



**United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security**

Egypt

Employment for Youth in Egypt (EYE): Providing a Reason to Stay

Background information

Advancing progress on the SDGs, tackling the challenges of out-migration and the reintegration of returnees, and responding to the needs of an increasingly young population are intricately linked with each other and are national priorities in Egypt. With increasing youth unemployment and the scarcity of jobs, Egypt's next generation faces challenges in gaining the skills and income to sustain the economic, social and political development of their country. This is pushing growing numbers of youth to emigrate including unaccompanied minors. At the same time, Egypt is also dealing with migrant workers returning from abroad due to regional instabilities and increasing competition thus adding pressure to the labor market. The Nile Delta region, which hosts almost half of Egypt's population, is critical in efforts to address Egypt's migration challenges as it is a key source, transit and destination area for migrants and refugees. The region is also facing environmental challenges from rising sea levels, unchecked urban expansion and overburdened social infrastructure. To support the Government of Egypt's commitment to advance opportunities for youth, efforts that promote an integrated, coordinated and people-centered approach are essential to deal with the full complexity of the challenges.

Goals and objectives

The overall goal of the programme is to improve the human security of young men and women among local communities of the Nile Delta region by addressing the economic and environmental insecurities that contribute to high unemployment and irregular migration. The programme aims to (i) strengthen national institutions to support SME development and entrepreneurship among youth through public-private partnerships and technical assistance; (ii) mitigate economic insecurity with better job opportunities by enhancing youth employability and skills development in line with the needs of local industries; (iii) promote active participation and engagement of youth in their communities to mobilize them as active agents of change.



DURATION

December 2017 — October 2023



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
ILO, UNIDO, UNDP, UNTFHS



OTHER KEY PARTNERS

Ministry of Trade and Industry
Mico, Small and Medium Enterprise
Development Agency

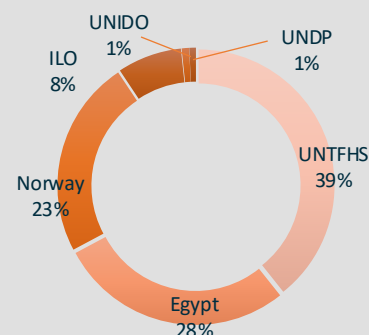


BENEFICIARIES
480,000



TOTAL BUDGET
US\$ 5,089,703

POOLING OF RESOURCES



Beneficiaries

The programme benefits approximately 18,500 young men and women especially underprivileged youth with low skills and that have remained unemployed through a range of activities that will boost their employability. Local government are also capacitated to become more effective in addressing the needs of youth in partnership with local businesses and industries. As part of the initiative, the Government also provides financial services for 23,000 small and micro-enterprises to further tackle unemployment, poverty, and out migration.

Applying the Human Security approach

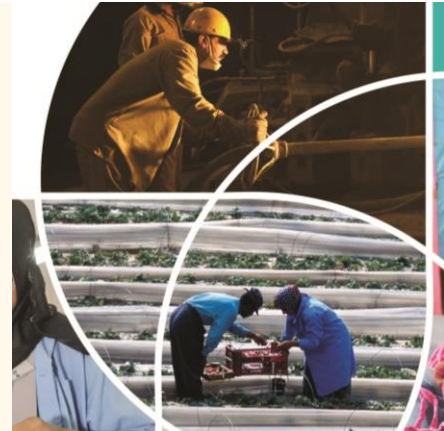
The programme in the Nile Delta region builds an enabling socio-economic environment in partnership with public and private partners at the national and local level to address the interconnected challenges faced by youth. It draws on previous successes from a UNTFHS programme in the Minya Governorate which worked with a broad range of stakeholders to effectively address insecurities.

In collaboration with the Government, this current programme enhances capacities of local institutions and agencies to stimulate inclusive economic growth by specifically addressing the skills gap among the youth. Participatory needs assessment and planning precede the implementation of each activity to ensure that target groups are consulted. This is crucial for maximizing impact and sustainability of the programme. Likewise, the programme also addresses the root causes of poverty, unemployment and environmental degradation through an integrated and multisectoral approach that capitalizes on the comparative advantages of the private sectors and civil society.

In doing so, the human security approach enhances the resilience of local communities to withstand economic downturns and equips local actors to mitigate pervasive insecurities through well-informed and preventive interventions.

Achievements

- The programme established Human Security Forums, participatory forums composed of community leaders, disadvantaged segments of the communities, local NGOs, farmers, youth and women aiming to promote community engagement in local decision-making, with the collaboration of relevant government entities as a focal point. This led to the design and implementation of 24 demand-driven and locally-owned community action plans, benefitting more than 64,000 people.
- The programme invested in the communities' human capital by improving the employability of the rural populations and equipping them with the necessary skills to sustainably improve their circumstances. The establishment of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) allowed community members to build capital and support small-scale entrepreneurial activities that not only improve the economic security of their members but also inculcate a culture of entrepreneurial, growth and self-reliance.
- The programme benefited the traditionally marginalized rural women of Minya by supporting their participation in community organizations, giving them access to participatory forums, and providing them with skills to improve their incomes and livelihoods. The VSLAs notably promote women's economic empowerment, self-dependency, communication, and leadership. Additionally, they serve as a platform for women to exchange concerns and find solutions to personal and family problems, thus giving them greater agency in identifying and addressing their needs.
- The programme institutionalized volunteering among the youth through community activities and events to promote cohesion and inclusiveness. As a result, youth were empowered to become agents of change through youth volunteering services and 10 youth-led social enterprises were supported to further address their communities' insecurities.



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