

COUNTRY PROFILE

Egypt

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE





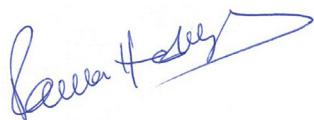
Alexandria, 2012. Photo© UN-Habitat/ Ahmed Adel

FOREWORD

Like much of the world, Egypt is witnessing rapid growth of its cities. To date 43% of the population in Egypt live in 223 cities, of which 56 % are concentrated in the Greater Cairo Region (GCR) and Alexandria. This rapid urbanization represents one of the biggest challenges that faces Egypt's urban development and is one of the main causes of the growth of informal and unsafe areas in Egypt.

However, the smartest cities today are turning these challenges into opportunities because urbanization should be considered as a driver of development rather than a problem. Cities can be engines of growth, but this is only if they are managed well and if opportunities are seized and utilized. Cities bring people closer together, benefit from economies of scale, and are a marketplace of their own - placing people, goods, and services all in close proximity. To capture this potential, we must push forward sustainable urbanization policies, policies that enable growth and at the same time create an urban development process that is able to cope with the challenges of the coming years – such as climate change, increasing demands on urban infrastructure, pollution and rapid population growth.

Sustainable urbanization is multifaceted, and it is for this reason that national urban policies must look at urban development through multiple lenses such as Planning and Design, Urban Economy, Housing and Services, and Governance. We must build and design cities that are inclusive and that are equipped for the next century. It is for this reason that UN-Habitat has been focusing on pilot interventions that result in the creation of sustainable, efficient and vibrant cities so they become engines of growth and also focuses on producing knowledge products and pilot projects that can provide evidence based research to the formulation of key policies. These dynamics are not a particularity to Egypt, but they are part of global processes. Thus UN-Habitat is mobilizing the government towards the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) which will take place in 2016 in Quito, Ecuador and it is aligning its work along the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 11, to “make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.”



Rania Hedeya
UN-Habitat Egypt

URBAN ISSUES

Population (2014)	86 million ¹
GDP Growth (2013-14)	1% ²
Inequality Adjusted Human Development Index	110/187 (2014) ³
Urban Population of total population (2012)	43.6% ⁴
Population growth rate (average annual 2010-2015)	2% ⁵
Urbanization growth rate	2.04%
Proportion of urban population living in slum areas (2007)	17.1% ⁶
Youth population	23.7%

Dynamics of Urbanization and Informality

43% of the population of Egypt lives in 223 cities, of which 56 % are concentrated in the Greater Cairo Region as well as Alexandria governorates.

The Greater Cairo Region is one of the largest metropolitan area on the African continent. It is a prime engine for economic growth in Egypt and with over 18 million inhabitants, it accommodates close to 20% of the country's population. The events in 2011 aggravated the already existing trend of a growing number of informal and unsafe areas emerging in Egypt. According to the Ministry of Local Development, about 1,171 areas across the country are considered informal, inhabiting a population of around 15 million inhabitants. Around 60% of these areas are located in the Greater Cairo Region.

Urban planning, infrastructure and service delivery have not been able to keep up with the rapid urban growth experienced in Egypt over the last four decades. There is a lack of public space and increasing deficiencies in infrastructure and services. Due to inefficient public land management systems and outdated housing policies, impoverished individuals have no alternative but to settle in unplanned and sometimes unsafe areas. In addition, infrastructure is deteriorating, public services and transportation systems are stretched to the limit, air and noise pollution levels are high and traffic congestion is chronic in most areas. The complex set of institutional arrangements that fragment responsibilities, also constrains efficient service delivery. A lack of efficient and accountable planning and management systems in Egypt, as well as rapid urbanization, has caused socio-political and economic challenges that the country has not been able to address. This contributed to a situation from which the recent so called "Arab Spring" events could develop, that called for a more transparent and accountable government, social equity and justice.

Impact of Syrian Refugees

Some 250,000 to 300,000 Syrians currently reside in Egypt according to government estimates provided in June 2013. Of these, 127,519 individuals have been registered by UNHCR as of 16 November 2015. Refugees continued to arrive and, as those who have

been in Egypt for some time and continue to deplete their savings, Syrians become less able to find housing for themselves and their families. Additionally, there will still be a large number of Syrian refugees in Egypt that do not register with UNHCR, as they are able to legalize their stay through the normal immigration procedures, that will also require support and assistance.

The impact of Syrian refugees in urban communities has caused considerable strain. In areas of the city where refugees have settled they compete with poor local residents for scarce resources and limited services and, as such, they are vulnerable to aggression, violence and exploitation. Egyptian residents in these areas have often very similar needs for assistance and support initiatives as the refugees.

Environment Issues

The river Nile determines the environment of Egypt, establishing a clear distinction between arable land and the desert. The fertile land of Egypt represents only 3.9% of the overall national territory, and it is divided up into two geographical regions: the Delta and Upper Egypt. The capital city, Cairo, is located in between the two and has a population of circa 20 million people. The density of this megacity is circa 20,000 inhabitants/km². The urbanisation in Egypt is also affecting regional capitals - such as Alexandria - by increasing their population exponentially. This is partly due to the rural population shift, partly explained

1 (CAPMAS), The Central Agency for Public Mobilization And Statistics, "Monthly statistical bulletin", Cairo, 2014,
2 (CAPMAS), "Monthly statistical bulletin", Cairo, 2014,

3 UNDP: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-3-inequality-adjusted-human-development-index>
4 World Bank (<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS>)

5 Ibid
6 UN-Habitat (http://urbandata.unhabitat.org/explore-data/?countries=EG&indicators=slum_proportion_living_urban)



El Maragha small city, Souhag, 2009. Photo© UN-Habitat

by the demographic explosion. Despite the governments' efforts to make the irrigation system in the Nile Valley and in the Delta more efficient during the last century, the demographic growth and its urban expansion is currently the biggest threat for the natural resources of the country. In fact, water pollution and poor sewage treatment is partly responsible for a high infant mortality throughout the country.⁷ In terms of energy, Egypt still has a strong oil and gas dependency -96% of its primary energetic needs- which has provoked the appearance of other environmental issues in the last 50 years, such as solid waste management and air pollution.⁸

Urban Economy

Although there has been a slight improvement in the Egyptian peoples' economic situation over the last decades, the country is, due to various reasons, still struggling to reach sustainable and

diversified economic growth. The proportion of the population living in extreme poverty declined from 8.2% in 1990 to 3.4% in 2008/9. The total poverty ratio declined from 24.2% in 1990/1992 to 21.6% in 2008/2009. Updated data has not been available since the revolutions. According to Egypt's Household Consumption and Expenditure Survey, the upper poverty line also stagnated at about 40% between the 1990s and 2008/2009. However, accompanying the revolutions, the rates of economic growth had declined to approximately 2% during the past three years. Another urban dimension of hindrances to Egypt's economic development is its overcrowded streets, Cairo in particular. Egypt currently loses 4% of its GDP due to congestion which in turn creates an unattractive investment and business climate. UN-Habitat is focusing on encouraging cost effective public transportation systems and promoting non-motorized transportation.

Transitional Phase

Egypt had focused on progressing towards the Millennium Development Goals; the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty declined from 8.2% in 1990 to 3.4% in 2008/2009. Following the revolutions of 25 January 2011 and 30 June 2013, Egypt is currently in a transition process and strives to overcome the growing challenges faced by different sectors. Despite many challenges faced by the Egyptian government during the past years, successive governments have taken steps in 2013 aimed towards restoring political and economic stability. The implementation of a political road map is almost finalized, which has so far included the preparation of a new constitution, presidential elections and parliamentary elections.

7 National Water Research Center, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (2007): Actualizing the Right to Water: An Egyptian Perspective for an Action Plan, Shaden Abdel-Gawad, retrieved on 2012-04-30.

8 UNDP: In depth: Environment and Energy. http://www.eg.undp.org/content/egypt/en/home/ourwork/environmentandenergy/in_depth/

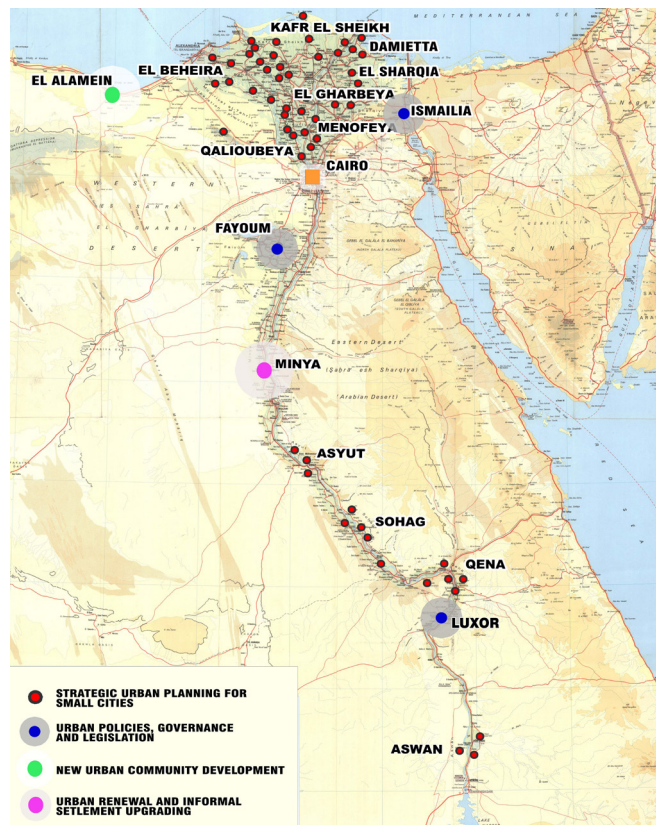
UN-HABITAT PROGRAMMES IN EGYPT

Established in 2005, the UN-Habitat Egypt Programme has provided technical support to national counterparts on a wide range of urban issues. Adopting an integrated approach, UN-Habitat Egypt has supported reforming and improving urban planning and management through the following sub-programmes.

UN-Habitat is working to support the Government of Egypt to achieve sustainable urban development in Egypt through three main areas. Firstly, UN-Habitat is supporting the government in planning by reforming traditional planning practices on the national and city level. On the national and regional level, UN-Habitat is providing technical support to introduce new tools and approaches to promote decentralized planning and the alignment of spatial and socio economic plans. On the city level, UN-Habitat is using the three-pronged approach (planning, legislation, and finance) to work on new cities and on planned city extensions. For the New City of Alamein, UN-Habitat introduced a new planning process for the production of a conceptual plan and a business model, which breaks away from traditional planning practices. The business model focuses on attracting the private sector in the development process and sharing of infrastructure costs between the government and the private sector. For planned city extensions, UN-Habitat has piloted a very successful land readjustment pilot which is now serving as the basis of a new land readjustment law.

UN-Habitat's second area of work is Knowledge and Policy Development where UN-Habitat is developing relevant studies and reports to encourage evidence based policies. UN-Habitat has produced a Housing Profile and Strategy as two key knowledge products, which will inform the National Urban Policy which UN-Habitat is also spearheading. Other knowledge outputs include the National Habitat III report, City Prosperity Report, and various white papers and policy briefs on key urban issues.

UN-Habitat's third area of work is Engagement. In June 2015, UN-Habitat launched the first ever Egypt Urban Forum under the slogan "My City, My responsibility." The forum was a platform for dialogue that brought together academia, civil society, and government to discuss the challenges and opportunities of urban development in Egypt. Prior to the forum,



Main UN-Habitat Egypt project locations, 2014. Photo© UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat created a steering committee of a myriad of stakeholders who participated in the design and vision of the forum. The forum was also designed with an institutional structure so that it can replicated every two years.

Below you can find some UN-Habitat's programmes and projects in Egypt described in more detail and according to UN-Habitat's focus areas.

Urban Planning and Design Context

Egyptian urban areas and agricultural land are affected by rapid urbanization and informal urban growth, especially at the fringe of the cities where informal urban expansions develop. Triggered by the enormous loss of agricultural land to informal urban sprawl and the lack of effective and efficient planning mechanisms, the General Organization for Physical Planning (GOPP) has initiated several multi-level urban planning projects. It is well underway in the preparation of general strategic plans for cities and villages; however the anticipated results of the planning efforts have been inadequate. It is in this context that GOPP initiated the technical cooperation with UN-Habitat to update and revise its strategic planning approach in order to ensure a more inclusive, flexible and implementable planning methodology.

Already in the mid-1970s, the Egyptian Government commenced the creation of New Cities on desert land, as part of a general strategy to tackle the complex problems challenging Egyptian settlements. New Urban Communities were thought as an effective solution to the problems of rapid encroachment on agricultural land, deteriorating urban fabric, and low-quality of living. However, the New Urban Communities have not been as successful as hoped in achieving development objectives due to the lack of securing effective resident population, accommodating a balanced socio-economic mix, enabling lower income groups, achieving relative independence and autonomy, and providing sustainable living and quality settings.

Programme Goals and Expected Accomplishments

The Strategic Urban Planning and Design Programme aims to promote sustainable urban development in Egypt by supporting the Egyptian Government to improve the urban planning processes and methodologies. It proposes an approach that updates urban planning theories which will revive the sustainable relationship between urban dwellers and urban space. This approach is based on five principles: the adequate space for streets and an efficient street network, compact urban areas with adequate densities, mixed land-use, social mix, and limited land-use specialization. The programme provides the Egyptian Government with spatial planning and strategic urban development schemes that reflect a strategic development vision at national and regional levels, as well as address local aspirations and needs as stated below:

- i. Strengthen the capacity of local governments and develop tools which ensures the strategic urban and detailed development plans provided by GOPP are implemented at the local level;
- ii. Support the establishment of effective urban mobility instruments, promoting economic activity and social participation;
- iii. Improve and inspire national planning practices: urban resilience, vulnerability to climate change, and revitalization of inner city areas (urban infill);
- iv. Enhance community engagement in planning practices at all levels.



Nubia, Aswan, 2012. Photo© UN-Habitat/
Jilan Hosni

Key Projects Implemented by the Programme

» Strategic Urban Plans for Small Cities in Egypt (October 2006 - July 2015)

The project aimed to enhance the planning methods and tools adopted by the Egyptian Government in order to prepare Strategic Urban Plans which respond to local priorities in an efficient and realistic manner. The project partnered with the government in order to provide technical and policy support. This included encouraging policy dialogue on urban development issues as well as strengthening the technical capacity of the national/ territorial Urban Observatory network.

It also contributed to improve performance and accountability in programming the development of the city, especially those that reduce exclusion and vulnerabilities in Egypt. The main objectives of the assignment were to assess the existing shelter, basic urban services and economic situation in cities while integrating these analyses into a comprehensive Strategic Urban Plan. The stakeholders constituted the framework ensuring consistency among local development plans. The ownership of the process developed synergies among public and private stakeholders which guided towards an effective economic and social development of cities.

The key partner was the General Organization for Physical Planning. The project was funded by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Communities.

» Strategic Development Plan for Greater Cairo Region 2050 (August 2008 – December 2014)

The preparation of the Strategic Development

Plan for the Greater Cairo Region followed an innovative methodology and encouraged wide stakeholder participation throughout the process (more than 1,600 experts and officials were consulted through 39 workshops). The main objective of the Strategic Development Plan was to achieve sustainable development of the capital city's metropolitan area, based on a comprehensive strategy supported by a stakeholder-agreed-vision.

This includes the reflection of regional priorities and the sustainable handling of natural resources, incorporation of needs and aspirations of people living in districts of the metropolis. Moreover, job creation induced by the implementation of the Greater Cairo Region Strategic Development Plan is envisaged. Not to mention infrastructure upgrading and the improvement of the urban environment as a whole. The Greater Cairo Region Strategic Development Plan represents the meeting point for national and regional policies as well as local aspirations, through short, medium and long term.

The key partner was the General Organization of Physical Planning. The project was funded by Ministry of Housing and Urban Communities.

» Achieving Sustainable Urban Development Priorities – ASUD Egypt, Part II – New City Development (August 2013 - July 2015)

This project aimed to ensure that urbanization is achieved in a controlled and sustainable manner, and that the expected socio-economic benefits deriving from this process translate into equitable and efficient urban settlement patterns. The project addressed capacity building in the fields of urban planning and design, land legislation

and management, local economic development, youth employment and other cross cutting issues such as mobility and energy. The Strategic Urban Planning and Development Programme focuses on the component related to sustainable urban development of new cities as extensions. An efficient urban form also contributes to the protection of urban hinterland and ecosystems that cities depend on.

In many ways, the advantages of sustainable communities are underlined in the characteristics and definitions of urban sustainability. Therefore, GOPP and NUCA in cooperation with UN-Habitat's technical support, adopted the strategic planning methodology to formulate an integrated and comprehensive development framework for new cities based on the concept of Green Cities. Hence, al-Alamein New City was developed as a pilot for a more sustainable generation of new cities in Egypt.

The key partners were the Ministry of Housing and Urban Communities, the Ministry of Local Development, the General Organization for Physical Planning, New Urban Communities Authority and the al-Alamein local government. The project was funded by the Spanish Government.

» Cairo Integrated Mobility Project

As a joint-programme between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Communities, the Ministry of Transport, the United Nations Development Programme and UN-Habitat, this project aims at increasing the capacity for public transportation across the Greater Cairo Region agglomeration whilst integrating it with existing modes of travel. It is a two-tiered project with the primary goal being the development and implementation of



Stakeholders meeting on land readjustment proposal in Banha, 2014. Photo© UN-Habitat/ Salma Mousallem

a Bus Rapid Transit system and the subsequent promotion of greater non-motorized transport infrastructure in Cairo. The concept aims to integrate various existing transport infrastructure – namely, the Metro system and the Cairo Transport Authority Bus Lines – with low-cost, low-infrastructure systems, in order to reduce traffic congestion.

Urban Legislation, Land and Governance

Context

The current policy and development programme practiced in Egypt resulted in a high percentage of informal and unplanned areas in the country. Centralization of power and resources at a national government level is a key limiting factor for a sustainable urbanization process. The role

of the local government has been restricted to a limited number of tasks in such a way that leads to poor participation of local communities and social responsibility. The relationship between local and national levels is highly centralized, in which policies and development plans are developed at national level, and also where more than 85% of the total government investments are implemented.

Existing urban planning tools are not yet appropriate to make land available at a pace to match rapid urbanization. This stems insufficient land supply, but also increases in land prices and informal areas. After January 25 2011, the scale and pace of informal development has been increasing, due to among others further deterioration of law enforcement. The lack of efficient and accountable urban planning and

management systems in Egypt combined with rapid urbanization, have generated socio-political and economic challenges that the country has not been able to keep up with, partly resulting in the recent Arab Spring events. Even though attempts to improve the management of urban development have been ongoing for the past forty years, complicated bureaucracy and weak institutions caused a lack of enforcement and poor land administration.

Programme Goal and Expected Accomplishments

UN-Habitat implemented the Urban Policies, Governance and Legislation Programme in Egypt by drawing on the complementary and synergistic roles of its four strategic partners (the Ministry of Housing and Urban Communities, the Ministry of Local Development, the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Finance). The programmes aim is to enhance the capacity of national and local actors to develop urban polices, and reform the legal and institutional framework governing territorial governance and citizen engagement.

A reformed legal and institutional urban structure can ensure a more decentralized and efficient local government. It can also promote the engagement of local communities and development partners in the process of urban development, which avails serviced land and appropriate development densities to meet the requirements of urbanization by increasing areas for public space and streets.

The expected Sub-Programme accomplishments include:

- a. promoting efficient and decentralized local government;

- b. enhancing accountability measures and application of relevant instruments at local and regional government;
- c. establishing a planning process mechanism that provides a platform for mobilizing community efforts and participation in implementing developmental projects in cities;
- d. building the capacities of local communities, local governments, civil society organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders especially in policy analysis, planning and financial management;
- e. increasing dialogue for decision making and strengthening strategic partnerships and collaboration at the national, regional and local levels to enhance the adoption and implementation of relevant urban development policies;
- f. promoting youth and women's engagement in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of urban policies.

Key Projects Implemented by the Programme

» Strategic National Development Support Project (October 2008 - December 2016)

The project aims to ensure that national and local stakeholders work jointly in the preparation and implementation of Strategic Development Plans and Budgets at the Governorate and Markaz levels. The expected accomplishments of the projects are: (1) improved institutional framework and capacities for effective partnerships; (2) improved means of implementation by leveraging know-how and consolidating finance; (3) improved development visions and finance for districts and governorates; (4) policy framework to accelerate local development; and inclusive monitoring and evaluation.

The key partners are the Ministry of Housing and Urban Communities, the Ministry of Local Development, the Ministry of Planning, and the Ministry of Finance, with associated

subnational directorates and municipalities. The project is funded by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Communities and the Ministry of Local Development.

» Achieving Sustainable Urban Development Priorities – ASUD Egypt, Part I - City Extension (August 2013 - July 2015)

The project aimed to ensure that the urbanization process can be achieved in a controlled and sustainable manner, and that the expected socio-economic benefits derived from this process translate into an equitable and efficient urban settlement patterns. The key accomplishments expected were (1) improved national awareness on planning cities expansion; (2) improved planning, implementation and monitoring practices in cities extension; (3) systematized knowledge for enhanced management of urban growth in Egypt; and (4) improved regional knowledge on detailed planning for city densification and extension.



Manshiet Nasser, 2014. Photo© Dyfed Aubrey

The key partners were the Ministry of Housing and Urban Communities, the Ministry of Local Development, the General Organization for Physical Planning, the National Survey Authority and the Qalyobyah Governorate. The project was part of a global UN-Habitat programme funded by the Government of Spain.

» Participatory Review of Egyptian Planning and Related Urban Development Legislation to Support Sustainable Urban Development Project (January 2014 - March 2015)

The project assisted the Egyptian Government in reforming its legal framework for sustainable urban development in a pro-poor manner by increasing the range of appropriate tools available to increase access to serviced land and lower the proportion of informal development in the country's cities. The project's expected accomplishments were: (1) improved understanding of urban planning and management laws and their relationship to and impact on institutional structures; (2) national and local authorities and key stakeholders empowered to effectively guide and manage urban development; and (3) resources mobilised for reform of the urban legal system, including land management, to facilitate urban expansion and increased supply of serviced land in Egypt.

The key partners were the Ministry of Housing and Urban Communities, the New Urban Communities Authority, the General Organization for Physical Planning and the Ministry of Local Development. The project was funded by the German Government (BMZ).

Housing and Slum Upgrading Context

The detachment of centralized, physical

planning processes to local realities has led to urban development taking place without plan consideration, which resulted in a high percentage of informally developed and unplanned areas in cities. Such development took place both on state-owned and agricultural land.

At the same time, inner city areas were neglected and turned into derelict and unsafe neighborhoods. Informal development, undertaken by families and small informal developers, takes place in the largest cities as well as in secondary towns and villages. Buildings are generally structurally adequate, however, infrastructure is lacking and over-loaded, streets are too narrow and often unpaved, public spaces are very scarce or non-existent, and public services are severely lacking.

Informal urban growth in Egypt is very compact, inner city areas are often dense, built mainly for housing and informal commercial uses, with inadequate allocation of space for social services, open spaces and streets. This hinders mobility, creates congestion, and limits the access to education and health services.

Since the 1970s and '80s, there have been attempts to regularize informal development by adopting several laws, statutes and decrees. However, they had limited success due to a combination of tangled bureaucracy and weak institutions resulting in a lack of enforcement, excessive land fragmentation, strong sharia traditions enabling relatively secure tenure of informal housing, and a lack of appropriate instruments to promote planned development of peri-urban land. Moreover, the government's initiative of building new cities has not provided a successful alternative to informal development.

Pilot examples of formal housing communities, such as Haram City in the Sixth of October, or provision of planned, subdivided and serviced land by the Government for guided land development in the same area demonstrate that such alternatives are not attractive to everyone. The formal turn-key development is only affordable to the lower middle class and up; the government land for development is allocated in remote desert areas away from the economic opportunities. On the contrary, the informally developed areas, despite their shortcomings in living standards, have proven to create an inclusive, vibrant economic environment.

Programme Goal and Expected Accomplishments

The Housing, Urban Renewal and Informal Settlement Upgrading Programme aims to address the challenges of adequate housing for all while providing access to basic urban services, as well as to prevent and upgrade informal and unsafe areas in Egypt. It provides technical advisory services to both national and local levels with the aim of building the necessary capacities at institutional and legislative levels to plan and implement inclusive, integrated and sustainable cities in Egypt.

Key Projects Implemented by the Programme

» Human Security through Inclusive Socio-Economic Development in Upper Egypt - Hayat Project (May 2013 - May 2016)

The project is based on a thorough human security analysis and its implementation follows a multi-sector approach for protection and empowerment. From a human security standpoint, the Human Security Forum (HSF) is a key empowerment

mechanism to enhance community engagement and participation in local development. The HSF aims to establish an encouraging environment for local actors to take the lead in elaborating and implementing community-owned priority development interventions. The main task of the HSF is to articulate a holistic community action plan, support the design and select priority projects at the village level based on multi-dimensional human security analysis. It is composed of local stakeholders, including community leaders, representatives of local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), youth, and women as well as representatives from local government. Its establishment and mandate is coordinated with local executives and representatives at the Markaz and village levels. As a sustainability strategy, the project will work on creating a bottom-up planning mechanism through linking the HSF with the governmental functioning bodies. The project will address Minya governorate to assign a focal point to act as a communication channel between HSF on Markaz and village levels and the decision makers at governorate level. The role of the focal point will be liaising between the HSF and the governorate to ensure that communities are aware of the planning priorities of the governorate and that needs of the community are reflected in the governorate's plans. In particular, UN-Habitat has been assigned to increase economic security through capacity development of local members on urban upgrading, apply vocational training that leads to employment creation, and establish a youth volunteering service to assist in raising community awareness of HS issues.

The key partner is the Ministry of Housing and Urban Communities. The project is a joint effort

of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UN Women, International Labour Organization, UN-Habitat and the International Organization for Migration. It is funded by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security and the Swiss Agency for International Development.

» **Safer Cities Free of Violence Against Women (June 2012 - May 2013)**

This joint project aimed to explore the condition of public spaces regarding safety of women and girls in order to propose and implement key interventions that enhance the safety and prevent violence against women and girls in public spaces. These interventions included physical enhancements to public spaces, targeting the community (perpetrators and victims of violence), community leaders, religious leader organizations such as al-Azhar and the Coptic Church, duty bearers such as governmental officers in different authorities, and others.

The project employed an integrated community-based approach to address issues and forms of violence against women and girls in the public spaces. It works with and through members of the community to foster ownership and ensure sustainability as well as mobilize all levels of the community to change existing stereotypes and social norms fueling violence against girls and women in public spaces and to prevent and respond to various forms of violence. Moreover, the project worked closely with local government, which has a key role in addressing public demand to reduce violence against women and girls. The project developed the capacity of local authorities, communities, the private sector and other relevant institutions and organizations and build constructive dialogue and partnership between

local government and the community-based organizations to ensure gender equality in the planning, designing and management of safer public spaces within the community.

The key partners included the General Organization for Physical Planning, the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Cairo and Giza Governorates. The Safer Cities Project is a joint project between several UN agencies, including UN-Habitat, UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund, UNICEF, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and coordinated by UN Women. The implementing partners at neighborhood level are local NGOs, coordinated by CARE Egypt. Among other donors, the project is funded by UN Women.

» **Because I am a Girl (BIAAG) - Urban Programme (Jan 2013 – Sept 2014)**

The overarching purpose of this project grouping is to improve the quality of life for Egyptians through the creation of safe neighborhoods and communities that are free from violence against women and girls. In order to ensure ownership and sustainability of the intervention, the joint initiative between UN-Habitat and Plan Egypt employed an integrated community-based approach to address issues and forms of violence against women and girls in public spaces.

This strategy mobilized all levels of the community to change existing stereotypes and social norms fueling violence against girls and women in the public spaces, and to prevent and respond to various forms of violence. The project worked closely with girls and women in order to strengthen their capacity to claim rights and hold duty bearers accountable for their safety

and inclusion in cities, as well as actively engage boys and men as champions of change on girls' safety in cities.

The key partners included the General Organization for Physical Planning, Cairo Governorate as well as community-based organizations. The project was funded by Plan International as part of a Global Programme.

» Public Spaces and the Right to the City (Feb 2013 - March 2015)

The inclusive city is a place where everyone, regardless of their economic means, gender, age, race, ethnicity or religion, is enabled and empowered to fully participate in the social, economic and political opportunities that cities have to offer. Participatory planning and decision-making are central to inclusive and sustainable urban development and growth. Besides, inclusive urban governance not only reduces inequality and social tension, but also incorporates the knowledge, productivity, social and physical capital of the poor and disadvantaged in city development, as well as increasing local ownership of development processes.

Young people are catalysts for development and agents of change. To unleash the power of youth, the project partnered with various initiatives that focus on the empowerment of poor and marginalized urban youth to become active citizens and participate in decision-making processes that concern their lives, such as the demand for better services. They monitored the use of public resources and hereby positioned themselves as key agents. A major emphasis was on adolescent girls and young women and the creation of opportunities at the neighborhood

level for enhanced social dialogue.

The project aimed to increase the capacity of local governments and community groups - particularly youth and women - to practice good urban governance, which is characterized by the interdependent principles of sustainability, equity, efficiency, transparency, accountability, security, civic engagement and citizenship.

The key partners included the General Organization for Physical Planning, Cairo and Giza Governorates as well as community-based organizations. The project was funded by the Ford Foundation.

» Integrated Neighborhood Development in Faisal, Cairo (January 2014 – December 2014)

The recent conflict in Syria has led to over 2.5 million refugees; over 100,000 of whom are registered in Egypt. The impact of refugees on urban communities has caused considerable strain. In areas of the city where refugees have settled they compete with poor local residents for scarce resources and limited services and, as such, they are vulnerable to aggression, violence and exploitation. Egyptian residents in these areas have very similar needs for assistance and support initiatives as the refugees. So far, the joint engagement of local government and relevant key stakeholders (community-based organizations and private sector) is still limited. In order to support host communities and refugees alike, UN-Habitat implemented multiparty local area upgrading activities (refugee and host community) related to buildings, infrastructure and service provision that respond to community needs and would enhance the provision and access to basic urban services. The objective of the project was

to develop and support an urban environment that encourages collaboration and community life among Egyptian and Syrian refugees through raising awareness at national and local levels, while supporting the upgrading of urban areas.

The key partners included community-based organizations of both host and Syrian refugee communities, as well as Cairo Governorate. The project was funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

» Rapid Planning – Sustainable Infrastructure, environmental and resource management for highly dynamic metropolises.

The overall objective of the project that will be implemented in Asyut governorate is to improve the quality of life for all urban residents and competitiveness of highly dynamic cities while at the same time protecting the environment and climate and conserving resources. This will be achieved by promoting trans-sectoral planning in organizations and decision structures for social, environment, resource and finance management. In order to meet this overall goal RP aims to develop a generic trans-sectoral planning methodology for sustainable urban basic structure services and environmental and resource management for fast growing cities.

The key partners include the General Organization for Physical Planning, Asyut governorate; Asyut University and eight German Universities. The project is funded by German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

KEY PARTNERS

Type	Name
Government	Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities (MoHUC)
	Ministry of Local Development (MoLD)
	Ministry of Planning (MoP)
	Ministry of Finance (MoF)
	Government of Spain
	Government of Germany (BMZ)
	Swiss Agency for International Development (SDC)
	German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
	Governorate of Asyut
	Governorate of Qalyobya
	Governorate of Cairo
	Governorate of Giza
	Al Alamein local government
	New Urban Community Authority (NUCA)
General Organization of Physical Planning (GOPP)	
UN Agencies	The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
	United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS)
	UN Women
	International Labor Organization (ILO)
	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
International NGOs	Plan International
	Ford Foundation
Universities and research centers	Asyut University
	AT-Verband -Association for the Promotion of Socially & Environmentally Appropriate Technologies
	Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus
	Frankfurt/M University of Applied Sciences (Research Institute for Architecture, Civil Engineering, Geomatics)
	Institute for Automation and Communication (ifac), Magdeburg
	ifeu – Institute for Energy and Environmental Research
	IUWA Heidelberg

Type	Name
Universities and research centers	Institute for Future Energy Systems (IZES, Saarbrücken)
	Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin)
	Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences, Campus Suderburg
	University of Stuttgart (Institute of Energy Economics and the Rational Use of Energy(IER)
	Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen
Local NGOs and CBOs	Nahdet Khayrallah NGO
	Elshehab NGO
	Tadamon NGO
	Hawa El mostakbal NGO

OUTLOOK

Over the last 10 years UN-Habitat has been able to build strong partnerships with the government, civil society, donors, and various stakeholders. Moving forward, UN Habitat will continue to build and expand these partnerships while pushing forward its vision of piloting new planning approaches and technologies that can support a more sustainable urbanization process.

Under the Urban Planning and Design portfolio, UN-Habitat will continue to work closely with planning institutions to improve strategic and new city planning processes while introducing key elements such as urban economy. The Planning and Design portfolio is also expanding to work on urban mobility. Egypt currently loses 4% of its GDP due to congestion which in turn creates an unattractive investment and business climate. UN-Habitat is focusing on encouraging cost effective public transportation systems and promoting non-motorized transportation.

With regards to Urban Legislation and Governance, UN-Habitat has made strides in understanding the complex web of laws governing urban development. Under this portfolio, UN-Habitat strives to propose alternative solutions to address the key challenges while in the areas of planned city extensions, land management, and land registration.

As informal areas continue to rapidly grow in Egypt, UN-Habitat is growing its urban upgrading portfolio through testing tools and methodologies that can be scaled up to the national scale. To respond to existing needs, UN-Habitat is focusing on basic infrastructure while providing institutional support. The overarching goal for this portfolio is to develop a toolkit of processes that the relevant government counterpart can roll out at the national scale.



Informal areas 2014. Photo©UN-habitat
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CURRENT AND PIPELINE PROJECTS

Program	Project	Donor	Amount	Partners
Urban Policies, Governance and Legislation Program	Strategic National Development Support Project	MoHUC and MoLD	4,614,018.00 USD	MoHUC, MoLD, MoP and MoF
	Achieving Sustainable Urban Development Priorities – ASUD Egypt, Part I - City Extension	Government of Spain	1,130,000.00 USD	MoHUC, MoLD, GOPP, NSA and Qalyobya Governorate
	Participatory Review of Egyptian Planning and Related Urban Development Legislation to Support Sustainable Urban Development Project	the German Government (BMZ)	391,120.00 USD	MoHUC, NUCA, GOPP and MoLD
Strategic Urban Planning and Design Programme	Strategic Urban Plans for Small Cities in Egypt	MoHUC	9,846,770.00 U\$	GOPP
	Strategic Development Plan for Greater Cairo Region 2050	MoHUC	2,150,000.00 U\$	GOPP
Housing, Urban Renewal and Informal Settlement Upgrading Programme	Achieving Sustainable Urban Development Priorities – ASUD Egypt, Part II – New City Development	Government of Spain	1,130,000.00 U\$	MoHUC, MoLD, GOPP, NUCA and Al Alamein local government
	Human Security through Inclusive Socio-Economic Development in Upper Egypt - Hayat Project	the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security and the Swiss Agency for International Development (SDC)	649,329.50 USD	The key partner is the MoLD. The project is a joint effort of UNIDO, UN Women, ILO, UN-Habitat and IOM
	Safer Cities Free of Violence Against Women	Among other donors, the project is funded by UN Women	105,000 USD	GOPP, Cairo and Giza Governorates. The Safer Cities Project is a joint project between several UN agencies, and coordinated by UN Women. The implementing partners at neighborhood level are local NGOs.

Program	Project	Donor	Amount	Partners
Housing, Urban Renewal and Informal Settlement Upgrading Programme	Because I am a Girl (BIAAG) - Urban Programme	Plan International as part of a Global Programme	23,750	GOPP, Cairo Governorate as well as CBOs
	Public Spaces and the Right to the City	Ford Foundation	105,000 USD	GOPP, Cairo and Giza Governorates as well as CBOs
	Integrated Neighborhood Development in Faisal, Cairo	The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	54,118 USD	CBOs of both host and Syrian refugee communities, as well as Cairo Governorate
	Rapid Planning – Sustainable infrastructure, environmental and resource management for highly dynamic metropolises.	German Federal Ministry of Education and Research	EUR 2,382,716.52	GOPP, Asyut governorate; Asyut University and eight German Universities



Hassan Fathy village, El Wadi El Gedeed,
2013. Photo © UN-Habitat/ Ahmed Adel

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