



BUILDING CLIMATE SECURITY IN EGYPT'S RURAL NORTH COAST

KEY CHALLENGES:

A socioeconomic assessment¹ conducted in 2020 revealed that rural areas in the Nile Delta coastal strip face interlinked development challenges directly impacting rural communities' livelihoods and resilience to withstand expected impacts of climate change, including:



High unemployment rates among women and youth



Rise in sea level and salt water intrusion into the Nile Delta



Soil degradation and pollution which are reducing productivity of agriculture

THE ISSUE:

Climate change will amplify these pre-existing challenges. Due to its low-lying nature, the Nile Delta has been identified as one of the world's most vulnerable hotspots to climate change impacts by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The sea level rise (SLR), which is predicted to increase by 0.65m in 2100 for the Egyptian northern coasts, more frequent extreme weather events, temperature rise and land degradation, induced by climate change, will reduce productivity in agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries.

Consequently, the rural population in the region, whose livelihoods are dependent on the primary agriculture/fisheries sector, are at higher risks of facing socio-economic challenges of increased unemployment, social dissolution, inequality, and displacement.

PROPOSED SOLUTION:

The project recognises that climate change is increasing the scarcity of natural resources, aggravating pre-existing interconnected challenges of gender inequality, unemployment amongst women and youth, and making communities increasingly vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Additionally, communities are increasingly prone to climate-induced displacement as fisheries have declined and agriculture can become challenging due to climate impacts. Therefore, the project will address those underlying challenges directly through expanding the local labour market, providing women and youth with vocational training and seed grants for starting new businesses to diversify their livelihoods, and building capacity for climate resilient agriculture among female farmers.

Taking into account lessons learned from previous livelihood diversification programmes, the participatory decision-making approach is placed at the centre of project design.

NILE DELTA FACTS:

It is generally low-lying and large parts are between zero and 1.5 meter above sea level.

It represents about 4% of Egypt's total area but accommodates over 50% of the country's population.

The fertile soil and fresh water from the River Nile make the area responsible for 60% of the country's food supply.

Most aquaculture farms in Egypt, which produce over 75% of the country's fish production, are located in the delta.

The area accounts for more than 50% of the country's productive activities through agriculture, industry and aquaculture, providing employment to 30% of the national labour force.

¹ Socio-economic study produced under the GCF-UNDP project with the title "Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation in the North Coast and Nile Delta Regions in Egypt"



PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The project aims to enhance climate security among rural communities in Kafr El-Sheikh governorate on the north coastal strip of the Nile Delta through increasing and diversifying employment opportunities and income sources for women and youth, and enhancing climate resilience of agricultural and aquaculture practices.

OUR WORK:

1. Development and delivery of training programmes for climate secure livelihoods to at least 500 women and youth.
2. Development of a sustainability strategy for the project to establish an effective structure and business model for a 'Mobile Business Support Programme' which provides one-on-one mentorship and customized business support, and continues to operate beyond the lifetime of the project.
3. Launch of a "Business Call for Action" for local women and youth-led entrepreneurs, cooperatives and MSMEs to enhance resilience and livelihoods.
4. Allocation of at least \$235,000 to support proof-of-concept for climate security business models, tools and technologies of local entrepreneurs, cooperatives and MSMEs. The grant will be divided among successful entrepreneurs.

TARGETED SDGS:



QUICK INFORMATION:

Project timeframe: 30 months

Grant: USD 410,000

Targeted areas: Nile Delta and the North coast regions



With financial support from:

