



UN-HABITAT  
**EGYPT**  
2023



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## URBAN CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

Rapid urbanization and the negative externalities associated with poorly managed urbanization continues to transform the landscape of the cities in Egypt. Housing and utilities are major services that affect the well-being of citizens and are faced with major long-lived shortcomings. The required support and development of a more effective urbanization demands facing a multitude of challenges from housing, urban transport systems, local economic development, and adequate management of human, physical and financial resources

The urban population in Egypt is not evenly distributed among its 219 cities, 96 percent of the total population lives in 6 percent of the total national area, while the remaining percentage is spread over 94 percent of the total inhabited area. This leads to more imbalances where 68 percent of the total population lives in three regions, Greater Cairo Region, Alexandria, and Delta; representing 1.8 percent of Egypt's total area, while 77 cities comprise 4 percent of the urban population.

Furthermore, existing villages and cities, mostly surrounded by valuable agricultural land are threatened by rapid and unplanned urban growth. Currently, around 40% of urban areas and 95% of rural areas in Egypt are considered unplanned. The management of city expansion areas is rather centralized and spatial strategic plans are rarely implementable as they are not linked to socio-economic budgeted planning. Weak compliance is hindering the effectiveness of the urban growth boundary. Legal and institutional constraints (including inadequate capacities of local administration) as well as challenges related to outdated landownership documents and land registration are the key challenges hindering the implementation of detailed plans in expansion areas and inner-city sites.

Availability of affordable, adequate, and accessible housing is a challenge that leaves many low-income Egyptians living in informal areas with poor standards of living, often lacking access to main public services, and transportation. Ongoing investments in road infrastructure are mostly car-centric rather than people-centric, while only around 4.8% of the population own private vehicles (CAPMAS 2018).

In recent years Egypt has been suffering from water scarcity, with a current yearly shortage of 23 billion cubic meters with the situation is expected to worsen due to the population increase (expected to grow by 60 to 75 percent by 2050) and climate change. On the other hand, sanitation services suffer from great disparities between rural and urban; while 91.6% of households in urban areas have access to sanitation, the percentage drops to 31.2 % in rural areas (CAPMAS 2018).

As a result of all the above urbanization challenges, more than 70% of the Egyptian cities are considered of low development potential (NUP diagnostic study), and there is a loss of return on investments and low living standards, insufficient services, and the loss of development value. These conditions contribute to diseconomies (e.g. congestion, pollution, displacement) that negatively affect the city's efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness over time.





*View of the Nile River in Cairo ©UN-Habitat 2022*

# FACTSHEET



The total population of Egypt is 102.9 million



96% of the population lives on 6% of the nation's land area



The estimated annual urban growth rate is 2%



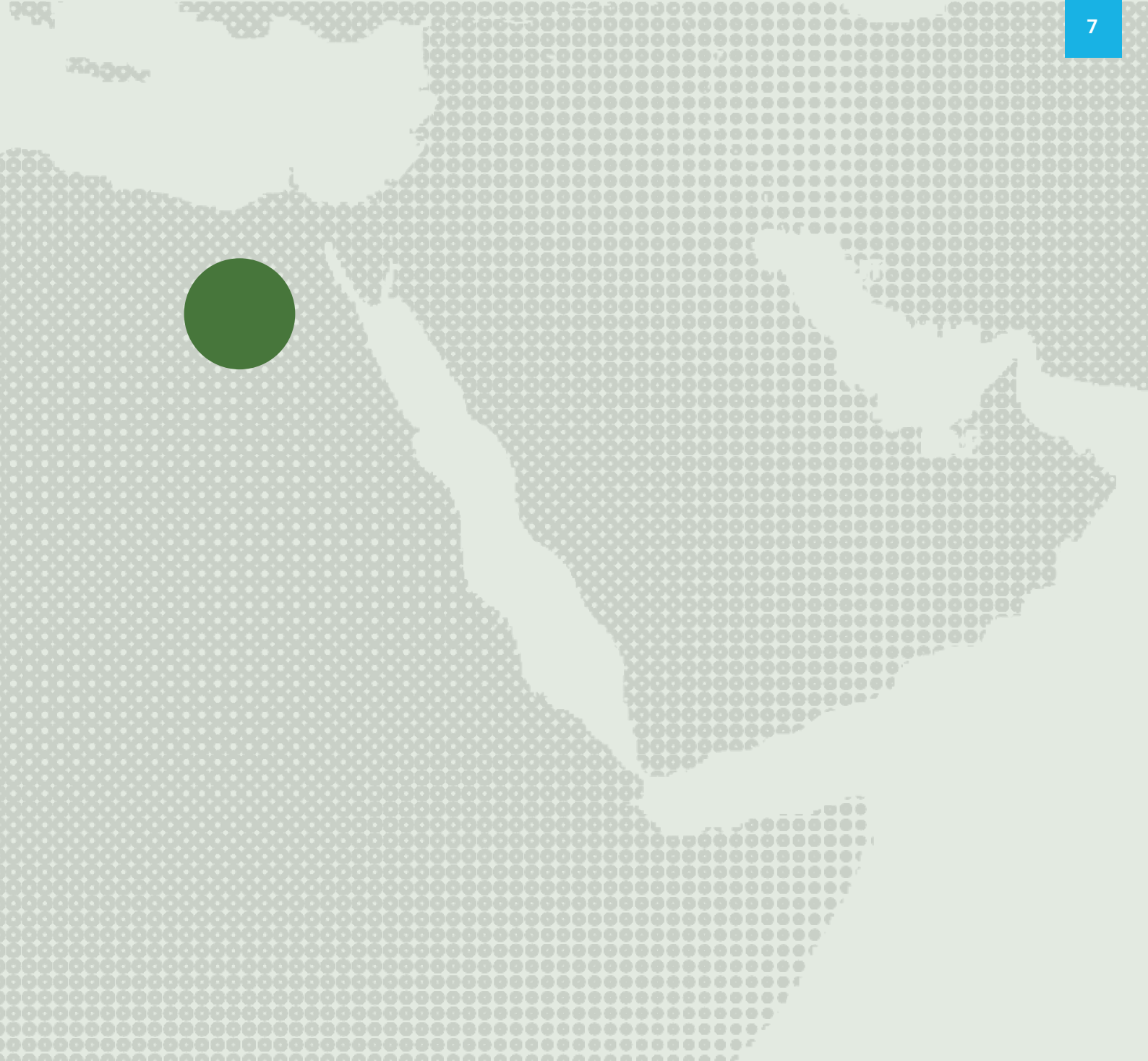
34.2% of the total population are under 14 years old, and 3.9% are over 65 years old. The median age is 23.6



Around 40% of urban areas and 95% of rural areas are considered unplanned. 60% of people in the greater Cairo region live in informal settlements



GDP of 402.9 Billion USD at market prices in 2021/20



The literacy rate was 74.2% in 2017



The GDP growth rate of the construction and building industry was 14.5% in 2021/20



The unemployment rate is 8%



Net Direct Foreign Investment of 5.2 Billion USD (20/20)

# SUMMARY OF CURRENT PORTFOLIO

UN-Habitat has been working in Egypt since 2008 supporting sustainable urbanization, aiming to support urbanization as a driver for equitable development, peace and improving living conditions for all. During this period, the programme was able to position itself as the centre of excellence for sustainable urbanization, guiding urbanization policy formulation, legislation, governance, urban tools, and practices. Indicative examples of this include co-chairing the Development Partners Group on Urban Development (DPGUD) and playing a very active role in the UNCT, leading regular platforms for dialogues on urban development.

The office has also created active partnerships with a wide network of national and local stakeholders. This network includes local and national government officials, community leaders, academicians, CSOs, IFIs, development partners, donors, statistical offices, national and local community leaders, and business representatives.

Furthermore, UN-Habitat Egypt is supporting the Egyptian government towards more effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), by linking urbanization to development to capture the positive values and wealth created by the urbanization process through better national and local urban management and governance practices that are tailored to local contexts.

In this regard, our programmes at UN-Habitat Egypt work on:

1. Supporting the government at the policy level to develop policies and strategies that govern the urban sector, ensuring a sustainable urbanization process; supporting the government to improve local and central governance systems to ensure proper urban management. Most prominent examples include: National Urban Policy, Egypt Housing Strategy, Land readjustment laws and regulations, PFM and value capturing.
2. Urban planning, management and design of new and existing cities, and urban upgrading and regeneration of informal & unplanned areas, and Participatory urban upgrading and development. Most prominent examples include: Urban plans for Al-Alamein New City, Ras El-Hekma Waterfront New

City; Sharm El-Sheikh Strategic urban Plan, detailed plan for Rowaisat community; and the launch of the new Participatory citywide urban development and upgrading approach in Egypt.

3. Improving urban basic services and climate change adaptation, through: water and sanitation service provision and sewage treatment, availing innovative sustainable transport tools for mobility and accessibility, and ensuring mainstreamed climate action and sustainable management & use of ecosystems and natural resources. Most prominent examples include: River-bank Filtration technology reaching more than 2 million inhabitants, Bus Rapid Transit system, and the first Bike-sharing system in Downtown Cairo.

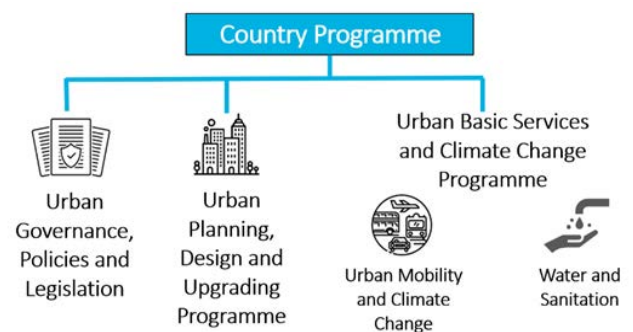
Current Funding Sources:

Egyptian Government (63%):

- Ministry of Housing, with its technical arms:
  - GOPP (General Organization for Physical Planning)
  - NUCA (New Urban Communities Authority)
  - UDF (Urban Development Fund)

International Donors (37%):

- SECO (Swiss Government)
- Coca-Cola Foundation
- GETF (Global Environment and Technology Foundation)
- Atlantic Industries





# SNAPSHOT OF OUR WORK

Despite the wide water network coverage, many regions in Egypt still suffer from low water pressures, unstable connectivity, and poor water quality. In 2021, the UN in cooperation with the Holding Company for Water and Wastewater implemented Riverbank Filtration units providing clean, reliable, and cost-efficient alternative water provision technology to supplement shortages to over 300,000 vulnerable inhabitants in Upper Egypt. The project evaluation interviews revealed the effectiveness of the service enhancement as a result of the interventions.

Abdelbaset Mohamed, 65, is a retired worker who lives in Ezbet El-Shuwaikh in El-Kordi Village. During his interview before intervening, Mohamed stated that he suffers from daily water service interruption, low water pressure, and poor water quality. As a remedy, Mohamed used a pump to boost the water supply and an in-house water filter which requires periodical demanding maintenance.

Based on the implementation in Assiut, Mohamed's family now has improved access to clean and continuous water at home. After 12 months of operating the units, Mohamed had reliable enhanced water supply service as he no longer experiences any water cuts and stated that the water quality was significantly enhanced. Mohamed is only one of 300,000 vulnerable inhabitants in upper Egypt who now experience an enhanced water supply and quality due to UN Habitat's work in the River bank filtration units.

In total, the project installed 112 RBF units, producing 280,000 cubic metres per day of clean water serving over 2 million inhabitants. The RBF units are also estimated to save over 800 million EGP in costs as compared to conventional filtration systems.



Fresh water from the River Bank Filtration (RBF) system.



Abdelbaset Mohamed's household water supply has significantly improved since installation of the RBF system.

## 26M USD

Total Value of Current Portfolio



*A visualization of the Bus Rapid Transit system in Giza, Egypt. ©UN-Habitat 2022*



# PROJECT PROPOSALS

# MAP OF PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED

**“Her City” & Scaling Up Cycling and Micromobility Solutions in Egypt**

**Application of Waste Wise Cities Tool in Egypt**

**Unlocking Egypt’s Affordable Rental Housing Market**

**Integrated Local Development Platform**





Community-Centered Shelter  
and Livelihoods Assistance  
Project (SLA)

Integrated Public Space  
Network in Ras El Bar City,  
Damietta

Supporting Sustainable  
urbanization as a driver for  
balanced development in Egypt:  
Enhancing regional green  
recovery and competitiveness

**40,700,000 USD**

Total Requested Budget



# 1<sup>st</sup>

## PROPOSAL

# Unlocking Egypt's Affordable Rental Housing Market



## PARTNERS

Social Housing Mortgage and Finance Fund



## TIMEFRAME

3 Years



## LOCATION

Egypt national, along with selected governorates for the pilot project



## ESTIMATED BUDGET 900,000 USD



## SDGs ALIGNMENT



## TARGET BENEFICIARY GROUP

Rental market stakeholders

# CONTEXT

The lack of adequate housing for the rapidly growing population is considered one of the most urgent urbanization challenges in Egypt. Despite the government's efforts for the past 50 years in providing housing units for the low-income population, the cost of owning a subsidized social housing unit remains out of reach for the majority of low-income Egyptians. Even, a simple informal apartment is affordable down to the 43rd income percentile. Furthermore, the heavily subsidized social housing units are only affordable down to the 75th income percentile (Egypt Housing Profile, 2016). This highlights a need for availing housing units that are affordable and accessible to the neglected lowest income percentiles.

Over the past 30 years, the Egyptian government provided 35% of the formal housing units, while the private sector provided around 65% of the total formal housing production. (Egypt Housing Strategy, 2020). The domination of the private sector in the provision of high-end housing generates an annual surplus of housing units that do not target or cater to low-income households. On the other hand, informal housing production provided more than 60% of the total housing units produced. Hence, the low-income population in

Egypt is left with limited options of inadequate informal housing units that are generally below basic living standards, harming their health, safety, and prosperity.

With the limited provision of social housing units and the inaccessible privately developed housing units, the housing gap in Egypt keeps growing. It is estimated that by 2030 there will be 565,907 needed housing units in Egypt (Egypt Housing Profile, 2016). The social tendency to support ownership and the diminishing demand for rental housing is further increasing the housing problem. Over the last five decades, the percentage of rented housing units in Egypt has diminished from around 60% to 26% (CAPMAS Census for Housing Conditions 1976: 2017). The weak rental housing market in Egypt is the result of a multilayered complex set of problems with root causes such as inefficient housing policies and regulations and insufficient data on the housing sector that leads to uninformed decision-making. Such problems created a deregulated weak rental market with limited protection for owners and tenants, inadequate maintenance and operation systems, and a general lack of interest/incentives to produce and rent housing units.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### PURPOSE

Enabling the growth of the rental housing market in Egypt is a timely intervention that can positively impact wider urbanization challenges that are particular to the Egyptian context. Although rental housing does not offer the tenure security or the asset investment that makes ownership attractive, it avails more affordable housing units to a larger segment of the population who cannot afford to own a house, hence it supports the provision of a safe shelter. Even with the provision of mortgage loans for housing, such loans are mostly accessible to those with a secure formal job. In Egypt, around 55% (World

Bank 2014) of jobs are informal, which highlights that more than half of the working population might not qualify for seeking homeownership through a mortgage. Supporting the rental market in Egypt also aligns with the national efforts in balanced regional development by enabling higher worker mobility, hence facilitating internal migration to rising growth poles. Generally, access to adequate housing is a prerequisite for access to employment, education, health, and overall better-living conditions. Moreover, availing more rental units will absorb the interest in developing new housing units around megacities and urban fringes, hence contributing to limiting urban sprawl.



The UN-Habitat country office played a major role in supporting the government to prepare the Egyptian Housing Profile in 2016, which was the first step to monitor and analyze the housing sector. In 2020, UN-Habitat assisted the government in launching their first national housing strategy which presented a unified integrated vision to effectively direct the housing sector over the coming 20 years, hence making UN-habitat well equipped to lead such project.

## DESCRIPTION

The project has three main outcomes:

The first outcome focus on Increased data accuracy and improved regulatory legal mechanism: this includes conducting baseline assessment studies to monitor supply and demand, conducting legal and regulatory studies along with establishing a housing observatory unit to maintain a digital database on the local rental market.

The second outcome focus on Improved management, maintenance and institutional capacity of the Egyptian rental market: this outcome will be supported by multiple activities such as adopting an effective approach to manage and maintain sustainable rental housing units using affordable mechanisms, in addition to designing and implementing a programme to capacitate relevant stakeholders in the field of real estate management and maintenance.

The third outcome focus on promoting and strengthening participation frameworks in the Egyptian rental housing market: this outcome will be based on activities such as preparing and marketing and branding strategies to enhance the attractiveness of low-population neighborhoods; developing support services to protect owner/renter relationship; launching incentive programmes to encourage availing affordable rental housing units; designing and to launching public awareness campaigns to increase the acceptance of and trust in rent; In addition to developing a community-based online platform that lists qualified affordable housing units

The execution of the project will be divided into three phases. Phase one will focus on studies and

preliminary analysis for indicators/mechanism and laws related to the rental housing, the result of this phase will be used to guide the following phases and pilot projects. Phase two will build on the first phase and initiate a pilot project that can lead to preliminary recommendations. The third phase will review mechanisms and policies to be able to scale up based on the recommendations.

## STRATEGY

This project aims to tackle the affordable housing gap and meet the market demands by utilizing the existing potential of the rental market in Egypt and promoting its growth to avail adequate housing units for all that are attractive, formal, well-maintained, and affordable.

## EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The long-term impacts of the project will support a demand driven rental market, improved management of the Egyptian rental market and a more attractive rental market for different stakeholders.

Measurable accomplishments:

- 2 projects and a programme to support the rental market that responds to the need, organized and inclusive to all relevant stakeholders
- 1 online platform for rental housing units
- 1 rental housing observatory unit
- 50 people with improved capacities to support the rental market in Egypt
- 1 marketing and branding strategy
- 3+ awareness campaigns to increase the interest and trust in the rental market
- 10,000 family beneficiaries from the sustainable rental housing pilot project

## ASSUMPTIONS, RISKS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES



### Assumptions



### Risks



### Mitigation Measures

A rental housing observatory unit will aid decision-making related to rental housing

No proper funds or long-term support to maintain the housing observatory unit

A business model and sustainability plan to ensure the financial sustainability of the unit.

Updated studies and guidelines can help regulate the relationship between renters and owners and support a rental housing maintenance model.

The findings of the studies are not endorsed politically

UN-Habitat will partner with local government agencies from the initial start to support endorsing the results of the studies

An incentive programme for relevant stakeholders in the market will help avail affordable rental units

The loosely regulated rental market can discourage stakeholders to avail rental units

The proposed regulatory related interventions can help complement the incentive programs.



# 2<sup>nd</sup>

## PROPOSAL

### **Community-Centered Shelter and Livelihoods Assistance Project (SLA)**



## PARTNERS

INGO/s and/ or CDA/s (one community-based development organization per location)



## TIMEFRAME

3 Years



## LOCATION

New Damietta and a another city in coordination with UNHCR



## ESTIMATED BUDGET 2,600,000 USD



## SDGs ALIGNMENT



## TARGET BENEFICIARY GROUP

Vulnerable host community and refugee households, least resilient to stresses, with a high dependency ratio

# CONTEXT

Despite the Egyptian government's efforts to elevate the standard of living, improve economic conditions, and provide adequate housing, the poverty rate in Egypt reached 29.7% in 2019-2020, compared to 32.5% in 2017-2018, according to the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS). Furthermore, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Egypt hosts an estimated 9,012,582 immigrants from 133 countries, including around 288,701 registered refugees and asylum seekers from 60 countries, as of August 2022, according to UNHCR figures. This demonstrates that the pressure is increasing on the labour market and living conditions, as well as economic opportunities.

According to the results of a number of surveys conducted by various agencies, the most urgent needs are a job opportunity to secure rent and to have adequate housing, as the majority of the vulnerable groups' expenditures are focused to fulfill the needs of shelter and food.

The Covid-19 outbreak, the war in Ukraine, and the supply chain crisis all had a significant impact on Egypt's economic status and level of living,

particularly in areas with large populations of refugees and vulnerable groups. Furthermore, the increased needs of vulnerable and marginalized Egyptians and refugees have raised demand for affordable housing and put further load on the city's infrastructure. Many members of the community are unable to provide adequate shelter for their family in light of the community at large limited resources. While the government's reform efforts are projected to benefit the economy in the medium and long term, vulnerable groups will face significant hurdles in the short term.

Egypt achieved a score of 68.7 in 2022, and it ranked 87th among the 163 countries included in the SDGs Index 2022. However, the reported status is "significant challenges" in relation to the SDGs, particularly Nos. 8 and 11, which means that the contribution through a project aiming to achieving sustainable development goals No. 8 and No. 11 will be directly reflected in the lives of the target groups and resulting in a contribution to strengthening the state of social peace and increased ability to adapt to difficult circumstances.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### PURPOSE

Poor and marginalized host communities in selected areas, in addition to vulnerable refugees provided with humanitarian assistance to help alleviate their immediate constraints and better absorb and adapt to shocks.

### DESCRIPTION

The project has three main objectives:

**Objective 1:** To provide appropriate shelter solutions targeted to the needs of poor and marginalized communities and vulnerable refugees.

The shelter component will use a hybrid shelter rehabilitation modality to support refugees' shelter

needs while also investing in local communities by boosting the use of local labour, goods, materials, and services, thereby contributing to the strengthening of community cohesion in targeted areas. The hybrid modality combines the upgrading of sub-standard shelters that will target shelter vulnerable households living in inadequate, but structurally safe shelters. For each shelter UN-Habitat will provide a cash grant to the residing household (the amount depending on rehabilitation needs), to upgrade the shelter to agreed minimum standards of adequacy. The project targets to provide light and hard renovations for up to 100 units.

**Objective 2:** To provide refugees in host communities with information and assistance in relation to their access to adequate housing and essential services. UN-Habitat to provide information and assistance

in the areas of interventions on Legal and Civil Documentation (LCD), Refugee Registration Procedures (RRP), refugees' tenancy, protection, labour rights, and other issues affecting the lives of refugees in Egypt. Project staff will conduct group information sessions in the active CDAs located in the areas of interventions in order to raise awareness. Supporting the targeted households obtaining essential documents will lead to an increased access to essential services.

**Objective 3:** To support poor and marginalized community members and refugees' households with increasing livelihoods protection and assistance opportunities for better resilience and adaptation. The Integrated Livelihood Component aims to improve the provision of livelihood by targeting current shelter target groups and lowering rent burdens, which would reduce the need for the target group to resort to negative coping methods. Recipients will be able to make better economic choices if their immediate consuming necessities are addressed. This project's main livelihood opportunity will be urban farming, and this intervention is expected to provide revenue for the household while also tackling any food insecurity they may have.

The project will train 200 families in soil-based and non-soil-based urban farming and agricultural techniques such as rooftop gardening and tower farming. Based on an assessment of the participating families' capacity, the project will support competent families with logistical assistance for the establishment of their initiatives. This component will give preference to youth and single-parent families who have prior experience and interest in food-related activities such as agriculture and food production. The project will give trained members of the targeted families with labour rights/work permits information services in order to boost their prospects of employment. The project will support the establishment of up to 100 small scale projects, with a specific focus on the urban farming and agriculture.

## STRATEGY

The implementation of the modalities will be based mostly on the assessment of the household's needs, ensuring fair impartial and transparent selection process throughout all the project's cycle including sharing selection criteria with community. In narrative reporting, UN-Habitat will still provide detailed information per modality.

The proposed project will mainstream and uphold

Sphere Protection Principles through adopting the "Reaffirming the rights of refugee and asylum seekers and recognizing the need to undertake positive measures to ensure that their rights to housing is guaranteed", taking into consideration the "Principles on Housing and Property Restitution for Refugees and Displaced Persons (the Pinheiro Principles)". Through addressing the technical issues surrounding housing, in situations where displacement has led to persons being arbitrarily deprived of their former homes, the right to non-discrimination and equality, to be protected from displacement, to have adequate housing, and the right of tenants.

The project's interventions function as its cornerstone the protection principals of P1 – "Enhance people's safety, dignity and rights and avoid exposing them to further harm", P2 – "Ensure people's access to impartial assistance, according to need and without discrimination", and P3 – "Help people to claim their rights". The Protection Principles support the rights set out in the Humanitarian Charter: the right to life with dignity, the right to humanitarian assistance and the right to protection and security.

The project also contributes to securing adequate housing in the host community's humanitarian context by providing "shelter," which is a family living space that comprises the required materials to enable daily activities. In order to promote health, support family and community life, ensure dignity, safety, and access to livelihoods, etc., with the aim of protecting lives, protecting against the weather, protecting against exploitation, and so on. This is accomplished by giving the essential assistance for securing shelter or housing, as well as offering technical assistance and quality assurance to enable the impacted population to integrate to the host community in a better and more secure manner (taking into account environmental sustainability considerations).

At the planning stage, the program will identify the needs of, and risks faced by persons of all ages, and devises strategies for how to address these through project implementation. These include ensuring that specific gender vulnerabilities are properly captured and reflected in the beneficiary assessments and that the specific needs of female-headed households or female-only households are addressed by involving these groups already in the planning and design stage. UN-Habitat will likewise ensure that the vulnerabilities, needs and capacities of all persons are fully taken into consideration when implementing the livelihoods component of the program. The program team will also support

in providing the necessary information to the beneficiaries regarding their access to housing and livelihoods opportunities.

The livelihoods component will have a strong focus on female participation, ensuring that female and youth beneficiaries are prioritized to receive the training packages and capacity building.

## EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The expected accomplishments grouped by objective area are:

Objective 1:

- Developing and upgrading housing units (up to 100 units)
- Improving the level of safety and well-being for the target groups
- Create or renovate shelters at set minimum standards (SPHERE)

Objective 2:

- Raising awareness about the legal and work permits conditions, as well as their rights.
- Assistance services delivered so then target groups can protect and exercise their rights.
- Information sessions were organized to increase the target group's understanding of the community and market access.

Objective 3:

- A needs assessment was carried out for the target groups.
- Capacity building workshops were delivered on relevant topics such as "soil-based and non-soil-based urban farming and agricultural techniques such as rooftop gardening and tower farming"
- Supporting and implementing of up to 100 units/projects

## ASSUMPTIONS, RISKS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES



### Assumptions



### Risks



### Mitigation Measures

Protecting target groups' families by providing safe and adequate housing from the risks of being subjected to violence, threats, exploitation or undermining their dignity.

Insecure tenures or immediate termination of contracts, leading to homelessness and exploitation.

Provide shelter/ housing for refugees and vulnerable groups to have access to dignified and safe living spaces.

Support refugees to have access to appropriate assistance in a timely manner. Conduct info sessions/networking events with relevant stakeholders.

Difficulty gaining access to cash assistance for rent, legal.

Contributing to the development of housing in order to be safe and dignified to meet the needs of the target family and enable them to live a decent life, without burdening them with development nor technical assistance expenses.







# 3<sup>rd</sup>

## PROPOSAL

### **Integrated Public Space Network in Ras El Bar City, Damietta**



## PARTNERS

UNESCO, Greater Salt Municipality, and Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities



## TIMEFRAME

2 Years



## LOCATION

Ras al Bar city



## ESTIMATED BUDGET 11,000,000 USD



## SDGs ALIGNMENT



## TARGET BENEFICIARY GROUP

Ras al Bar residents, local and international tourists

# CONTEXT

Given the strategic location of Ras al-Bar city located between the Mediterranean Sea to the West and the Nile River to the East, the city shapes a triangular tip to the North, where both the Sea and Nile intersect; Ras al-Bar city is considered one of the most important tourist attractions in Egypt. Accordingly in 2018, the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Communities (MoHUUC) represented in the General Organization for Physical Planning (GOPP) and in cooperation with UN-Habitat in Egypt prepared the strategic plan for urban development for the city.

The vision for Ras al-Bar is to build on the city's assets as a tourist destination to achieve prosperity, improve livelihoods that aims to fulfill the governorate's development plan adopted in 2018. This aimed at adopting context specific projects that would improve the city of Ras al-Bar, beautify and direct it towards its leading role in tourism and sustainable urbanization. This vision also aimed at creating a better quality of life for residents by increasing recreational activities and improving their social,

economic activities as well as opportunities, and their Environmental surroundings. As a result, this project was designed to bridge the gap in public spaces and recreational areas in the city, as an integral part of the urban development plan developed in collaboration with the General Organization for Physical Planning (GOPP) at the MoHUUC in 2021 with UN-Habitat Egypt. The urban plan included a detailed urban design and planning phase which followed a participatory process to ensure all stakeholders are represented and the project is responsive to existing community needs and future vision of the city. This project is focused on the implementation phase to create an integrated public space network through developing 4 public spaces in the city.

This project aligns with the efforts from the Government of Egypt (GoE) in localizing the Sustainable Development Goals through the advancing projects that supports improvement of the quality of life for residents as well as, improving urban areas and their surrounding environment.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### PURPOSE

To create a public space network in Ras al-Bar that provides needed facilities and services in the city and ensure economic development through a sustainable, inclusive, and integrated approach.

### DESCRIPTION

The project aims to implement 4 public spaces and create a public space network that is tailored to the needs of the city and include a variety of lacking public services that directly align and complement the SDGs in participation with all stakeholders. The activities and programme were identified based on the needs' assessment of the strategic urban plan (2016-2018), in addition to the updated analysis and assessments during the project design and feasibility phase in 2021.

Based on the city assessment, the four areas (18,900 sq.m each) will provide key public services and recreational activities needed by the community and visitors. Accordingly, this will be achieved in

the four public spaces in different ways based on the activities designed, such as, the hotel which will generate revenue from land rental through private investment. Additionally, through ticketing, events, theatre and exhibition spaces, as well as commercial activities. This attracts investment and provide income for the public spaces for operation and maintenance to ensure their sustainability. The first public space is composed of commercial activities and a hotel that aim to attract visitors to Ras al-Bar and create job opportunities. The second caters to the need of the community and visitors for recreational activities through an open theatre and public open spaces that include youth/children activities such as, a cycling track. The third space provides vast exhibition spaces and builds on the city's widespread seasonal workers, which would encourage the community to market their products as well as, improve livelihoods. The fourth, aims to provide activities for youth and children by designing sports facilities, a children's garden, a shaded multi-use space in addition to, green open spaces. The public spaces will support boosting economic and employment opportunities to create an attractive



Renderings of the four proposed public spaces to be created through Public Private Partnerships. By involving the private sector in a deliberate and mutually beneficial way, public spaces can be created that serve the needs of the community while simultaneously spurring economic growth and creating employment opportunities.

and Integrated Public Space Network in Ras al-Bar, Damietta. With reference to the city vision and plans, in addition to the implemented feasibility studies, the four public spaces are clustered to complement one another and service residents as well as visitors, improving the influx of both international and local tourism and ultimately ensuring sustainable inclusive and integrated services. Moreover, to ensure implementation as well as, sustainable maintenance and operation of the public space network, the project aims to encourage and promote effective public and public-private partnerships in collaboration with civil society partnerships as possible and as needed.

will guarantee the financial and economic feasibility of the project, advance SDGs, provide income generating activities, create jobs in the city, attract visitors, as well as, boost local and international tourism to the city throughout the year.

## STRATEGY

The model is based on Public Private Partnerships for the public spaces ensuring that agreements are established between the private sector, who will rent land and create various activities such as, a hotel, commercial activities, theatre...etc. This approach

## EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Improved access to safe, accessible, and inclusive public open spaces in Ras El Bar that caters to women, children, youth and other identified vulnerable groups
- Supported economic development of the city and job creation especially women and vulnerable groups in the 4 public spaces
- Enhanced attractiveness of the city as a tourist destination for both local and international tourism

## ASSUMPTIONS, RISKS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

 Assumptions	 Risks	 Mitigation Measures
Economic and political stability by the beginning of the project	Rapid cost fluctuation given the current devaluation and inflation rates that would affect the cost of construction materials	Budgeting and contracting the project in foreign currency to mitigate devaluation of the Egyptian pound
Availability of local sourced materials responding to design requirement	Lack of resource and material availability given the current import/export challenges in Egypt	Alternative list of locally sourced resources/materials and available suppliers



# 4<sup>th</sup>

## PROPOSAL

### **“Her City” & Scaling Up Cycling and Micromobility Solutions in Egypt**



**PARTNERS**

- Governorate of Cairo
- Governorate of Giza
- Governorate of Alexandria



**TIMEFRAME**

2 Years



**LOCATION**

Greater Cairo and Alexandria



**ESTIMATED BUDGET**

1,500,000 USD



**SDGs ALIGNMENT**



**TARGET BENEFICIARY GROUP**

Inhabitants of Greater Cairo and Alexandria

# CONTEXT

Egypt is in a very early stage of car-dependence despite the apparent congestion in the dense cities. Car ownership is low at about 60 cars/1000 inhabitants (but density is high and air pollution is significant due to low fuel quality). However, despite the low car ownership, the steady economic growth implies the likely acceleration of car-ownership and continued dependence if no adequate policies are set in place to enable mode-shifting (shifting from car use towards diverse alternatives). Much public transport is being provided now (metro, buses, etc), but the shift from car to public transport is not likely unless the entire experience is comfortable and streamlined, i.e. last-mile solutions are essential for true mode-shifts, and to ensure an adequate door-to-door experience, especially for vulnerable groups, women, children, and persons with disabilities. The experience of women in specific has been subject to extensive investigation by UNHABITAT Egypt, culminating in a landmark report on

Gender Mainstreaming in transport in Egypt finalized in 2022, further stressing gaps in last-mile experiences for women in specific.

Beyond walking and private cycling in Egypt, further forms of micromobility and microvehicles are emerging, for both personal use and for commercial activities. Potential implications for climate change, public space conservation, and other sustainability progress are of utmost importance for large and dense megacities. With substantial stakeholder consultations and interventions further enabled through the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) for Climate Change held in Egypt, this topic among many others was further brought to the foreground of climate action advocacy. Furthermore, UNHABITAT's intervention to introduce Egypt's first public Bike Sharing System, Cairo Bike, showed results indicating the very high demand for such last mile solutions.

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## PURPOSE

The project shall aim to establish the next phase of development in the domain of sustainable mobility in Egypt, shifting from the attention to mass transport megaprojects and towards last-mile solutions, in order to achieve the vision of safe and enjoyable door-to-door commuter experiences in dense cities of Egypt with focus on gender mainstreaming and the use of UNHABITAT's Her City tools.

## DESCRIPTION

Egypt's first public bike sharing project Cairo Bike has proven successful since its launch in Q4 2022 under the auspices of the Prime Minister of Egypt. However a significant gender gap is noted among the involved labor (maintenance, supervision, administration, etc) and also among the users (about 80% of users are male). Furthermore, modes of transport are still being introduced in an adhoc manner with limited

integration, resulting in an uncomfortable experience for commuters, rather than a streamlined experience with consistent quality and pricing and consistent safety standards.

## STRATEGY

The project proposed herein aims to introduce a gender-sensitive scale-up of the bikeshare system and to integrate it with other modes of transport as well, such as complementary modes (e.g. shared kick-scooters) or trunk modes (e.g. metro lines and buses), including integration of payment systems, planning standards, marketing, etc. This shall be done through a "5 E" approach to promotion of cycling: Education (guidance and training), Encouragement (advocacy and awareness), Engineering (cycling infrastructure and bikeshare facilities), Enforcement, and Evaluation.





UN-Habitat Country Director Rania Hedaya shows PM Mostafa Madbouly Bike-Sharing map.



A station of Egypt's first bike-sharing system, Cairo Bike, in downtown Cairo

## EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Establishing a cycling and micromobility academy targeting women operational throughout the project duration (teaching cycling, topics of sustainable mobility, and practical skills including maintenance).
- Tripling the engagement of women in bikesharing services in Egypt (both supply and demand side)
- Tripling the fleet of bike sharing in Egypt through gender-sensitive scale-up in Greater Cairo and Alexandria.
- Tripling the carbon-reduction impact of Egypt's public bike share system.
- Integrating the payment systems and quality standards of sustainable urban mobility options in the target areas.
- Conducting a gender mainstreaming assessment for the target areas in alignment with the Her City tool.
- Establishing Complete Streets designs and tripling the kilometers of cycling lanes in Greater Cairo and Alexandria in accordance with the Egyptian Code for Bicycle Infrastructure



### Assumptions

Traffic authorities will approve bike lane space allocations in proposed plans.



### Risks

Parts of the bike lane stretches proposed might be met with refusal from traffic authorities in the first phases of the project.



### Mitigation Measures

Intensify stakeholder engagement with traffic authorities from initial phases. Provide alternative "traffic calming" measures in areas subject to controversy as an alternative approach to provision of safety.

Public Transport service providers shall be willing to integrate services with last mile solutions.

Public transport operators disengage from consultation and participation in planning in early stages.

Offer different levels of integration that can be acceptable, ranging from full integration to at least coordination in planning and implementation (as practiced throughout CairoBike project implementation). Conduct regular seminars and workshops to encourage engagement and participatory planning.



# 5<sup>th</sup>

## PROPOSAL

# Application of Waste Wise Cities Tool in Egypt



## PARTNERS

Ministry of Local Development in Egypt



## TIMEFRAME

18 Months



## LOCATION

Egypt + Knowledge sharing activities in MENA region



**ESTIMATED BUDGET** 300,000 USD



## SDGs ALIGNMENT



## TARGET BENEFICIARY GROUP

Local administration, private sector, informal waste collectors, and NGOs

# CONTEXT

Africa's urbanization rate is 3.5%, the highest in the world. Due to the rapid urbanization in recent years, municipal solid waste management has become a major challenge for many cities, as lower income cities in Africa are expected to double their municipal solid waste generation within the next 15-20 years. To address this ever-increasing challenge, African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP) was established in 2017 in Maputo, Mozambique, with 24 African countries together with Ministry of Environment of Japan (MoEJ), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the City of Yokohama, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), adopting "Maputo Declaration on the Establishment of the African Clean Cities Platform, Towards the Realization of Clean Cities and Healthy Lives through Appropriate Waste Management in Africa with the aim of sharing knowledge and good practice and promoting investment in waste management to realize clean cities in Africa by 2030". UN-Habitat has finalized the Waste Wise Cities Tool – Step by Step Guide to Assess City MSWM Performance through SDG Indicator 11.6.1

Monitoring (WaCT) in 2020 through ACCP and Waste Wise Cities initiative. WaCT guides cities and local governments through seven steps to assess the environmental performance of a municipal solid waste management (MSWM) system, food waste generation and resource recovery systems in cities. By doing so, it provides critical information for cities and countries to establish better waste and resource management strategies. In the last step linkages with other SDG indicators are elaborated and an assessment using a Waste Flow Diagram (WFD) is introduced.

In 2021, UN-Habitat selected six African cities, which are Alexandria from Egypt; Sousse from Tunisia, Dakar from Senegal, Cape Coast from Ghana, Bukavu from DRC, and Harare from Zimbabwe to participate in the Waste Wise Cities Tool application to identify policy and infrastructure gaps for the improved solid waste management as a part of activities under the project of ACCP. UN-Habitat has concluded the application of WaCT in Alexandria in March 2022 in partnership with The Egyptian Ministry of Local Development and the Governorate of Alexandria.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### PURPOSE

The Ministry of Local Development has expressed their interest to replicate the WaCT application in other cities and governorates across Egypt, following the successful implementation and application of the tool, which also helped the development of the SWM master plan of the governorate.. This is mainly stemming from the ministry's focus and strategic prioritization of the SWM sector development, since MoLD is the assigned ministry for the implementation of the National Solid Waste Management Strategy, development of the governorate's solid waste master plans and providing the required technical, administrative, organizational, and financial support of Governorates across Egypt for the quality implementation of their plans. This also complements the recent National Climate Change Strategy which Egypt has released early 2022. The selection of the governorates will ensure the

representation of different regions to enhance the learning and further upscaling in other governorates..

### DESCRIPTION

UN-Habitat Egypt Programme in cooperation with UN-Habitat HQ has translated the WaCT Manual and training material to Arabic. As the tool and training material were available in English and several other languages but not in Arabic, this step aimed at enabling local authorities in Egypt and consequently other Arabic-speaking countries to overcome any language and technical barriers and easily be able to use and implement the WaCT.

The Ministry of Local Development has identified the following initial list of governorates for possible WaCT application: Minya, Asyut, Sohag, Qena, Luxor, Portsaid, Dakahliya, Menoufiya, South Sinai. UN-Habitat will guide the implementation in a selected

city(s) in each of the abovementioned governorates together with the governorate and the city's relevant department(s).

The project will include knowledge sharing activities in coordination with the Ministry of Local Development for upscaling the use of WaCT in Egypt. Furthermore, knowledge sharing activities such as online trainings and sharing best practices with entities in Arab speaking countries will be conducted as well. UN-Habitat Egypt programme has already embarked on this through sharing the Arabic material with UN-Habitat Lebanon Country office who are planning to implement WaCT during early 2023.

#### 1. WaCT and WFD applied in target cities in Egypt

- Organize the project launch meeting inviting key stakeholders if necessary, the meeting is expected to have representatives from the selected Governorates and Cities local administrations. A follow up launch meeting is expected to be held in each governorate with the relevant local stakeholders in each Governorate/ City.
- Jointly prepare, with MoLD and the Governorates, the project stakeholders, selected sites and zones for implementation.
- Hiring of the required consultants
- Organize trainings for cities' representatives and volunteers including:
  - WWC/ACCP project briefing (including high-level city officials)
  - WaCT step by step training for city technical officers
- Arrange logistics with target cities (selection of survey locations; organizing working team comprised of MSW experts and volunteers;

prepare survey introductory letter for households; identify major waste collection or recycling companies, etc.)

- Implement WaCT and collect data through Data Collection Application (DCA) with target cities
  - Implement WFD for mapping waste flows and quantifying plastic leakage with target cities
  - Submit DCA and WFD results to UBS for data analysis
2. Local Stakeholder workshops held to identify policy intervention and infrastructure investment gaps for the improvement of SWM
    - Organize waste stakeholders' workshops, 1 workshop per target city, inviting relevant waste chain stakeholders in the city, including informal sector
    - Present the results of WaCT and WFD survey in all selected cities and discuss policy intervention and infrastructure investment gaps for the improved SWM in the city in coordination with UBS
  3. Local Economic Development in selected cities
    - Capturing the values of waste as an economic resource in the city.
    - Promote and support the establishment of local companies to work in the SMW sector.
    - Encourage the formalization of some of the informal waste collectors in selected cities.
    - Link newly established companies and NGOs potential national, private and international funding entities.
  4. Knowledge sharing
    - Organize knowledge transfer between selected cities and other cities in each governorate



Implementation of the Waste Wise Cities tool in Alexandria in March 2022

- Organize at least one online training(s) with interested/relevant entities in the MENA region (UN-Habitat country programmes/offices and/or governmental entities)

## STRATEGY

The main aim is to transfer the knowledge of the WaCT to local authorities through the guided application of the tool on a case study in each city through the below seven steps. This mainly ensures local authorities are well equipped to apply the WaCT on rest of the city in addition to conducting periodic updates to ensure validity of data/indicators.

## EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- WaCT and WFD applied in target cities in Egypt
- Development of 10 SWM master plans for 10 cities in Egypt.
- Local Stakeholder workshops held to identify policy intervention and infrastructure investment gaps for the improvement of SWM in each city
- One national workshop held to share WWC and policy discussion results in each city and share lessons learned (+ participation of international experts to share best practices)
- Knowledge sharing activities:
  - Knowledge transfer between selected cities and other cities in each governorate
  - Online training(s) with interested/relevant entities in the MENA region (UN-Habitat country programmes/offices and/or governmental entities)

## ASSUMPTIONS, RISKS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES



### Assumptions



### Risks



### Mitigation Measures

Each city to assign a team of volunteers from relevant department(s) to attend the training and apply WaCT.	Occupation of volunteers with other priorities or bad weather conditions resulting in disruption of the field work timeline (Step 2 in WaCT should be applied during a consecutive 10-day period)	Requesting an assigned focal point from the city to ensure coordination is smooth. Clarifying the planned timeline specifically activities that require no time gaps such as step 2. Preparing several alternatives for the proposed timeline including different possible windows
The local administration engages private sector, informal waste collectors and NGOs in implementing the tool	Poor stakeholders' engagement	The synthetization phase will ensure that the LA is aware of the importance of including all the relevant stakeholders, especially the informal waste collectors and their relevance to ensure that tool is inclusive
UN-Habitat to provide needed tools and PPEs to cities	Volunteers not abiding by needed health and safety measures, loss or damage of tools before end of field work	Team leaders of each volunteer group to be responsible for field work supervision + handover of reusable and extra unused PPEs and tools at the end of field work (scales, containers etc., )
	Errors in sample selection	UN-Habitat and assigned consultant(s) to work closely with the city during the sample selection step where WaCT provides a guide
	Weak cooperation of households in step 2 and/or tampering with samples	UN-Habitat team to assist volunteers and even participate in the introductory briefing to households





6<sup>th</sup>

PROPOSAL

**Integrated Local Development  
Platform**





## PARTNERS

- Ministry of Local Development
- Governorates and their affiliated districts
- Ministry of Planning and Economic Development
- Ministry of Social Solidarity
- Ministry of International Cooperation
- Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
- IDSC-Information Decision Support Center
- Local NGOs
- Private Sector
- Community groups, Women and Youth



## TIMEFRAME

32 Months



## LOCATION

4 Governorates in the Upper Egypt Region



## ESTIMATED BUDGET 400,000 USD



## SDGs ALIGNMENT



## TARGET BENEFICIARY GROUP

Ministries of LD, PED, SS, IC, and CAPMAS, in addition to the Corporate Social Responsibility departments of the private sectors companies Civil Society Organizations, community members and groups.

# CONTEXT

According to the Institute of National Planning, urban development policy is one of the mechanisms of local economic development, and the quality of urban development outputs is highly reliant on the coordination of efforts among stakeholders, partners, and effective actors in the field of development in general and local development in particular.

Several studies have been conducted to assess the significance of development efforts performed by all parties at all levels, whether governmental, international, local, or other. However, the influence that can be achieved in the case of coordinated development efforts and activities may be considerably much greater and sustainable, than if the efforts and activities are fragmented.

At the local level, the process of urban development and local development faces a number of profound challenges, perhaps the most prominent of which is

the gap of a desired vision for a digital platform, to enhance the efficiency of resource use, and identify the local needs, and then directing and coordinating efforts at different levels to implement joint projects or plan the type of interventions and evaluating the impact of interventions on target groups.

Local challenges arise in the current context including a lack of congruence between development interventions (the supply side of development activities) and local and community needs (the demand side of development efforts). In addition to the overall Internet infrastructure's incompleteness, the lack of sustainability of digital initiatives, the difficulty of accessing digital services by the informal economy, and the impact of the digital divide between the urban and rural environments, as well as low-income families versus other high-income families.

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## PURPOSE

The integrated platform is an inclusive/needs-based tool for urban and rural poor communities living in vulnerable situations to better target their needs through coordinated development efforts.

The Integrated Local Development Platform seeks to eliminate the lack of coordination leading to inefficient use of resources and unbalanced development programs across governorates.

## DESCRIPTION

The design of the platform is thought to be a timely, shared and updated and public database that is consistently updated database that and which supports decision making processes for coordinating

development efforts and guiding investments.

The multistakeholder tool is user-friendly to different users (government side, development partners side, citizens and local residents, private sector (for-profit and not-for profit) etc.).

The tool is designed to facilitate work that MOLD and other relevant ministries are carrying out with regards to coordinating efforts that take place at governorate level and support governorates along with stakeholders and partners to achieve a maximum benefit of resources.

Project Objectives:

- 1) Directing and coordinating development efforts
- 2) Identify and prioritize the community needs

- 3) Encourage information sharing among development parties
- 4) Enhance monitoring and evaluation, including evaluation of the efficiency of development inputs
- 5) Raise citizen awareness of development projects being carried out in their governorate.

#### Project Components:

- a) Defining the demand side of development interventions

Interventions under this component are predominantly executed at the governorates level with support from central government level.

- Mapping and Profiling of communities in vulnerable situations and their needs.
- Segmentation and prioritization of needs and communities.

- b) Defining the supply side of development interventions

Interventions under this component are predominantly executed at the central level, through cooperation between the relevant ministries with verification with governorates, and the private sector and other relevant parties.

- Defining important stakeholders based on (sector contribution, profile, location of interventions, engagement mode etc.).
- Government agencies participation by providing sufficient information for the projects that are uploaded on the platform/ map.

- c) Integrating the demand and supply side of development interventions

Based on the offerings of potential development efforts by development partners as well as identified development needs by local communities, both overlaid on the platform/ map, the governorates can come up with proposals for matchmaking development needs and interventions.

- Platform/Map that is interactive/hybrid; for integrating development efforts.

- Local planning process that integrates both government investments with private sector as well as CSOs investments.

-Matchmaking process steered by governorate through its governor, MoLD, MOIC, MOFA, MOPED at national level and the socio-economic council.

## STRATEGY

- I. Institutional Arrangement:

In this stage, the project to explicitly list the different bodies and their assigned roles in terms of ownership, management, finance, hosting, etc. and to determine their respective roles and responsibilities. As well as the steering committee composition and functions (i.e., coordination, monitoring, ensure proper implementation, etc.), the composition and selection of the management team, the reporting lines.

- II. Financial Arrangements:

It specifies the sort of software programs to be utilized, the firewall, whether there are monthly payments, how to secure them to ensure the platform's long-term sustainability, and other financial operations that are differ than activities planned/ required to develop the platform itself.

- III. Coverage/ Geographic Scope:

The Platform is designed for a fully-fledged implementation across the 27 governorates in Egypt. Yet, the implementation is designed in phases where governorates that are more qualified than others are going to be in the first phase.

The criteria for the selection of governorates for the first phase are:

- (1) data availability,
- (2) GIS system availability at governorate level,
- (3) existing multiple development projects.

- IV. Monitoring and Evaluation Scope:

This section covers the responsibility of the monitoring and evaluation function of the project outcomes. It sets forth the reporting schedule against the agreed upon indicators. It captures the

performance indicators, the execution of the project and the achievement of project objectives to date, the mid-term review process of the project.

#### V. Partnership Arrangement:

Addressing the potential partnerships and synergies with other existing programs, initiatives, projects etc. need to be included. As the tool itself is developed for better coordination of development efforts, so then to properly articulate the potential synergies and define the nature of the partnerships or synergies as in knowledge sharing, dissemination of adequate tools, pilot governorates etc.

## EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A well-designed friendly user community needs-based platform of verified and reliable information. In order to contribute to organizing and coordinating the development efforts and resources among the main stakeholders, identify the community priorities and monitor the projects efficacy.

## ASSUMPTIONS, RISKS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES



### Assumptions



### Risks



### Mitigation Measures

The ability to implement capacity building trainings for government employees in the governorates  
The existence of an internet infrastructure that supports the activities of the platform

Limited capacity at governorates

Coordination on the central and governorate levels to assess the needs and requirements.  
To implement the project in its pilot phase, in a governorate that meet the minimum required criteria

The cooperation of the actors to submit the development project information on the platform

Unwillingness of actors to share information

Coordinate with the relevant stakeholders and parties on the rules and agree on the protection policy and to be linked with project purpose.



# 7<sup>th</sup>

## PROPOSAL

**Supporting Sustainable urbanization as a driver for balanced development in Egypt: Enhancing regional green recovery and competitiveness**



## PARTNERS

- UNIDO
- UNDP
- FAO



## TIMEFRAME

5 Years



## LOCATION

Kafr El Sheikh and Damietta Governorates



## ESTIMATED BUDGET 24,000,000 USD



## SDGs ALIGNMENT



## TARGET BENEFICIARY GROUP

Damietta and Kafr El Sheikh residents and the Delta region

# CONTEXT

Egypt is a country of over 200 cities, yet development is uneven and often many cities are left behind. Urbanization was envisioned to bring prosperity and welfare to the Egyptian population as cities are engines of economic growth, as they account for as much as 80% of GDP. The inability of the current urban agglomerations to meet the growing needs of the rising population led to major pressures on urban areas, further inequalities, and an increased poverty gap in many cities. UN-Habitat concluded through the National Urban Policy diagnostic analysis that today, more than 70% of Egyptian cities are not able to reap the positive benefits of economies of scale that come into play with urbanization. These cities are also not playing an effective regional role in lifting up surrounding villages, Resulting in rural-urban and urban to urban migration, with 73% of this migration being absorbed by Cairo and Alexandria.

To address these challenges, Egypt embarked on multiple reform and national development programs including the National Urban Policy (NUP), where its vision included identification of key cities (and agglomerations) that have the capacity to play a stronger regional role as “National Major Poles of Growth” with the aim to complement the socio-economic status of existing global metropolitan urban regions and reduce pressures on urban cities. The NUP analysis results state that secondary cities in Egypt hold most of the development opportunities towards a more balanced population and economic distribution if their competitiveness is strengthened. These secondary cities and the surrounding rural areas can play an effective role in adopting recommended policies and implementing an integrated development model that would alleviate poverty and enable a resilient eco-system.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### PURPOSE

The integrated platform is an inclusive/needs-based Transforming the potential of existing cities with low development capabilities into major growth clusters to complement Cairo and Alexandria region in order to advance equitable opportunities and balanced urban system at the national level.

### DESCRIPTION

Urbanization can be leveraged for the fight against poverty, inequality, unemployment, climate change, and other pressing global challenges. In Egypt, the national urban policy was developed, with a clear objective for Egypt to move towards a dynamic and balanced Egyptian urban system to leverage the competitiveness, sustainability and resilience

of Egyptian cities. The recently endorsed National urban policy put forth a newly envisioned system of Egyptian Cities, one where each city has a new identity that allows it to fulfill its potential. This is achieved by working on three different levels- Social Empowerment, Economic development, and Environmental Resilience . Based on 12 main spatial and economic indicators (with key migration and climate threat cross cutting indicators) Kafr El Sheikh and Damietta clusters were identified to have the best potential to play a more effective national development role, and support efforts addressing climate change and illegal migration. This is based on complementary role these two clusters' cities can play and support local value chains in Delta, and the additional role these cities can play in controlling illegal migration by attracting migration flows to the created jobs and quality of living. Finally, these cluster cities are furthermore facing climate challenges



that needs effective frameworks to support adaptation and mitigation to climate change and create enhanced living environments for the local and received population. This new attraction region will also work in parallel with the current efforts to support the Upper Egypt Local development project - envisioned to improve the role, attractiveness and competitiveness of Sohag, Qena, Minya, and Assiut governorates.

## STRATEGY

This project presents a “new integrated rural-urban development model” to address the inter-linked challenges, lead sustainable development, and accelerate SDGs at both local and national levels. The model addresses underlying, interconnected challenges facing secondary Egyptian cities and regions and focuses on providing solutions that respond to these challenges. The model further ensures vulnerable groups are prioritized and capacities are built for replication and scale up. The project’s approach builds on the newly adopted Egyptian National Urban Policy (NUP) prepared with support from UN-Habitat. The NUP addresses spatial inequalities and supports a more sustainable,

productive, and balanced urban development sector focusing on 4 dimensions i) Spatial: effective integration between existing and new cities, boosting rural-urban linkages and advancing the potential of secondary cities ii) Economic: competitive and productive cities with solid and green economies and functional regional role in generating sufficient employment iii) Environmental: more sustainable and resilient cities iv) Social: social equity and equitable access to services, facilities, public goods and housing.

## EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Strengthened Human Capital Focusing on Migrants, Women, Children and other Identified Vulnerable groups
- Supported Integrated Economic Development and Improved Investment Environment
- Strengthened Climate Action and Inclusive Local Resilience

## ASSUMPTIONS, RISKS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

		
Assumptions	Risks	Mitigation Measures
The 2 pilot governorates will play a stronger regional role in the Egyptian economy	Economic challenges and uncertainty including increased inflation rate and currency devaluation	Support communities and local resilience of communities through smart practices using local resources and value chains to reduce pressures of economic challenges/uncertainty
UNHabitat team and implementing partner agencies are able to manage a complex inter-agency project and assign objectives and tasks in coordination with one another	Lack of coordination of different project outcomes leading to a less effective overall project impact	Implementing effective project steering and M&E on the objective level on different levels of management. To include Project Steering Committee, Project working groups, Project Reporting (technical and financial) and monitoring committee, as well as Project finance and operations committee.

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