



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

ANNUAL REPORT

— 2022



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UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE FOREWORD



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the UNDP Egypt Annual Results Report for 2022.

This year, Egypt has achieved substantial developmental progress and garnered worldwide attention as the host of COP27, a crucial conference centered on tackling climate change. With the backing of UNDP, this global event showcased Egypt's leadership in addressing climate change across both local and international levels.

During the Finance Day High-Level Session discussions, UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner stressed the urgency of swift financial support to make a meaningful impact, urging developed countries to fulfill their commitment to financing climate action for poorer nations.

A significant breakthrough arose from the COP27 climate negotiations in the form of an agreement to establish a Loss

and Damage Fund. This fund aims to address the impacts on communities whose lives and livelihoods have been devastated by the most severe consequences of climate change.

In a close partnership, and with funding from the European Union, UNDP helped Sharm El Sheikh transform its Green Vision into reality. This involved various initiatives, such as implementing a ban on single-use plastics and expediting the shift towards cleaner energy. The installation of solar panels in hotels, the Convention Centre, and the airport car-shed demonstrated the tangible and immediate benefits of investing in renewable energy and embracing green transitions.

UNDP's longstanding partnership with the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise Development Agency resulted in over 360,000 new jobs through financial and technical support, with women comprising over half of the beneficiaries.

Continuing our strong partnership with the Ministry of International Cooperation, we carried forward the joint initiative known as the 'Egypt Network For Integrated Development (ENID).' This programme continued to offer vital assistance to local communities, particularly

focusing on women in Upper Egypt. In 2022, it contributed to the creation of 4,000 new jobs and brought benefits to over 25,000 individuals, with 75% of them being women. This sustainable development model is poised for further expansion throughout Egypt in 2023.

Our "Waii" Programme for Community Development, in collaboration with Egypt's Ministry of Social Solidarity, continued to empower vulnerable families through improved healthcare, education, and economic opportunities. Advocacy campaigns against child marriage reached over 32 million people, and 14 million individuals participated in advocating for increased women's involvement in public decision-making.

We collaborated with Catalyst Partners, a private equity firm, to drive investment in the SDGs. This collaboration led to the creation of Egypt's first Impact Fund, a \$25 million investment targeting thriving family-owned MSMEs. To assist businesses and investors, UNDP introduced the Impact Measurement and Management Tool. This tool helps them navigate paths that align with SDG progress and promote impactful investments.

In partnership with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, UNDP helped procure over a million COVID-19 diagnostic tests, including Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Tests and self-tests, to strengthen the government's pandemic response.

This comprehensive report delves further into UNDP's contributions in areas like innovation, digitalization, nature conservation, biodiversity, and systemic transformations.

As the journey into 2023 unfolds, UNDP remains resolute in its commitment to building upon these achievements, alongside national and international partners, as we navigate the challenges ahead and work together to secure a more sustainable future for all people of Egypt.

Sincerely yours,

Alessandro Fracassetti
UNDP Resident Representative

UNDP EGYPT IN 2022 BY THE NUMBERS



360,000 jobs
created together with MSMEDA



1.2m people
now access solar power energy solutions



1st Impact Investment Fund
launched in Egypt



32.5m people
reached in campaign to end child marriage

A Year of Transitions

2022 was also a year of transitions for UNDP. Globally, UNDP unveiled its new Strategic Plan 2022-2025, while in Egypt, UNDP launched its new Country Programme. Together, these documents provide the roadmap for our work in the coming years.



SPECIAL
FEATURE

COP27

DEAR WORLD LEADERS



In November 2022, Egypt proudly welcomed the world to the largest annual climate action convention. Over a span of two weeks, more than 1 million people came to Egypt and Sharm El-Sheikh to help tackle the climate change crisis.

COP27 set the foundation for more ambitious climate action, effectively turning the 2020s into a decade of implementation. The summit marked a historic milestone by reaching a breakthrough agreement to support vulnerable countries in coping with the losses and damages caused by climate change.

Climate finance took center stage during negotiations. The main focus was on finding innovative ways to provide substantial funding for climate initiatives without worsening debt burdens. A new roadmap for climate finance was introduced, with a goal of mobilizing US\$1 trillion in annual external funding. Achieving this objective means creating new financial tools, updating existing ones, and reinforcing public-private partnerships.

UNDP Egypt provided extensive support to the Government and its partners to ensure the success and impact of COP27. In the lead up to COP27, UNDP took a leading role in supporting Sharm El Sheikh in bringing its Green Vision to life. Initiatives included launching a ban on single-use plastics, and accelerating the transition to cleaner energy by installing solar panels in hotels (generating 3 megawatts), the Convention Centre (1 megawatt capacity) and the airport car-shed (280-megawatt capacity).

Amidst the serious discussions, there was also room for some enjoyment with the introduction of UNDP's beloved mascot, Frankie the Dino, bearing the message 'Don't Choose Extinction'. Frankie captured the hearts of audiences worldwide, amassing over one billion views and attracting international media attention during the high-level week of COP27.



Don't Choose Extinction's star Frankie the Dino echoing the urgency of acting now against the climate crises ahead of COP27 - Cairo, Egypt.

SPECIAL FEATURE
**NOTABLE MOMENTS
IN PHOTOS**



PILLARS OF UNDP EGYPT ENGAGEMENT

PEOPLE

Strengthened human capital through equal access to quality services, social protection and social justice ensured for all people

UNDP Egypt uses an integrated approach and employs comprehensive measures to tackle the complex challenges of multidimensional poverty, inequality, exclusion, and sustainability. We are focusing on expanding social protection, providing essential services, and promoting behavioral changes to help eradicate poverty. We prioritize skills development and digitalization to improve efficiency. We have taken significant steps to make sure that social protection programs are accessible to everyone, including persons with disabilities, the elderly, those in the informal sector, women in rural areas, microcredit recipients, and other vulnerable groups.

Highlights of 2022

- The launch of Egypt Post's Yalla super app, a digital empowerment and financial inclusion tool.
- Support to 11,207 people among key populations to access HIV prevention including information and access to harm reduction.
- Initiated the Waai Programme for Community Development, a comprehensive and unified advocacy curriculum that addresses various social protection issues, managed by the Ministry of Social Solidarity.
- Conducting a social media and on-ground campaign on the detriments of child marriage, under the slogan 'Her Marriage Before the Age of 18 Deprives Her of Her Rights', as part of the Waai programme.
- Organizing a social media campaign during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, under the slogan 'Hold the thread...and participate in decision-making', as part of the Waai programme.
- Publishing the country's first ever Violence Against Women with Disabilities study, a community-based survey conducted in collaboration with Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, The National Council for Women in Egypt, UN Women and UNFPA.
- Supporting the National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA) in making its call center accessible to individuals with hearing disabilities.



SPECIAL SECTION

UNDP Egypt supports HIV prevention and care

In 2022, the country office worked closely with the Ministry of Health and Population to scale up HIV-related prevention interventions. With generous support from the Government of Egypt and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, highlights from 2022 include:

- Support to 11,207 people among key populations to access HIV prevention including information and access to harm reduction.
- Knowing your status is a key pillar of HIV prevention. In 2022, in line with the national strategy to end HIV/AIDS by 2030, 10,509 people among key populations (93.7% of those outreached) had access to HIV testing services and now know their status with help from UNDP. Those with positive results were linked to treatment and services offered by NAP-MoHP.
- 1,593 people among vulnerable groups including residents of unplanned, under-developed areas, migrants, and refugees were diagnosed with TB and enrolled in anti-TB treatment.
- Policy support to the government: UNDP is currently implementing the 3rd round of HIV bio-behavioural surveillance to update Egypt's national health information system, and also provides support towards HIV-related policy and national strategies.
- To mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on HIV and TB, UNDP procured 23 GeneXpert machines for both HIV and TB programs to introduce integrated diagnostic networks for HIV, TB and COVID-19 on peripheral level and community levels.
- To meet national TB targets, UNDP supported NTP-MoHP to diagnosis 130 drug resistant TB (RR/MDR-TB) cases and enabled 97 people to access treatment with a significantly increased achievement ratio (75%) for enrolling RR/MDR-TB patients on second line treatment in Egypt.



Special Feature: Gender – A story

Safe Again: The tragic stories behind the statistics of child marriage

Karima woke up in the middle of the night, screaming for her mother. More than anything else, she yearned to be back sitting on her mother's lap, longing for the safety it provided.

Karima, a young woman from a rural area in Egypt, was forced into marriage at the age of 14 and had her first child at 15. Sadly, her story is not an isolated case.

Child marriage is a widespread issue affecting millions of girls worldwide each year, robbing them of their childhoods and endangering their health, education, and future prospects.

Child marriage deprives girls of their right to make choices about crucial aspects of their lives, including whether to marry and whom to marry. It also heightens the risk of physical and other forms of violence from often much older and less educated husbands.

According to Egypt's most recent census, nearly one in twenty girls aged 15 to 17 are married, with the rate rising to one in ten for girls aged 15 to 19.

The 2017 Egypt census revealed that over 111,000 women and girls were married before the age of 18, with 84 percent of them coming from or living in rural areas.

These alarming rates of early marriage pose severe and complex challenges for girls and their communities. Child marriage not only increases the risk of domestic violence but also reduces the chances of receiving an education, leads to complications during pregnancy and childbirth, and raises the probability living in poverty.

To address the issue, Egypt's Ministry of Social Solidarity and UNDP have been working on a project funded by the EU and the UK government to bring child marriage to an end.

As part of this project, a two-month awareness-raising campaign was launched online and within communities to emphasize the negative impacts of child marriage on young girls and to highlight the linkages between child marriage, poverty, and the dropout rate in schools.

Throughout the campaign, we took time to listen to and support women and girls who bravely shared their experiences of enduring the consequences of child marriage. Among these many brave women is Nosra, who was married at 14 years without any official documents or birth certificates. She explained: "I got married based on an agreement between my father and my husband's father because we are related. I had to marry and live with him. I had no choice."

While Nosra's story sadly echoes that of many others, there are also stories of girls escaping child marriage. Nada, for instance, was on the path to a similar fate as Nosra but resisted and reached out to a woman leader in her community to convince her family to abandon the marriage idea. "When I finish my education, I will marry an educated young man," she says, "But my education comes first!"

Child marriage will only come to an end when society collectively acknowledges and takes a proactive stance against this issue. At the family level, this harmful practice will cease when parents fight for their children's rights, advocating for a life free from abuse and ensuring they receive the education necessary to improve their prospects and actively participate in society.

When young women are given the chance to grow up without violence, they thrive and emerge as leaders in their communities. Fortunately, this is now the reality for Karima, who has left her marriage to live with her mother: "I'm a mother myself, but here I am back in my own mother's lap! I went through a terrible experience, but now I have a chance to continue my education, raise a healthy child and provide her with all the opportunities I can. And most importantly, I'm safe."

**Some women requested to be anonymous.*



PILLARS OF UNDP EGYPT ENGAGEMENT

PLANET

Enhanced climate resilience and efficiency of natural resources management for all people in a sustainable manner

As a longstanding partner of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), we have actively supported the incorporation of the Paris Agreement and other environmental accords into national development agendas. Our collaboration with the private sector has significantly boosted the use of renewable energy sources in the country's energy mix. Additionally, we have been at the forefront of promoting community-based approaches to natural resource management, while also facilitating the implementation of the Waste Management Law through market-driven waste-to-energy initiatives.

Highlights of 2022

- Upscaling climate finance from the Green Climate Fund to implement a low-cost dike system spanning 58 kms along the Nile Delta Coast, protecting low-lying lands vulnerable to sea-level rise.
- Supporting the development of a climate resilient Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Plan.
- Assisting in the establishment of an oceanographic observation system to monitor coastal changes in response to sea-level variations.
- Supporting the expansion of new markets for rooftop small scale photovoltaic (PV) systems, resulting in a sixfold increase over the past five years.
- Presenting the key findings of the UNDP Global Report: 'Global Gender Response Tracker with a Green Lens' during COP27, a report which helps countries assess the gender mainstreaming of climate action.
- Supporting the launch of the African Women's Climate Adaptive Priorities (AWCAP) initiative, as part of the COP presidency.
- Successfully implementing over 120 pilot projects for small-scale roof-top PV systems in partnership with the private sector, resulting in a total capacity of over 10 MWp and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 5,000 tonnes per year.
- Doubling the average monthly income of crafters living in and around targeted protected areas by creating new job opportunities in eco-tourism.
- Supporting the government's ban on single-use plastic bags in Sharm El-Sheikh.
- Renovating the Visitor Center in Nabq, transforming it into a global research center focused on mangroves.
- Co-leading the first COP27 presidency initiative "Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace", examining the interlinkages between peace and climate.
- Promoting the scaling up of solar energy in Sharm El Sheikh, resulting in the installation of at least 30 MW of PV systems.
- Enhancing the capacity of 1,357 waste management specialists, with 47% of them being women.
- Launching a \$25 million biodiversity-focused project during COP27, leveraging private sector investment through a dedicated business accelerator and blended finance mechanism for blue economy activities aimed at preserving the coral reefs in the Red Sea in cooperation with USAID. Another regional project was launched for blended financing for to protect coral reefs in Gulf of Aqaba.

Special Feature: Solar panels – A story

Transforming Egypt's energy market

Egypt's energy situation is rapidly evolving, driven by its population of over 100 million people and a GDP growth rate of 5.6 percent. With increasing energy demand, the country has embarked on an ambitious energy policy reform programme over the past decade to transition towards a sustainable and resilient energy system. One of the key targets is to have 40% of Egypt's electricity come from renewable energy sources by 2035.

As part of this transformation, the country is reshaping its energy market by investing in energy efficiency measures that have significantly reduced the sharp spike in electricity demand. The country is also diversifying its energy mix by increasing investments in alternative renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power. Both sources offer safer and more pleasant environments for cities.

For example, with UNDP's support, the government of Egypt has facilitated a significant shift in the country's lighting market by promoting the adoption of energy-efficient lighting systems. As a result, over 200 million LED bulbs have been sold in Egypt since 2015, leading to a decrease in lighting-related energy consumption for households and businesses.

The government has also made substantial investments in various forms of solar power – both on large and small scale. Egypt benefits from abundant sunlight, particularly in the South, and is home to Benban, one of the largest solar parks in the world, located in the Aswan Governorate.

At the same time, the market for small-scale solar solutions is continuously expanding. UNDP is supporting the government to establish policies and regulations that facilitate the necessary investments to meet this growing demand.

Through the award-winning 'Egypt-PV' project, UNDP and the government aim to remove barriers to increasing power generation through small, decentralized, grid-connected Photovoltaic (PV) systems, focused on replicable and scalable system design, implemented by households and small- to medium-sized businesses. It also paves the way for the implementation of solar PV projects with a total installed capacity **4MWp**, offsetting **0.6 million tons of CO₂eq** by 2034.

For homeowners and businesses, solar panels are a practical investment that helps reduce electricity bills while ensuring reliable power supply.

Samar, an Egyptian entrepreneur, used solar power to make her eco-farm project come true. For her farm to be green, she knew it had to run on clean energy. After comparing the costs of solar power with conventional diesel generators, she found that solar panels not only required less maintenance but also made more economic sense.

"I had a dream of having my own business. And this dream is coming true. When I started my project, I was worried that solar panels would need maintenance and cost more. My perception completely changed when I learned more about this technology and the return on investment over years. I am able to supply the farm with clean energy through solar panels that cost less than regular generators", said *Samar*.

Over 40 initiatives enabled the setup of 129 solar system plants across 15 governorates, with an installed capacity of 11 MWp, and providing 17.6 GWh/year of electricity to various factories, hotels, commercial and administrative buildings, houses, educational facilities and more. The project also provided technical support to the New Administrative Capital, where 16 MWp of solar power was installed across 52 government buildings in the new city.

The UNDP-supported project focused on strengthening the industry's capacities by delivering professional training to approximately 200 trainees, with women accounting for over 60 percent of the trainees.

The success of the Egypt-PV project, which can drive the country's burgeoning solar power transformation, rests on three pillars. Firstly, the government has established an enabling policy, institutional and regulatory framework to provide the basis for sustainable market growth. Secondly, efforts are being made to strengthen the supply chain by building the capacity of the key supply-side stakeholders. And thirdly, crucially, consumers trust and adoption of these new technologies are being fostered by demonstrating their economic competitiveness and reliability.

Sustainable energy sources like solar power represent the future of energy. The cost of solar energy continues to decrease while efficiency levels continue to rise. New forms of solar panels, such as solar panels integrated into surfaces or built into glass windows, are also being developed.



ACCELERATOR LAB

In 2022, our Accelerator Labs' team had a very busy year developing their ideas. They were prominently featured during COP27, and over the year, they expanded their work to realize some new UNDP pathways forward, namely the sustainable tourism portfolio, where they sought to enhance Egypt's development goals via tourism.

Key highlights of 2022

COP27

The Accelerator Lab led discussions around future forecasting, transformative financing, and emerging innovative technologies including blockchain. It hosted the **Climate Smart Food Exhibition**, showcasing the fruits of swapping out water-intensive, land degrading crops for those that tax natural resources like quinoa and millets.

WOMEN IN GREEN

Throughout 2022, our Accelerator Lab invested its focus on helping Egypt reimagine a future for women in green industries. Some significant highlights include fore-sighting 2050. Through workshops, surveys, focus group discussions, hackathons and horizon-scanning, our Accelerator Lab asked, by 2050, how can women and girls transform the agricultural, tech, tourism, education, and energy sectors.



PILLARS OF UNDP EGYPT ENGAGEMENT

PROSPERITY

Enhanced people-centered inclusive sustainable economic development driven by productivity growth, decent jobs and integrating the informal economy.

Our objective is to help build an economy that is both inclusive and resilient. To achieve this, we are providing support to the Government of Egypt in effectively managing risks, responding to crises, and addressing underlying issues in an integrated manner. These efforts are grounded in the principles of inclusive and responsible governance, with a strong focus on promoting gender equality, empowering women and girls, and meeting the needs of vulnerable populations. Through programs that promote re-skilling, upskilling, and entrepreneurship, UNDP has been a driving force in supporting emerging young Egyptian entrepreneurs, especially among the youth and women. The aim is to equip them with the tools to effectively tackle key challenges in sectors like agriculture and healthcare, all while creating employment opportunities.

Highlights of 2022

- Assisting in the creation of over 360,000 jobs
- Supporting the soft launch of an e-commerce portal, providing MSMEs with a one-stop access point for customers needing basic government services like licences.
- Launching the third edition of UNDP Egypt's business report titled "Expanding Opportunities for the Egyptian Private Sector in the Post-COVID-19 Era."
- Developing a policy brief on the impact of COVID-19 on MSMEs within the context of global economic challenges.
- Supporting the launch of the first impact investment fund in Egypt.



Special Feature: Youth blog

Hacking into the talent of Egypt's youth for solutions to water-scarcity

Egypt has long faced extreme water scarcity and other water-related challenges, which are expected to be exacerbated by climate change in the coming decades.

In the agricultural sector, soil salinity and water scarcity are already impacting the livelihoods of some farmers and posing a threat to the country's food security.

The prospect of rising temperatures and more frequent droughts in the future makes it crucial to find solutions before it becomes too late to prevent a disaster.

Fortunately, Egypt has a growing ecosystem of vibrant and active young innovators who are eager to contribute their ideas and hard work into to shape a sustainable future for their communities.

To tap into this valuable resource, UNDP Egypt's Accelerator Lab joined forces with the International Water Management Institute of the Middle East and North Africa (IWMI MENA) to bring together young innovators and experts to develop new solutions for challenges at the intersection of water, climate and agriculture.

With the right people, the 'impossible' can happen

As strong advocates of harnessing the benefits of collective intelligence, we first consulted leading Egyptian organizations and experts by conducting an issue survey to identify the most pressing challenges related to water, climate and agriculture in Egypt.

The experts identified the most urgent issues as heatwaves and rising temperatures, seawater intrusion, the uncertainty of climate impacts, and the deteriorating quality of natural resources.

Based on these priorities, we launched a call for teams of young innovators to propose smart solutions and compete for a place in a hackathon three weeks later.

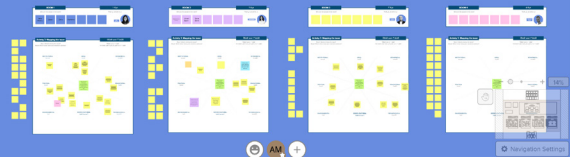
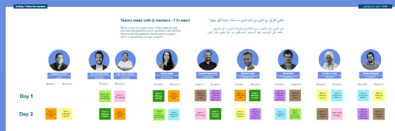
Out of the 80 proposals reviewed, eight teams were selected to participate in the virtual hackathon. Each team came from a different background and approached the challenge from a unique perspective, offering ideas from portable nano-biosensors for rapid soil analysis to using moringa seeds for sewage water purification.

Three days of innovation

During the three-day hackathon, participants had the opportunity to attend consultation sessions with leading mentors and were introduced to key tools in design-thinking approaches to solutions.

On the final day, the teams presented their ideas to a panel of experts from UNDP Egypt, IWMI MENA, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, and the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology.

The proposed solutions were assessed based on their impact, feasibility, sustainability, and innovation.



The winning teams and solutions were as follows:

Team AquaMeter proposed a digital platform that allows fish-farming producers to maximize and organize their production process through data analytics.

Team Vita proposed enhancing soil properties by using microalgae as biofertilizers and biopesticides.

Team SunRes proposed integrating PV solar energy with agriculture to increase yield production and reduce water evaporation.

Team Algaenoor proposed combining an inland desalination plant with algae farms and using salinity-tolerant algae to remediate the rejected brine generated during groundwater aquifer desalination.



Team 1: AquaMeter
(40,000 EGP)

A digital platform that allows fish farming producers to maximize and organize their production process through data analytics.



Team 2: Vita
(10,000 EGP)

Enhancing soil properties using microalgae as biofertilizers and biopesticides.



Team 3: SunRes
(10,000 EGP)

Brings together PV solar energy with agriculture to increase yield production and save water from evaporation. (Agriovoltaics)



Team 4: Algaenoor
(Internship)

Pairing each desalination plant with an algae farm and using salinity-tolerant algae for the remediation of the rejected brine generated by the desalination of groundwater aquifers.

PILLARS OF UNDP EGYPT ENGAGEMENT

GOVERNANCE

Transparency, good governance and the rule of law

Accelerated progress relies on evidence-based decision-making. UNDP has worked towards promoting a national strategy and developing an integrated national financing framework that aligns objectives and finance with the SDGs. This informs efforts for domestic resource mobilization, enhances public financial management efficient and encourages innovative financing approaches.

Highlights of 2022

- Supporting the introduction of additional functions and services, such as Fiscal Risk Management Instigation, at the Ministry of Finance.
- Launching four new services provided by Egypt Post.
- Supporting the modernization of five existing services, including the transformation of the parcels service into Easy Box.
- Assisting the development of 18 e-learning modules for the Egyptian Taxation Authority in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance.
- Conducting e-training on core banking for 28 participants, over half of whom were women, in Egypt Post.
- Providing support in training Egypt Post staff on Data Center Management.
- Assisting in peer reviewing a training manual for Climate Responsive Programming for Sustaining Peace in Africa, in collaboration with the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding.
- Establishing an observatory for monitoring National Telecom Regulatory Authority's (NTRA) published telecom indicators, with six reports published and one performance appraisal conducted.
- Developing institutional frameworks and enhancing capacities of the NTRA, including the implementation of a new organizational structure and the facilitation of 16 training sessions.
- Supporting the optimization of frequency bands and spectrum utilization for improved data services through field and customer satisfaction surveys.

UNDP EGYPT 2022 IN DEPTH

EXPLORING DATA & FINANCE

Global development is grappling with reduced financial resources, prompting the need for new funding mechanisms that are robust, sustainable, and can propel the world toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, UNCTAD estimated a staggering need for \$200 billion annually to fuel SDG progress in Africa. To directly address this funding gap in Egypt, UNDP has teamed up with ILO, UNCTAD, UNICEF, and UN WOMEN. Together, we have launched a Joint Programme known as the “Egypt SDGs Financing Strategy”.

Funded by the UN Joint SDG Fund, this programme has a clear goal: to enhance access to financing for the SDGs.

Through a data-driven decision-making approach, the Joint Programme aims to empower national statistical authorities and policymakers. This means providing them with well-tested methods and tools to estimate SDG costs accurately. Additionally, the programme seeks to improve the mechanisms for countries to monitor and prioritize funds for SDGs. It is about putting statisticians and policymakers in the driver’s seat to assess, compile, and share information on Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs).

UNDP has teamed up with Egypt’s national data collection agency to bring the Egypt Development Portal to Life. This platform is rooted in the SDGs and offers a comprehensive view of Egypt’s progress.

Although the portal’s official launch is slated for 2023, it is set to become a valuable resource for tracking national SDG advancement.

UNDP’s efforts have also extended to nurturing the skills of over 30 national government officials, equipping them with the expertise to master SDG cost calculations and financial flow mapping.

Steering the ship are dedicated officials from Egypt’s various national organizations, forming the technical committee of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). With UNDP’s support, interactive consultations have paved the way for insightful analyses, drilling down into Egypt’s priority SDGs and financial flows.

Harnessing the power of improved data collection, a special unit has been established to combat Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs). This team serves as a bridge between the SDGs targets and Egypt’s Vision 2030.

However, the journey to funneling funds toward SDGs faces its hurdles – from budget constraints and limited fiscal space to the challenges of formulating viable investment projects and measuring their sustainability impact.

To surmount these challenges, UNDP is working hand in hand with Egypt’s government and stakeholders to finalize key knowledge products. The crown jewel is the Integrated National Finance Framework, designed to amplify public and private funding for the SDGs. One of the cornerstones of this effort is the Development Finance Assessment. This assessment identifies financial trends, bottlenecks, and potential leverage points to funnel resources into SDGs. Notably, these insights feed into the creation of the Tax4SDGs program, set to launch in 2023. The program aims to unlock the power of private sector investment in SDGs, recognizing its significant role in channeling financial support towards the goals.

This framework isn’t just about enabling investment – it is about doing so responsibly.

In 2022, UNDP collaborated with Catalyst Partners, a private equity firm, to drive investment in the SDGs. This joint venture gave birth to Egypt’s first-ever Impact Fund, a \$25 million investment targeting thriving family-owned MSMEs. To guide businesses and investors, UNDP introduced the Impact Measurement and Management (IMM) Tool. This tool helps them chart paths that align with SDG progress and promote impactful investments.

In an era of extraordinary challenges and opportunities, the SDGs offer reliable investment guidelines and embrace worldwide SDG Impact Standards. UNDP Egypt played a pivotal role in launching Egypt’s first private equity impact fund. By motivating businesses and associations to integrate the SDGs into their management and investment strategies through financial incentives and expert support, we have facilitated more than \$1 billion in collaborative business co-financing across critical sectors, including solar PV, energy efficiency, ozone-depleting substances phaseout, and eco-tourism since 2018.

To ensure continued alignment with national strategies beyond 2022, UNDP’s portfolio is being recalibrated to concentrate on specific issues. This involves supporting program-based budgeting, introducing Tax4SDG, incorporating budget tags for climate change, enhancing SDG localization, and championing local economic development. These steps play a key role in our ongoing commitment to help close the funding gap and advance toward a more equitable future for all.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



COMPLEMENTING OUR CAPABILITIES

Our goal is to harness the potential of all groups in Egyptian society to innovate and design solutions that can effectively address the country's development challenges.

Through our experience, we have recognized the crucial role of local knowledge, institutions, and social capital in the process of economic and social development. These elements are vital ingredients for success. As the UNDP's central mandate is capacity development, we have been at the forefront of technical cooperation and are recognized as a pioneer in this field. We provide advisory services for technical cooperation and serve as a hub for creative intellectual research and analysis on these issues.

In depth

To generate ideas and potential solutions, it is important to complement our capabilities, which can be achieved through capacity-building and knowledge exchange. Through 13 interventions, UNDP Egypt has helped improve the planning, monitoring, and efficiency of several institutions, including the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and Egypt Post (EP). This has directly impacted the Integrated Results and Resources Framework (IRRF). The IRRF represents UNDP's commitment to expanding people's choices for a fairer, sustainable future, and building the world envisioned by Agenda 2030. It focuses on three

interrelated outcome areas: structural transformation, leaving no one behind, and resilience building.

We have also worked on equipping national institutions with the necessary capabilities to perform new functions. For instance in core banking.

An intergovernmental team, comprising representatives from various ministries and governmental organizations, underwent comprehensive capacity building training on the use of foresight tools from UNDP. This training aimed to enhance the human and institutional capacities of public institutions. As a result, a well-equipped Plan Ahead team was established to evaluate the impact of digital transformation on the Egyptian economy. This initiative was overseen by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MPED). Additionally, UNDP provided hands-on training in results-based management to two of its major partners, namely the MPED and the MSME Development Agency. The objective was to develop informed strategic plans involving all internal departments of both institutions.

These examples provided clearly demonstrate that our strategic alliance with Egypt is undeniably a long-lasting partnership. Our strategy is primarily human-centric, rooted in mutual respect and national ownership, and reflects our unwavering commitment to universal sustainable development.

UNDP Egypt boosted national capacities of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and Egypt Post (EP):

- ✓ Fiscal Risk Management Investigation implemented at MoF
- ✓ 4 new services launched by EP and modernized the 5 existing services
- ✓ Transformation of Parcel Service Into Easybox at EP
- ✓ Fully operational internal audit units/teams established at MoF and EP



18
e-learning courses



28
Egypt post employees



53%
women

BETWEEN GROWTH AND PROTECTION

In depth

UNDP and USAID have unveiled a regional project worth US\$25 million, specifically focused on biodiversity. The project aims to attract private sector funding for initiatives related to the blue economy, which will contribute to the protection of the Red Sea's coral reefs. To achieve this, a business accelerator and a blended financing mechanism will be implemented. This project serves as a clear demonstration that the private sector plays a crucial role and can serve as a potential partner in achieving the SDGs. It can accomplish this by fostering job creation, providing investment opportunities, and sharing the necessary resources and expertise to develop creative solutions for global climate challenges.

Ensuring the continuity of robust policy support is vital for effectively addressing climate change and fostering a transition towards a green economy. In this regard, UNDP encourages the government to report on their actions and commitments and adhere to global environmental treaties such as the Paris Agreement. With the support of the UNDP, the National Strategy for the Prohibition of Plastic was developed, utilizing background papers from the National Climate Change Strategy. These papers were also utilized for the updating of the Nationally Determined Contributions report.

In collaboration with partners in Egypt and Africa, UNDP has made a substantial contribution to the promotion of best practices in conflict resolution, peacekeeping, and preventing violent extremism (CCCPA). To accomplish this, a training handbook for Climate Responsive Programming for Sustaining Peace in Africa was created by CCCPA, with a pilot training scheduled for the first quarter of 2023. Moreover, UNDP and the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA) hosted eight side events

during COP27 to continue supporting climate action in conflict resolution, including the first COP presidency initiative to explore the connections between peace and climate, titled "Climate Solutions for Maintaining Peace," which was co-led by UNDP. UNDP also assisted CCCPA in organizing the third Aswan Forum for sustainable peace and development as part of its efforts to address violent extremism and conflicts in the region.



To fulfill their potential in achieving energy security and climate goals, renewable energy sources need to be scaled up far beyond current expectations. While the majority of investment will need to come from the private sector, public capital providers, such as international and national development institutions, have a significant role to play in mobilizing private sources of investment.

As former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon once stated, energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, increased social equity and the environment. UNDP Egypt has been working closely with the Government of Egypt and other stakeholders to expand choices for people and ensure universal access to energy. In line with the global goal of “Supporting 500 million people to access clean energy,” UNDP’s support for PVs has contributed 200MW to the grid, providing enough energy for 1.2 million Egyptians.

Seizing the opportunity of COP27 to enhance resilience in the face of climate change, UNDP assisted the host city of Sharm El-Sheikh in expanding its solar power systems. Collaborating with government organizations and the private sector, at least 30 MW of PV systems were installed within a short period. UNDP’s sponsorship of small-scale PV systems in Sharm El-Sheikh, specifically at the airport and the convention center, is expected to yield a generation capacity exceeding 3 MW.



During COP27, UNDP signed an agreement with the **Egyptian Ministry of Environment** to fund a national project aimed to transform Sharm El-Sheikh into a green city within a six-year programme. The **Global Environment Facility** allocated **US\$6.2 million** to this project, supporting initiatives in **solid waste management, solar panels, photovoltaics, desalination, green hotel standards, and sustainable transportation**.

On a broader scale, UNDP Egypt has played a crucial role in supporting the country’s adoption of national energy saving measures through the installation of small rooftop PV systems. Egypt has achieved significant success in transitioning its market to energy-efficient lighting, **resulting in a notable 10-15 percent reduction in overall electricity consumption**. Additionally, our efforts have been fruitful in creating opportunities for the growth of rooftop small-scale PV systems, which have witnessed a remarkable **sixfold increase over the previous five years**. Through the deployment of PV solar power stations in iconic structures such as Cairo’s major railway station, the Economic Court of Justice, and Cairo Airport, among others, UNDP has effectively demonstrated the potential of local manufacturing and distributed energy to expand the renewable energy market. This approach also empowers citizens to actively participate in the ongoing energy transition.

Furthermore, UNDP Egypt has forged strategic partnerships with the **Great Egyptian Museum** and the **Decent Life Initiative (Hayah Karima)** to champion the use of small solar energy plants at archaeological sites and museums. Our aim is to ensure that renewable technology is not only available but also affordable and accessible to the public across Egypt.



1,357
waste management
specialists trained



47%
women from government and
university-owned hospitals

We understand that building trust and garnering support from citizens hinges on providing reliable access to clean energy. That’s why we are taking the first step by employing off-grid technologies, which empower isolated communities with the energy they need to meet their basic demands.

In order to protect low-lying coastal areas from the impacts of sea level rise, UNDP Egypt has achieved remarkable progress in securing climate finance from the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**. This funding boost has enabled us to construct a **cost-effective dike system spanning 58 kilometers along the Nile Delta Coast**. To track changes along the coast as a result of sea level fluctuations, UNDP Egypt has also initiated the development of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Plan that prioritizes climate resilience.



Across all 27 Governorates, we embarked on a comprehensive national training program focusing on healthcare waste management in close collaboration with the Ministries of the Environment and of Health. We helped train officers from the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) to serve as certified medical waste officers in hospitals, aligning with the requirements of the new solid waste management law. This comprehensive training program serves as a model that can be scaled up and replicated throughout Egypt, ensuring efficient and sustainable healthcare waste management practices. Additionally, UNDP supported the start of operations at the Central Treatment Facility in Gharbia, where medical waste is treated using autoclaving techniques.

As the world strives for a net-zero transition, it is crucial to recognize the financial implications. Estimates indicate that annual spending would need to increase from the current average of \$5.7 trillion to \$9.2 trillion by 2050. Furthermore, the adaptation market has the potential to reach \$2 trillion per year by 2026. In light of these projections, a thought provoking COP27 panel titled “Trillions to Transition” emphasized the importance of banks and funds in emerging markets acting as aggregators for green transition projects. This approach would facilitate the packaging of these projects into standardized assets that can be readily invested by international investors, catalyzing the much-needed support for a sustainable future.





INCLUSIVE & SMART GROWTH STRATEGIES

UNDP Egypt examines how positive interactions between social protection and growth can be promoted, with a focus on inclusive and smart growth strategies. These strategies aim to guide growth while safeguarding the environment and the well-being of people.

We support country-led development initiatives that put in place inclusive growth policies and strategies to broaden financial inclusion. Additionally, we collaborate with governments and the private sector to strengthen business policies and efforts that promote the competitiveness of small and medium-sized firms. In addition to protection programs, we prioritize government-led and localized social data collection.

In depth

Our focus is on addressing the challenges faced by women, youth, and disadvantaged groups, and we work alongside governments to overcome policy and institutional obstacles to ensure more equitable service delivery. By leveraging our comparative advantage and drawing from our experiences in implementing the Millennium Development Goals Acceleration Frameworks, we actively promote the localization of the SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10 and 17. Our approach involves aligning national and sectoral plans and establishing multi-year results-based budgets through continuous evaluation at the country level.

To effectively respond to global challenges, we employ an innovative integrated strategy that fosters economic growth, tackles climate change, and advances gender equality by considering the nexus between gender and the environment. In many developing regions, women are

disproportionately affected by natural disasters such as droughts, landslides, floods, or hurricanes, often leading to the loss of their livelihoods. It is crucial to address these disparities and consider how a net-zero transition can create new economic opportunities for women while contributing to the environmental goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Together with the Government of Egypt, UNDP launched the “Global Gender Response Tracker with a Green Lens” during COP27. This initiative

aims to raise awareness about the severe socio-economic and environmental impacts of COVID-19 on women. It involves subjecting all social protection, labor, economic, fiscal, and violence against women initiatives to a green analysis. It will also apply an environmental lens to national COVID-19 task forces, identifying policies that are intended to be gender-sensitive and address environmental concerns or have a projected positive impact on environmental sustainability.

Currently, a quarter of the youth population in Egypt, aged 15-29, is unemployed. As part of its comprehensive economic reform initiatives, the government is actively working to establish a range of policies and reforms to address migration issues and fulfill the employment aspirations of young people. Through the creation of inclusive value chains in the Delta Governorates, the Egypt Youth Employment project provides a promising opportunity to empower Egyptian women and young people, enabling them to realize their potential and enhance local economic prospects.

UNDP conducted two complementary studies on the effects of COVID-19 on the private sector and MSMEs. In collaboration with the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), UNDP released the third edition of its business report, [“Expanding Opportunities for the Egyptian Private Sector in the Post-COVID-19 Era”](#). The report is a snapshot of the Egyptian private sector and provides a roadmap for long-term recovery and expansion. UNDP published a policy brief on the impact of COVID-19 on MSMEs within the context of global economic challenges, using a national survey and support from various partners including MoPED, MSMEDA, AfDB, the Government of Japan, and CAPMAS.

UNDP launched the first impact investment fund in Egypt with \$25 million in collaboration with Catalyst Partners and signed an MoU with Mideast Communication Systems to support startups, innovations, and youth digital skills to promote inclusive growth towards unlocking private sector funding for the SDGs.

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) account for 98% of Egypt's private sector activity and contributes to around 43% of the country's GDP. UNDP directs its efforts towards supporting MSMEs in overcoming the challenges they face through alternative financing tools. For example, the launch of the Yalla super app and the soft launch of an e-commerce portal provide MSMEs with digital empowerment, financial inclusion and a one-stop access point for basic services.



UNDP Egypt is committed to ensuring meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, including women, men, children with disabilities and their parents in all aspects of social life. Through field and customer satisfaction surveys, as well as by making the call center accessible to people with hearing disabilities, UNDP has supported the optimization of frequency bands and spectrum use to enhance data services. These efforts have contributed to the National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Egypt (NTRA) becoming a more customer-oriented organization.

[Additionally, a ground-breaking study on violence against women with disabilities, the first of its kind in the Arab region, was published to shed light on the challenges faced by women with disabilities and inform policy makers on this important issue.](#)

To ensure accelerated, multi-pronged, participatory, and accountable service delivery, especially to hard-to-reach populations, UNDP provides a platform for a multi-sectoral approach to addressing poverty and inequality at the community level.

To tackle harmful societal protection issues in Egypt, the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) launched the Waa'i Programme for Community in 2022. UNDP, the European Union, and the Government of the United Kingdom supported the government to create and rollout this ambitious public awareness campaign. In 2022, the project enlisted the support of seven large NGOs covering all 27 governorates to implement local initiatives and nationwide media campaigns.

In the framework of this joint partnership, UNDP provided support for the development of a new organizational structure for MoSS and conducted training for MoSS officials at both the local and national levels. These efforts aim to enhance governance, efficiency and effectiveness in service provision. A new organogram for MoSS has been developed, accredited by the Minister of Social Solidarity, and approved by the Central Authority for Organization and Administration. This restructuring of MoSS departments aims to strengthen the quality of services provided to the public, expand programs related to economic empowerment of vulnerable groups, social protection, social care, and promote effective engagement of civil society in social development initiatives.



Two community-based media campaigns rolled out in 2022 via social media and on-the-ground communications.

32.5M people reached

"Her Marriage before the Age of 18 Deprives Her of Her Rights"

14.5M people reached

"Hold the thread and participate in decision-making" launched during 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence



GOING FORWARD 2023 AND BEYOND

While uncertainty, insecurity, and polarization pose challenges, there is also a glimmer of hope—a chance to reimagine our futures, institute reforms, and craft new narratives that reflect our values. Embracing this optimistic path is crucial if we are to successfully navigate a changing environment. To ensure that no one is left behind, UNDP Egypt continues to examine inequality and poverty, focusing on strategies to build an inclusive and sustainable future. This requires addressing interconnected socioeconomic, environmental, and governance issues to protect the most vulnerable groups.

Balancing growth and protection

The world is shaped by three interacting layers of uncertainty: climate change, social vulnerability, and an economic slowdown. Together, they form a new uncertainty complex. To overcome these circumstances, we need to stretch our capacities for **innovation and partnerships**.

To revive the global economy and support the development agenda, UNDP Egypt is moving beyond traditional approaches. Opportunities are unlocked when we mix, merge, and integrate different approaches. In the face of numerous challenges, we seek balance between growth and protection, ensuring that inclusion, social protection, and climate action expand while investing in productivity and economic growth.

Each path, each approach, can be tied together

The road to sustainable development cuts across sectors. Progress can no longer be seen as a predictable linear course. In the face of mutually reinforcing shocks, we need to adopt a wide-angle lens approach to human development.

UNDP Egypt believes that people are the real architects of every nation's future. Their capabilities, choices, and hopes define every era. Without their hopes, there can be no overall vision. Without their capabilities, there can be no growth.

To respond to these challenges, UNDP Egypt continues to strengthen its strategic partnership with the government, private sector, and civil society to drive transformative change, accept complexity, manage risk, and adapt consistently. UNDP supports change in three directions:



Structural transformation
particularly green, inclusive and digital transitions



Leaving no one behind
a rights-based approach centered on human development



Building resilience
to respond to systemic uncertainty and risk

Better never stops. Learning never stops.

The UNDP Global [Strategic Plan 2022-2025](#) outlines an ambitious agenda to make UNDP more agile, innovative, and successful in delivering results, while also remaining a trusted partner in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Adapting this global vision to Egypt, the [Egypt Country Programme Document 2023 – 2027](#) draws on evaluations, audits, and assessments and lessons learned, particularly from our COVID-19 response. The country programme aligns with the second phase of Egypt's National Structural Reform Programme, launched in 2021, which focuses on enhancing productivity in the agricultural, manufacturing, and information technology sectors, ensuring national alignment.

The programme's theory of change rests on the vision of an inclusive society and a resilient economy, increasingly innovative, knowledge-based and environmentally friendly. This vision will be realized by balancing the public sector's interests in developing the policies and tools that facilitate digital and environmentally friendly transitions, as well as data-driven, targeted, and effective social protection programs. UNDP Egypt continues to support the Government of Egypt in promoting governance, accountability, and participation while ensuring that no one is left behind.

Improving education and skills that are in-demand and creating an enabling environment for the private sector and entrepreneurship are seen as crucial in addressing the challenge of multi-dimensional poverty. Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are also recognized as important drivers of productivity, given their competitiveness, scalability, employment generation potential, and sustainability.

As we move into 2023 and beyond, with our new strategic country programme, UNDP Egypt will deepen its investment in development progress, helping to restore the trajectory towards Egypt's Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Achieving these goals requires collective efforts and integrated approaches

Our Strategic Enablers



strategic innovation



digitalization



development finance

Our Signature Solutions



IN PHOTOS
**NOTABLE MOMENTS
 2022**



THE FUTURE IS MADE POSSIBLE BY



Private sector

Development partners



Our Partners

UNDP Egypt thanks its development partners for their generous contributions that enable us to deliver for the people of Egypt.



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