



# Human security and local development in Upper Egypt



*“Human security means protecting fundamental freedoms – freedoms that are the essence of life. It means protecting people from threats building on their strengths and aspirations. It means creating systems that together give people the building blocks of survival, livelihood and dignity.”*

The deterioration of the Egyptian economy is having a severe impact on the economic security of communities in rural Upper Egypt, with **the most vulnerable groups** – youth, women and children – being pushed deeper into poverty and exclusion.

**Minya Governorate** is the most populated governorate in Upper Egypt and displays the largest numbers of poor villages and high poverty incidence.

## The Hayat project

The HAYAT (life) project was launched in 2013 by UNIDO and partner UN agencies: ILO , IOM , UN Habitat , and UN Women  in partnership with the Ministry of Local Development.

### GOAL:

strengthen the local economies of 5 mother villages in the Minya Governorate.

Create more and better employment opportunities

Develop communities' social capital, enhance cohesion and inclusiveness

### The HAYAT program works to:

- improve skills to match private sector job opportunities;
- implement labour-intensive neighbourhood upgrading projects;
- introduce innovative high-productivity and environmentally friendly agricultural techniques to the benefit of small farmers and SMEs;
- assist vulnerable women for income-generating activities;
- improve access to financial services for micro entrepreneurs;
- train and organize local youth through a youth volunteer service.

**The Human Security Forum** allows community participation in decision making. Needs and opportunities are discussed and prioritized by the people themselves so that project actions truly reflect their needs.



Partnership is established with local authorities, civil society and the private sector engaging them in the activities of the project

..so as to provide a model that is sustainable, and ready for upscaling and replication in other distressed communities in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Development.

