth, create jobs and livelihoods, strengthen access to health care services and education. To ensure that no one is left behind, UNDP works to eliminate gender inequalities through targeted, gender-focused programmes in cooperation with the Government of Egypt to ensure that all development efforts consider the experiences, needs, and contributions of women.

## Advocacy Adds Up

UNDP works in partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) on supporting the implementation of the gender and social protection component of the Takaful and Karama Cash Transfer Program, which is expected to make social services more accessible to vulnerable groups and to implement the gender and social protection issues. UNDP supports the Ministry in developing the Women and Family Empowerment National Policy and relevant-advocacy work under the Takaful and Karama programme. **585 women** rural leaders and **200 beneficiaries** (80% women) under Takaful and Karama programme in **11 governorates** were trained on the 'Waai awareness raising and advocacy programme' - a comprehensive programme that enhances awareness and knowledge of vulnerable groups on 12 key social issues. UNDP Egypt supports MOSS with all its beneficiaries to achieve social behavior change for improved outcomes for Takaful and Karama beneficiaries on women and family empowerment issues- including combating child marriage and trafficking, female genital mutilation, and social and gender exclusion.

## Reinforcing Local Development

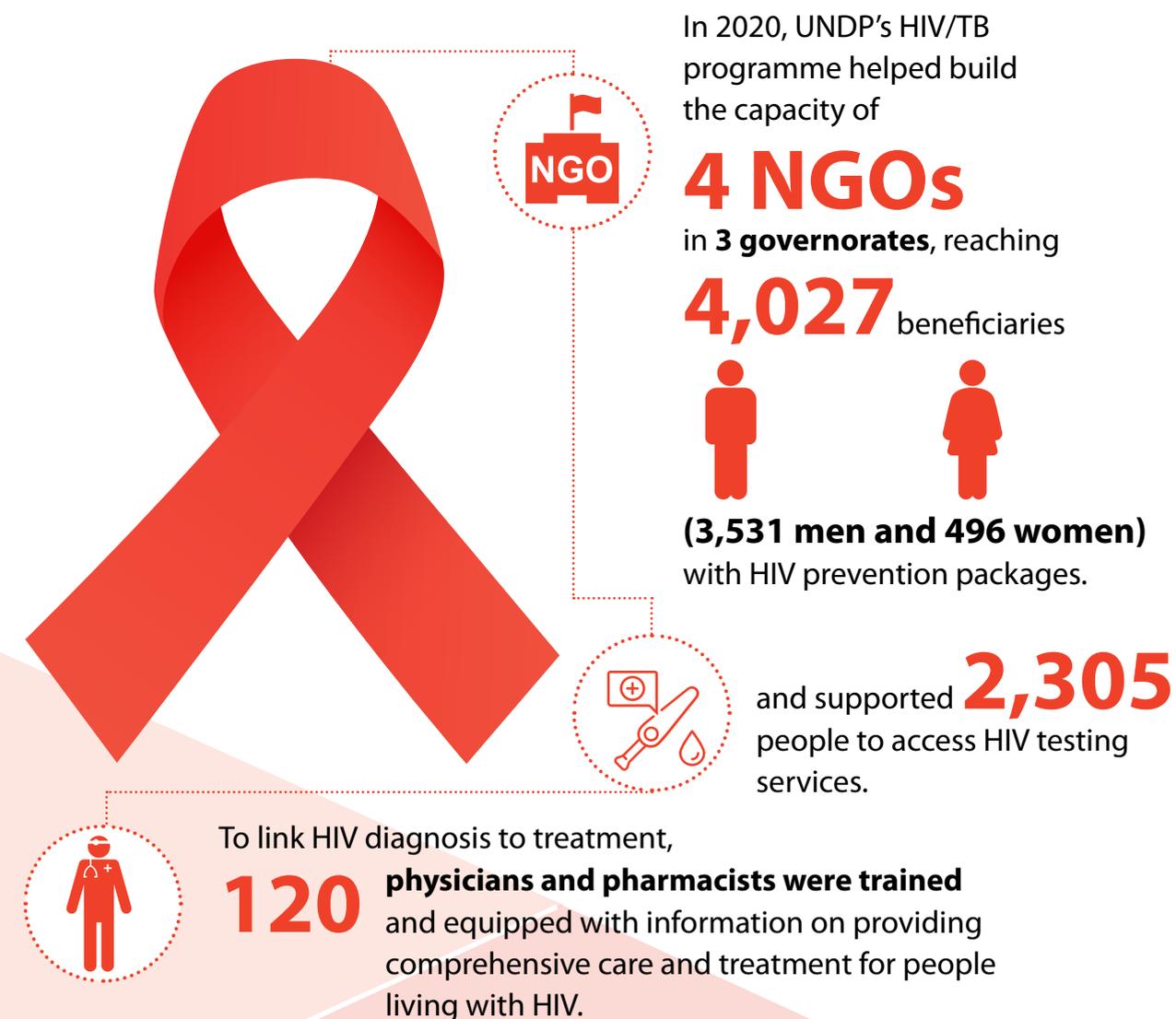
UNDP works to support the Ministry of Local Development (MoLD) in developing and rebuilding local institutional capacities, particularly creating a modernized and decentralized local administration system, which adheres to good governance through upholding excellence in local public services delivery and promoting local economic and social development as well as local planning in support to: Decent Life Initiative and Upper Egypt Local Development Program. Since 2019, UNDP has supported the development of an assessment framework for 200 local leaders in cooperation with the National Training Academy and updated the existing Local Economic Development (LED) Strategies for Fayoum and Beni Suif governorates.

## Paving the Way for Sustainable Living

In partnership with the Ministry of International Cooperation and the Ministry of Defense, UNDP helped clear **1,674 km<sup>2</sup> of land area in the North-West Coast region** in 2019. The New City of El-Alamein is now being built on these cleared lands. According to initial assessments, this city will offer new **279,375 job opportunities** and will be a central point for all cities of the North-West Coast and provide better quality of life for its residents.

## HIV/TB and Health Responses

In line with the national HIV/AIDS response and the National HIV and TB Strategic Plans, UNDP's HIV/TB programme supported a series of interventions to help ensure better detection and treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS and TB, through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.



## Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

Women's participation in all areas of society is essential to make big and lasting change. Women and girls make up a disproportionate share of people in poverty and are more likely to face hunger, violence and the impact of disaster and climate change.

UNDP integrates gender equality into every aspect of its work. Gender equality and women's empowerment is a guiding principle that applies to everything we do.

UNDP Egypt has been recognized with the Gold Gender Equality Seal, a certification process led by our headquarters.

## Building Women's Capacities

In 2021, UNDP in partnership with the National Council of Women (NCW) and the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics launched a "Violence against Women with Disabilities" case study, reaching out to nearly 6,000 women in Takaful and Karama. This process helped build the capacities of 137 women researchers from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), including 17 sign language interpreters.

## Strategic Partnership Towards Women Empowerment

UNDP is working with MSMEDA to mainstream gender equality and women empowerment principles across MSMEDA's policies and programmes. The number of **women beneficiaries of financial services reached 50%**. In 2019, MSMEDA received **the Gender Equality Seal Award** from the National Council for Women and UNDP, becoming the first public institution in Egypt and in the Arab States to receive such award, and second at global level. The process of obtaining the Gender Equality Seal transformed MSMEDA, improved its gender balance policies and led to a higher number of jobs created for women.

## Prioritizing Women's Protection

In 2019, UNDP carried out a high-impact awareness campaign in collaboration with the National Council for Women and the Embassy of Sweden in Egypt titled '**The Sailing Boats**' to observe the **16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence campaign**. Sixteen different boats branded with **16 key messages against violence against women** were set to sail in the River Nile, advocating that everyone should stand up for women and girls' rights.

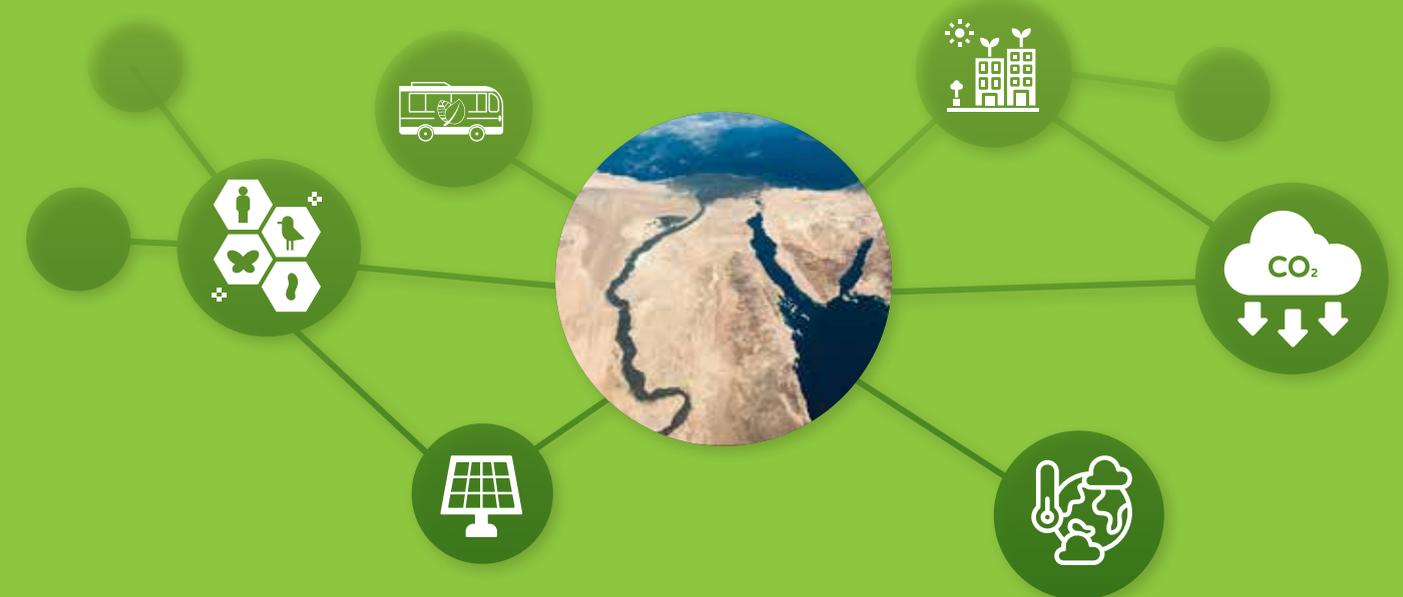


# Environment and Climate Change

Egypt recognizes the growing pressures and social vulnerability from climate change and environmental degradation. The poorest and most vulnerable feel the brunt of climate change and its impact the most, suffering from lack of access to and water, energy and other natural resources, while facing disproportionate impacts from toxic industrial effluents. UNDP supports the Government of Egypt to achieve the national “Vision 2030” and achieve the SDGs by 2030 by helping to protect natural resources, biodiversity and supporting green growth.

Our strategic partnership with the Ministry of Environment supports efforts to meet international obligations deriving from global environmental agreements.

Egypt was able to reduce carbon dioxide emissions due to energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable cities and transport initiatives, with an emphasis on more integrated energy, mobility, land use, and waste management solutions. UNDP supports the Ministry of Environment and partners with climate change mitigation and adaptation, also campaigning to have Egypt’s biodiversity recognized as a central asset for tourism.



## Clean and Affordable Energy

To help Egypt reduce its GHG emission, UNDP supported the shift to renewable energy and in 2018, **1.487 million tons** of annual GHG emission were averted. The UNDP Energy Efficiency project in partnership with the Ministry of Electricity, helped Egypt achieve annual energy savings of 24.5 MkwH, enough to power **8,000 households**.

## Catalyzing the Use of Solar Energy

Egypt is ready for a faster energy transition to roof-top PV systems. The “Egypt-PV” project-piloted over a period of several years by UNDP, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Industrial Modernization Center, the Ministry of Electricity, and the Global Environment Facility lead to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, in support of Egypt 2030 Strategy for Sustainable Development and the SDG Agenda.

### Egypt-PV successfully implemented



## Egypt PV

Between 2018-2022, 50 projects were created:



**IN FOCUS:** This PV solar system was installed at the Tawasal School which is located in a disadvantaged neighborhood. It demonstrated that green energy can benefit everyone, everywhere.



## Sustainable Transport for Sustainable Cities

In 2019, UNDP supported pioneering bike-sharing scheme at Fayoum University to revive cycling in Egypt and offered university students a cleaner and healthier mode of transportation that reduces emissions & traffic congestion. **14 KM of separated bicycle lanes** in Fayoum governorate were created, along **with 12 bike stations across the city** and campuses.

Early in 2020, the high-quality bus system pilot project under the Sustainable Transport Project was inaugurated, marking a new business opportunity for private sector investments in the transport sector to increase the use of public transportation and reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gases emissions. The new lines connect the cities of 6th of October and Sheikh Zayed to the Cairo University metro station and provide a new model in public and mass transportation in Egypt.

## Climate Change

UNDP has been an advocate for mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts into Egypt's national development plans to fulfill Egypt's commitments towards the international environmental conventions.

In 2019, UNDP continued to support the government of Egypt with adaptation to climate change and protection of the low-lying lands in the Nile Delta from the expected sea level rise, a national priority as per the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

**111** government employees have participated in a 6-month training programme **40%** of them are women from different government sectors in 8 coastal governorates.



A climate resilient Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Management has also started with the participation of all government entities.

Using early warning systems, supported by UNDP, the government of Egypt has made unprecedented preparations for the medecane storm (Mediterranean Hurricane) that hit Egypt for the first time in March 2020, and reduced casualties and economic losses.

2020 witnessed the start of construction works of the soft dike system to protect the low-lying lands in the Nile Delta from sea surges during strong storms. Construction was completed for the first **51 Kms** out of the targeted **69 Kms** of the dike system, in partnership with Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation and funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF).



## Phase Out of Ozone-Depleting Substances



UNDP works to protect biodiversity and natural resources while sustaining livelihoods. UNDP also supports compliance with other international environmental good practices and commitments on phasing out ozone-depleting substances, managing harmful chemicals and preserving biodiversity.

Working with the private sector, UNDP supported the government's commitment to phase out ozone-depleting substances (ODS) by 2030 under the Montreal Protocol, with permanently discontinued use of over **520.68 tons of HCFC- 141** (equivalent to **57.26 tons of Ozone-Depleting Power**).

## Support Egypt's Reporting to Multilateral Environmental Agreements

In 2019, UNDP supported Egypt's international environmental commitments by increasing institutionalized monitoring and reporting through the production of 2 major reports:

- **The Sixth National Report on Biodiversity:** To help decision makers track performance on international biodiversity commitments and mainstream biodiversity into productive sectors including tourism & education.
- The first Biennial Update Report to UNFCCC.

## ECO-EGYPT

UNDP supported the Government of Egypt to promote eco-tourism through the presidential 3-year initiative "Eco-Egypt", implemented by the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency and UNDP with GEF funding.

The concept aims to encourage sustainable, responsible tourism for travelers and reconnect them with Egypt's many ecological sites and protected areas. As of 2019, ECO EGYPT turned into a nationwide three years campaign led by Egypt's Ministry of Environment under the auspices of His Excellency President Abd El Fattah El-Sisi. This campaign led to the adoption of several decrees by the Government, including banning of single-use plastics in South Sinai. The first Red Sea Marine Conservation campaign in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) was launched during 2021 as part of the ECO EGYPT campaign. The main aim of this campaign is to help protect the Red Sea's marine and coastal environment.





## Protected Areas

UNDP supported the establishment of the Green Fayoum Sustainable Destination Programme to transform Lake Qaroun and Wadi el Ryan PA into an International Standard Green Destination for Ecotourism.

People living in protected areas are key to the areas' protection. Improving their livelihoods has always been a fundamental pillar of nature conservation.



**2,400 women**

were trained on the production, packaging, and marketing of local goods.



**24** recreational boats in Wadi Rayan PA were established for local communities.



Crafts shops were established for women to sell their products in Wadi El Gemmal protected area.



“Mainstreaming Conservation of Migratory Soaring Birds into Key Productive Sectors along the Rift Valley/Red Sea,,

We have been helping to raise awareness about the importance of ensuring safe migration of soaring birds. We have been showcasing how certain sectors such as eco-tourism, agriculture, energy and waste management could benefit from the presence of these birds.

## تقرير التنمية البشرية في مصر ٢٠٢١ EGYPT'S HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2021

التنمية حق للجميع: مصر المسيرة والمسار  
Development, a Right for All: Egypt's pathways and prospects

14 September 2021 | ١٤ سبتمبر ٢٠٢١



## People at the center of Development: Egypt's Human Development Report 2021

UNDP embarked on developing the EHDR 2021 titled, "Development, a right for all: Egypt's pathways and prospects". The report provides an in-depth analysis of key human development issues such as investing in human capital, women empowerment, and economic reforms, covering a critical period in Egypt's modern history (2011- 2020). The Egypt HDR 2021 is based on the Declaration on the "Right to Development", adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1986. The Report provides an analytical review of the policies adopted and implemented during this period and their impact on Egyptians. Building on those findings and on the Government Action Programme, it puts forward a set of policies for the future that would further boost the process of human development that Egypt has initiated.



## Policy Support for SDGs

UNDP supported the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, through Mainstreaming, Accelerating and Policy Support (MAPs) to identify accelerators and integrators for achieving the SDGs in Egypt – this contributes to the development of the overall guiding framework of the National Sustainable Development Agenda (NSDA) 2030. UNDP also supported long term analysis tools that support decision making with policies for sustainability and resilience.

By using long-term forecasting, UNDP advanced integrated policies and quantitative evidence necessary for Egypt to deliver on the SDGs. It proposed several policy packages to accelerate economic growth and improve social and environmental outcomes. The introduction of the International Futures forecasting methodology (IFs) and UNDP's support to foresight contributes to better, future-ready policies.

UNDP provided technical support to the Voluntary National Review 2018 and 2021 development process. UNDP also provided technical inputs on the impact of COVID-19 on the SDGs, progress on the SDGs, the impact of 2016 reforms, COVID-19 and the stimulus package on the Egyptian economy.

## SDG Financing Strategy to Achieve Egypt's NSDA for 2030

UNDP's value-added lies in its integrator role. With 4 partner UN agencies, UNDP leads the development of the SDG financing strategy, the costing of priority SDGs, and the Development Finance Assessment (DFA) which represent the key building blocks of Egypt's Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF).

# Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic



COVID-19 has exacerbated existing inequalities and created new ones, severely hitting the most vulnerable people. The COVID-19 pandemic bears the potential to hinder Egypt's achievements in relation to macroeconomic stability and sustainable development. These impacts may be particularly severe in rural areas and amongst persons with disabilities (PwDs) and the elderly, due to lower levels of literacy or lack of access to resources, services and information. Marginalized women also face a higher risk of COVID-19 infections and fatalities, loss of livelihood, and increased violence.

Fighting the virus and limiting its spread are needed, while creating more gender-balanced employment and income generation opportunities to mitigate the potentially devastating effects COVID-19 may have on vulnerable populations, and on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNDP worked to ensure that the virus does not reverse the progress Egypt has achieved while preparing for the future Egypt wants post-pandemic.

## UNDP responds to the pandemic by:



# New Normal Post COVID-19

UNDP supported efforts to build internal capacities in key ministries to understand changing contexts post COVID and their implications on the future.

UNDP also led the international policy dialogues on important post COVID issues, such as the future of big data use for evidence-based policy making, and the future of skills in the digital era and the role of technical and vocational education (TVET).

## Safeguarding Livelihood

UNDP works to support the government of Egypt in developing digital financial solutions to help limit the spread of COVID-19 and alleviate its socio-economic impacts among the poorest and most marginalized.

To ensure no one is left behind, UNDP supported the provision of health equipment as an essential input to the Government's COVID-19 response.

UNDP also supported the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) by making use of the extensive networks of the "Waaï programme" to advocate for correct behavior vis-a-vis COVID-19 pandemic in the most disadvantaged communities.

To support MSMEs faster and stronger recovery from the pandemic, UNDP built the capacities of MSMEDA beneficiaries through e-learning materials, ensuring the effective transition of their products and services online. UNDP in cooperation with MSMEDA also conducted the largest national survey on the impact of COVID 19 on MSMEs, data analysis and recommendations were sent to the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development to inform evidence based post COVID policy making to mitigate impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable.





## Putting People at the Core

As a response to COVID-19 -**Kemama**- a community-based UNDP initiative, in partnership with the UNDP Alternative Finance Lab (AltFinLab) and Neya Foundation, triggered individuals and corporate donations and supported the Egypt Foundation for Integrated Development (ENID/EL Nidaa) in shifting the activity of their Ready-Made Garments factory in Qena governorate to the production of medical masks to meet its high demand in Upper Egypt amid a global pandemic.



Donors: The Government of United Kingdom, Juhayna and individuals

## Artificial Intelligence, New Vanguard

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, 7 million Egyptians with disabilities are among the most vulnerable groups.

UNDP supported Egypt's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), to launch a sign language chatbot, for persons with hearing disabilities.

**Wasel** is an automated testing service that uses chatbot and artificial intelligence technology as the platform for the persons with hearing impairments to test their symptoms through the online application. UNDP works to help people with disabilities become agents of change and facilitates their access to public services, including employment, education, and health services.

**“** I have used the Wasel Chatbot service in times of COVID-19 and have found it very beneficial. It provided me with some really useful information. **”**

- Wasel user.

## Protecting the Planet from the Virus



In 2020, a Central Treatment Facility (CTF) for medical waste treatment was inaugurated in Gharbia governorate, with the Ministry of Environment, for sterilizing medical waste without generating harmful emissions, consisting of persistent organic pollutants internationally banned under the Stockholm Convention.

The CTF safely treats **5 tons of medical waste** every day. The medical staff were trained on medical waste separation. **5 model hospitals** were equipped with the appropriate hardware to enable the best sorting of medical waste. An online training programme on medical waste management was developed and will be extended to all waste management officers in Egyptian hospitals.

## Medical Solutions through Digital Technology

Digital technology is enabling rapid responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Utilizing the tools of the digital age, UNDP has joined Telecom Egypt (WE) in the **'One Million Free Consultations Initiative'** in cooperation with AlTibbi, to provide **1 million remote consultations** for free. The initiative is considered the largest free medical consultation campaign via an online platform, voice calls and text messages. The initiative has succeeded in offering **digital consultations**, quarter of which were about COVID-19.

## New Trends - Accelerator Lab

### The Future is Calling, We are Answering

The speed, dynamics and complexity of today's social, economic and environmental problems are fundamentally different. In 2019, UNDP built the world's largest and fastest learning network on sustainable development challenges, the UNDP Accelerator Labs.

Launched earlier in 2021, the UNDP Accelerator Lab in Egypt acts as an incubator for the future on sustainable development challenges and as a catalyst for change, providing local partners with new approaches to address development problems unleashing the power of local innovations, collective intelligence and experimentation. The Accelerator Lab is working on tackling climate change, poverty reduction and governance aspects to address social and environmental challenges to accelerate progress towards the SDGs and the achievement of Egypt's Vision 2030.

Working hand in hand with a broad range of common and uncommon partners, the Accelerator Lab was able to: test with inclusive solutions, sustainable product innovation, and the power of solution media; commence the exploration journey by collaborating with the Small Grants Project & the Desert Research Center to tackle the issue of salinity in Sidi Salem and come up with innovative ideas for climate smart crops; and form new collaborations with different organizations to leverage the ecosystems and youths' collective intelligence to support in mapping local grassroots solutions across Egypt.





## Solutions Mapping with Greenish & Rise Egypt

Collective intelligence, solutions mapping, and experimentation is part of UNDP's new offer to governments and the innovation ecosystem.

For instance the UNDP Egypt Accelerator Lab collaborated with Greenish and Rise Egypt during the first Greenish environment festival to:

-  Identifying and mapping out local grassroots innovations across Egypt that address environmental challenges.
-  Mobilize a network of solutions mappers across Egypt.
-  Informing how collective action can be used to learn, connect, and scale local solutions.

During the Lab's First year, they deep dived into learning what is working and what's not when it comes to strengthening socio-economic resilience of vulnerable communities in Nile-delta, affected by climate change.

## Awards

Recognition, whether external or internal, helps UNDP stay on track and keep improving. Below are some of the awards and acknowledgments we received in 2021.



UNDP Egypt obtained the Gender Equality Seal, transformed MSMEDA and coincided with improvement in MSMEDA gender balance for beneficiaries, corresponding to more jobs being created for women.



UNDP Egypt Migratory Soaring Birds project was granted the 2020 Energy Globe Award, for stopping birds from colliding into wind farms. The project shows Egypt's promise to protect nature.



UNDP is leveraging internationally recognized eco-tourism certificates to simultaneously increase standards and attract more visitors and enhance both financial sustainability and protection at the site who are applying for certificates.



UNDP has helped establish the Green Fayoum Sustainable Destination Programme to transform Lake Qaroun and Wadi el Ryan PA into an International Standard Green Destination for Ecotourism. People living in protected areas (PAs) are key to the areas' protection. Improving their livelihoods has always been a fundamental pillar of nature conservation.



In 2019, UNDP project on "Mainstreaming biodiversity into the tourism sector", in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Chamber of Divers and Egyptian Tourism Agency led Egypt to be the first country in the Middle East to apply the green diving certificate for the protection of the reefs.



Egypt was the only country selected for UNDP support to the Ministry of Environment to successfully complete trials of UNDP-procured machines with technology that does not use ozone depleting substances for three very small users (VSU). The best practice will be transferred to Nigeria and then globalized. Phase-out will continue in 2020, in Polyurethane foam manufacturing, also contributing to reducing GHGs emissions technologies.



Egypt PV project was awarded the **British Energy Institute Award for Low Carbon** Category in 2020.



ICT for Comprehensive Community Development was selected as finalist of World Summit on the Information Society Prizes 2021 Champion Projects.

# Investing in Development

UNDP is positioned with its partners as a thought leader in identifying innovative approaches and mechanisms, paving the way for new partnerships and accomplishments. We rely on the support of our partners more than ever to support the Egyptian people out of the pandemic and build forward a better future for development leaving no one behind.

We wish to acknowledge all our partner governments, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), the UN family in Egypt, development partners, academic institutions, the private sector, and civil society. We highly acknowledge the strategic alliance and commitment of the Government of Egypt, which is at the focus of the results achieved in this report.

## OUR TOP PARTNERS

### GOVERNMENTS

- Egypt
- Canada
- Italy
- Japan
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom

### CIVIL SOCIETY

- The Big Heart Foundation
- The Egyptian Network for Integrated Development
- Fab Lab Egypt
- Misr El Kheir Foundation

### ACADEMIC PARTNERS

- Cairo University
- Nile University
- The American University in Cairo
- The British University in Cairo

### NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of International Cooperation
- Ministry of Local Development
- Ministry of Planning and Economic Development
- Ministry of Social Solidarity
- Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency
- Egypt Post
- General Organization of Physical Planning
- The Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding
- The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics
- The Information Technology Institute
- The National Council for Human Rights
- The National Council for Persons with Disabilities
- The National Council for Women
- The National Telecom Regulatory Authority
- The Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center

### DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

- Bird Life International
- The European Union
- Global Environment Facility
- Green Climate Fund
- Montreal Protocol
- UN in Egypt
- United States Agency for International Development

### PRIVATE SECTOR

- American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt
- Commercial International Bank (CIB)
- Global Water Challenge
- Rockefeller Brothers Fund
- Sawiris Foundation
- Vodafone Egypt





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