



ITALIAN AGENCY  
FOR DEVELOPMENT  
COOPERATION



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

AICS Cairo  
EGYPT



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**AICS  
CAIRO**



## COUNTRY PROFILE

### Demographics

**Official language:** Arabic

**Spoken languages:** English and French are commonly used by more educated classes

**Area:** 1.001.450 km<sup>2</sup>

**Capital:** Cairo

**Population:** more than 100 million

**Density:** 99.9 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>

**Population growth rate:** 2.28%

**Life expectancy:** 73.7 years

**Literacy rate:** 71.2%

**Religions:** Islam 90% (predominantly Sunni), Christianity 10% (mostly Coptic Orthodox, there are also apostolic Armenians, Catholics, Maronites, Orthodox and Anglicans)

**Human Development Index:** 0.700

### Economic data

**GDP:** USD 361,88 billion

**GDP annual growth rate:** 3.6%

**Gross National Income per capita at purchasing power parity:** 12,719 international dollars

**Unemployment rate:** 10.13%

**Inflation rate:** 5.68%

**Export goods:** Unrefined petroleum and derivatives, gold, chemical and agricultural sectors, cotton, textiles, metallurgical products

**Imported goods:** Wheat, oil, food sector, chemical sector, machinery and equipment, wood

**Main export partners:** United Arab Emirates, Italy, Turkey, United States, Germany





## THE ITALIAN COOPERATION IN EGYPT

The Italian Cooperation has been operating in Egypt since 1982, promoting projects that favor sustainable socio-economic development in the country. Egypt is one of the 22 Priority Countries for the Italian Cooperation, which operates there on the basis of the "Development Cooperation Framework Agreement" and the "Memorandum of Understanding regarding a New Development Partnership", signed in 2010. The intervention sectors of the Italian Cooperation in Egypt were identified in conjunction with local actors, including the Ministry of International Cooperation, and in harmony with the programs of the other donors, in particular the Delegation of the European Union in Cairo. The sectors are in line with the new priorities of the EU-Egypt partnership for 2017-2020 and consider the development priorities of Egypt identified in the document "Egypt vision 2030" and in the Strategic Framework for the National Economic and Social Development Plan until 2022 published by the Ministry of International Cooperation and the Ministry of Planning.

The Italian Cooperation in Egypt currently focuses on eight intervention sectors for a total of over 170 million euros, which include: (i) rural development, in which Italy stands out for a long and appreciated collaboration, also in a perspective of food security and the creation of sustainable and inclusive supply chains; (ii) support for the development of the private sector, with particular reference to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MPMI), and the promotion of employment opportunities, especially for young people; (iii) a transversal focus on the social dimension, in support of the most vulnerable groups of the population such as minors, people with disabilities, women and migrants, (iv) in particular as regards the fight against gender-based violence and (v) involvement of the Egyptian diaspora in local development and the fight against irregular migration; (vi) the development of human resources through education and technical and professional training; (vii) the protection of the environment and (viii) the enhancement of the Egyptian cultural and archaeological heritage.

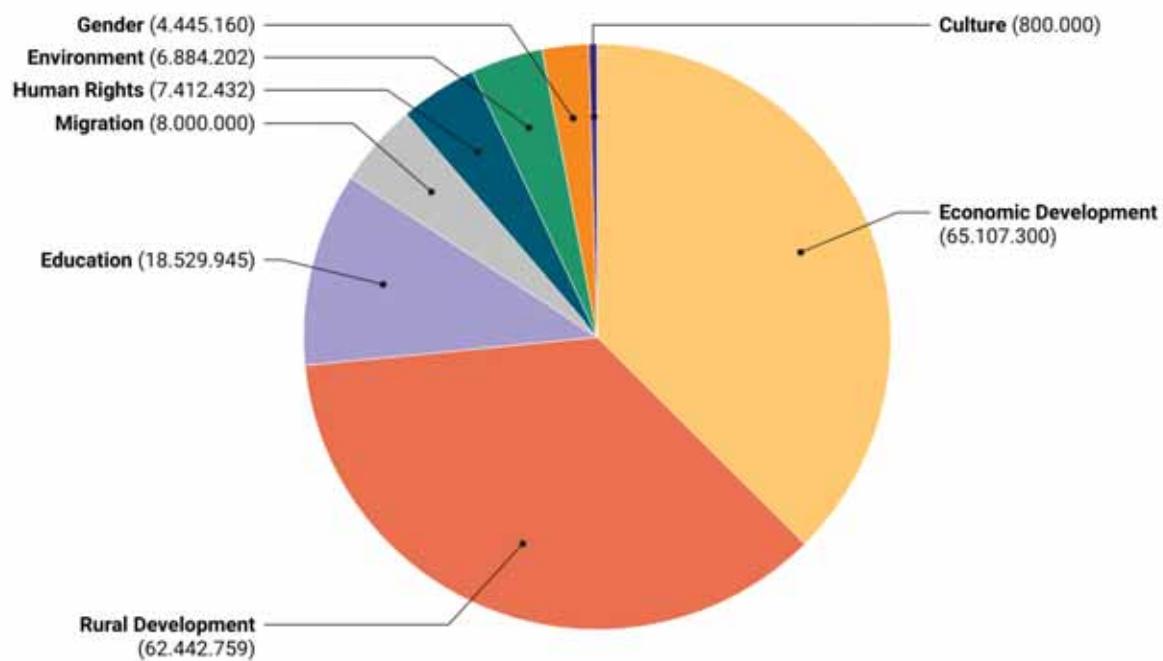
The ongoing and planned initiatives are in line with the priorities identified by the Egyptian government to respond to the crisis generated by the spread of Covid-19 in the country. Apart from the immediate health emergency, the intervention priorities are in fact aimed at addressing the possible exacerbation of already existing economic and social problems, such as the precarious situation of informal workers, food security, gender issues, lack of support for the private sector, the quality of the education system, sectors on which the Italian Cooperation has been active for some time.

The initiatives underway and launched in 2020 follow up on what has already been done in previous years and expand the activities in support of the socio-economic development of the country, with particular attention to the most disadvantaged sections of the population. In particular, the Italian Cooperation in Egypt aims to mitigate the effects of the pandemic by strengthening the social protection network on the one hand, and by favoring the production diversification and economic recovery of the country on the other, despite the inevitable slowdown of GDP.

# DATA AND AREAS OF INTERVENTIONS

At the sectoral level, the Italian Cooperation in Egypt in 2019 focused on eight intervention sectors for a total of over 170 million euros<sup>1</sup>. The priority areas of AICS Cairo programming are (i) Rural development and food security, (ii) Economic development, (iii) Education and training, (iv) Governance and human rights, (v) Gender, (vi) Migration and development, (vii) Environment and (viii) Culture and tourism.

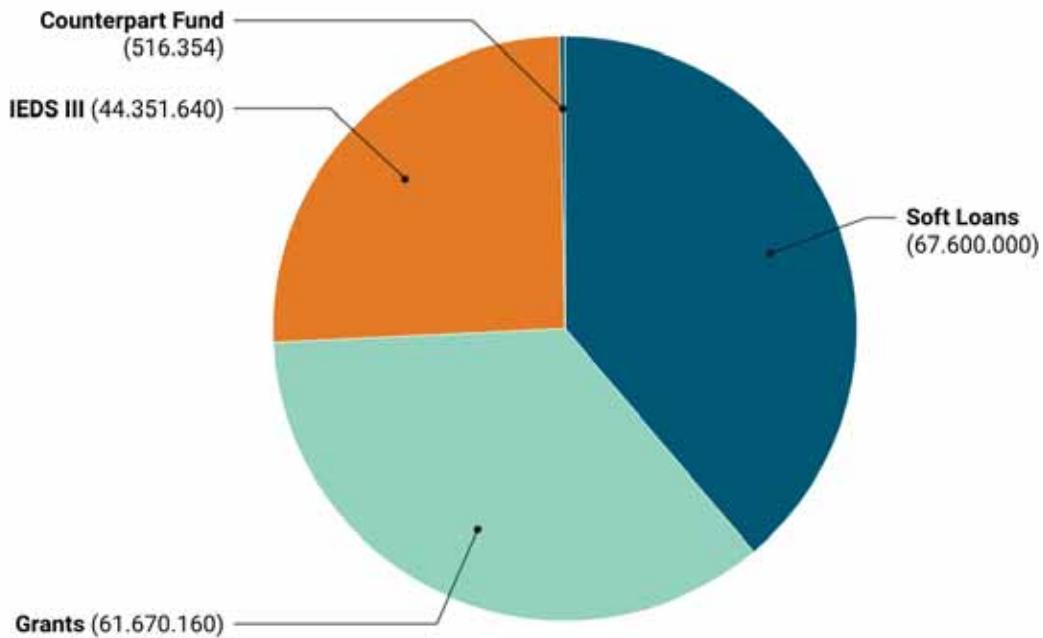
## Areas of Intervention (2020)



The Italian Cooperation operates with soft loans and aid credit. Grant loans are granted on the bilateral channel (contributions to local entities and institutions) and multi-bilateral (contributions to International Organizations and UN Agencies). Many projects are also financed through the Italian Egyptian Debt Swap program (IEDS III) for a total value of approximately 100 million USD and the counterpart funds, equal to approximately 500,000 EUR, generated by the Food Aid program.

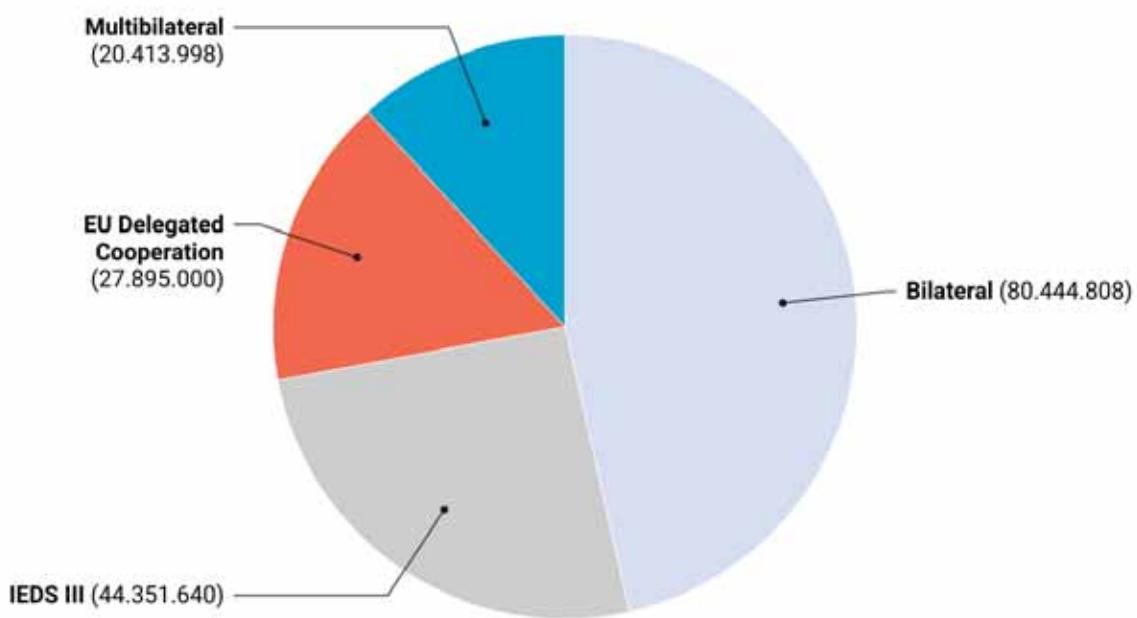
<sup>1</sup> The mentioned portfolio specifically amounts to EUR 173.621.800 and it includes all initiatives ongoing or approved in 2020.

## Types of Funding (2020)



In November 2020, a Delegation Agreement was finalized with the European Union worth 6 million euros for the management of the "Multi-Educational Program for Employment Promotion in Migration-affected areas" (MEPEP) project. The Italian Cooperation has also managed, since 2013, about 22 million European funds in the framework of the "EU Joint Rural Development Program" (EU-JRDP), which ended in October 2020.

## Funding Channels (2020)





# OUR PROJECTS



# RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

In the agriculture and rural development sector, which have always been priority sectors of Italian Cooperation in the country, the Agency has made use over the years of fruitful collaborations with local and international actors and institutions, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, the Desert Research Center, the Agricultural Research Center, General Authority for Fish Resources Development (of the same Egyptian Ministry), the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute (IAM) of Bari, various Italian and Egyptian NGOs and United Nations agencies such as FAO, UNIDO and WFP. Since 2014, the Italian Cooperation has taken on the role of coordinator, together with FAO, of the related thematic platform that groups donors in Egypt (Development Partners Group - DPG).

With the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Egyptian cotton supply chain development project plays a considerable role in promoting sustainability and inclusion along the cotton value chain, while strengthening the precious quality of cotton and fostering new market opportunities. The support program for the tomato supply chain, also with UNIDO, aims to support the value of the production destined for processing by improving the technical skills of young people and therefore their job opportunities. With the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, however, the "SAMSIMIFA" project allows, through the technical assistance of IAM Bari, the improvement of agricultural mechanization systems in the governorates of Minya and Fayoum.

In this sector, Italy managed a delegated cooperation program, "EU Joint Rural Development Program", and jointly formulated with the EU technical team the proposal for the new delegate program "EU Integrated Rural Development Program for Egypt". The first aims to strengthen agricultural infrastructures and the capacities of active rural associations, cooperatives and producer unions. The second will continue to strengthen small agricultural producers but also local counterparts to provide quality services to support food security, irrigation and the dairy sector.

With a loan from the Italian-Egyptian Debt Swap Program, two projects are underway: The first aims to improve food security and the value of local grain production by increasing storage efficiency and

reducing physical losses. economics of the government in providing subsidized bread through the improvement of the supply chain, the increase of storage capacity in more hygienic and safe conditions and the introduction of modern technologies; the second aims to develop and consolidate the aquaculture sector in the north coast of Egypt by providing technical support to the public and private sector to establish an updated aquaculture district and improve the capacities and income of farmers as well as the performance of the Authority General for the Development of Fisheries Resources (GAFRD) to provide an updated technical service.

Finally, a project is being launched to strengthen the Siwa date production chain through good agricultural practices and the creation of a geographical indication, also supporting marketing strategies for the product.



## 1. Agricultural mechanisation in Minya and Fayoum – SAMSIMIFA - AID 10368

Type of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	€ 10.000.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 0,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 10.000.000,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Governorate of Minya, Governorate of Fayoum
OCSE-DAC Sectors	311 – Agriculture 31150 – Agricultural inputs 31166 – Agricultural extension 31194 – Agricultural co-operatives
Implementing partner	Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, IAMB
Local partner	Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
Type of aid	C01 – Project-type intervention
Description	The project aims to provide small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises and agricultural cooperative associations of the Governorates of Fayoum and Minya with effective, sustainable and innovative mechanization for the main agricultural systems at ground level. The project also aims to strengthen and strengthen human resources centers and applied mechanization stations through sustainable innovations and a participatory system for knowledge management.
Duration	30 years
SDGs	SDG 2 - End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.  2.3: By 2030, double agricultural productivity and income of small-scale food producers, especially women, indigenous peoples, farming families, shepherds and fishermen, including through safe and equal access to land and others productive resources, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for added value and non-agricultural employment.  SDG 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.  8.2: achieving higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological updating and innovation, also aiming for high added value in labor-intensive sectors.

Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Gender equality policy marker (Not targeted) Aid to environment (Significant) Participatory development / good governance (Significant) Trade development marker (Significant)
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Biodiversity (Not targeted) Climate change (Not targeted) Desertification (Not targeted) Adaptation (Not targeted)
Social and Health markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	Disability (0) Maternal Health (0) Minors (0)
Programme-based approach	No
Tied/untied project	Tied

## 2. From cotton seeds to clothing: enhancing sustainability, inclusiveness and value addition of the cotton value chain in Egypt– AID 11084

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 1.500.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 1.500.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Governorate of Damietta and Kafr El-Sheikh
OCSE-DAC Sectors	31181 Agricultural education/training 32163 Textiles, leather and substitutes 31110 Agricultural policy and administrative management 31192 Plant and post-harvest protection and pest control 31194 Agricultural co-operatives
Implementing partner	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Local partner	Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Industry and Trade
Type of aid	C01 – Project-type intervention
Description	The project aims to improve the sustainability, inclusiveness and value creation of the Egyptian long and extra long staple cotton value chain, improving the economic, social and environmental performance of cotton growers and processors and strengthening the supporting institutions. The project has two main results: 1) Cotton growers (especially long and extra long staple cotton) have improved their economic performance, inclusion and sustainability. 2) Private sector textile enterprises (converters of long and extra long staple cotton, including SMEs and youth-led start-ups) have improved their economic performance, inclusiveness and sustainability.
Duration	24 months Agreement signed on 06/12/2016 and valid until 31/06/2021
SDGs	SDG 1 - End poverty in all its forms, everywhere 1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programs and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions SDG 8 - Encourage lasting, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for

	<p>all</p> <p>8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological updating and innovation, including through a focus on high value-added sectors and labor-intensive sectors</p> <p>SDG 9 - Building a resilient infrastructure and promoting innovation and fair, responsible and sustainable industrialization</p> <p>9.3 Increase the access of small industrialists and other enterprises, particularly in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets</p> <p>SDG 12 - Ensuring sustainable production and consumption models</p> <p>12.2 By 2030, achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources</p> <p>12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse</p> <p>SDG 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and renew the global partnership for sustainable development</p> <p>17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes in favor of least developed countries</p>
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender equality policy marker (Significant)</li> <li>Aid to environment (Significant)</li> <li>Participatory development / good governance (Significant)</li> <li>Trade development marker (Principal)</li> </ul>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity (Not targeted)</li> <li>Climate change (Significant)</li> <li>Desertification (Significant)</li> <li>Adaptation (Negligible or no funding is targeted to the objective)</li> </ul>
Social and Health markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability (0)</li> <li>Maternal Health (0)</li> <li>Minors (0)</li> </ul>
Programme-based approach	YES
Tied/untied project	Untied

### 3. Improve the value chain of SIWA date palm through enhancing good agricultural practices on Geographic Indicators

Type of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	EGP 9.000.000, 00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	EGP 0,00 – 0%
Financial allocation as soft loan	EGP 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	EGP 9.000.000, 00 – 100%
Contribution implementing partner	EGP 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary partner	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Oasi of SIWA, Governorate of Matrouh
OCSE-DAC Sectors	311 - Agriculture 31120 Agricultural Development 31162 Industrial crops/Export crops 32130 Small and Medium enterprises (SME) Development
Implementing partner	Ministry of Industry and Trade
Local partner	Ministry of Industry and Trade
Type of aid	C01 – Project-type intervention
Description	Egypt is the leading producer of date palm fruits in the world and its potential to further increase production is high. In the Siwa Oasis, due to its particular ecological characteristics, the date palm is the most important crop and represents the main source of income for the population. Most of the date palm fruits in Siwa are organic and have special and unique characteristics suitable for consideration for a new unified brand. The project aims to enhance this product by improving its quality and quantity, strengthening its agro-industrial process, strengthening its marketing at national and international level through a package of practical activities to be implemented in the Oasis. To ensure its sustainability, the project will register a new brand for the Siwa date palm and form an institutional structure that has valuable human and financial resources.
Duration	24 months
SDGs	SDG 1 - End all forms of poverty in the world SDG 2 - End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture SDG 8 - Encourage lasting, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all SDG 9 - Building a resilient infrastructure and promoting innovation and fair, responsible and sustainable industrialization

	SDG 12 - Ensuring sustainable production and consumption models SDG 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and renew the global partnership for sustainable development
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Gender equality policy marker (Significant) Aid to environment (Significant) Participatory development / good governance (Significant) Trade development marker (Principale)
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Biodiversity (Significant) Climate change (Significant) Desertification (Significant) Adaptation (Not targeted)
Social and Health Markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	Disability (0) Maternal Health (0) Minors (0)
Programme-based approach	No
Tied/untied project	Untied

## 4. Inclusive and sustainable development of the tomato value chain in Egypt – AID 170251

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 2.000.000, 00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 2.000.000, 00 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary Country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Agricultural areas in Egypt
OCSE-DAC Sectors	11330 Vocational Training 31120 Agricultural Development 31162 Industrial crops/Export crops 32130 Small and Medium enterprises (SME) Development 32161 Agro-industries
Implementing partner	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Local partner	Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
Type of aid	C01 – Project-type intervention
Description	The project aims to support the development of an inclusive and sustainable tomato supply chain in Egypt by increasing the value of production for processing and improving the technical skills of young people and therefore their job/business opportunities. The project promotes agricultural and factory-level activities by encouraging agriculture and quality transformation while respecting the environment and food hygiene standards, paving the way for new business opportunities. The initiative also intends to create a Pilot Training and Assistance Center that serves the tomato processing chain by connecting primary producers with the processing industry, offering a series of services for existing and new tomato processors to develop their business through specialized training courses and the introduction of innovative products and/or processes to compete in internal and external markets.
Duration	24 months Agreement signed on 14/01/2020
SDGs	SDG 1 - End all forms of poverty in the world SDG 8 - Encourage lasting, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all SDG 9 - Building a resilient infrastructure and promoting innovation and fair, responsible and sustainable industrialization



	SDG 12 - Ensuring sustainable production and consumption models SDG 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and renew the global partnership for sustainable development
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Gender equality policy marker (Significant) Aid to environment (Principal) Participatory development / good governance (Significant) Trade development marker (Significant)
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Biodiversity (Not targeted) Climate change (Not targeted) Desertification (Not targeted) Adaptation (Not targeted)
Social and Health Markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	Disability (0) Maternal Health (0) Minors (0)
Programme-based approach	No
Tied/untied project	Untied





# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Italian Cooperation works to promote the country's sustainable economic development, supporting the Egyptian private sector with particular emphasis on agri-food chains, the transfer of know-how in industrial sectors where Italy can bring added value, and encouraging the growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MPMI) through loans at favorable interest rates. In addition, existing and planned initiatives pay particular attention to protecting the environment, respecting workers' rights, and supporting the most vulnerable sections of the population such as young people and women.

For the year 2020, the portfolio of the Italian Cooperation in the economic development sector is equal to approximately 66 million euros in donations and aid soft loans, in addition to various initiatives financed through the Debt Conversion Program which mainly intervene in supporting micro-enterprises created by women and young people.

Among the projects financed through aid soft loan, is the one for 12.6 million euros in favor of the Egyptian Agency for the Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEDA), which offers loans with favorable interest rates through the local banking system to be used both for the purchase of machinery and technical assistance services, and the most recent in the start-up phase which amounts to a total of 45 million euros in favor of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and which will allow not only the activation of soft loan lines for local small and medium-sized enterprises, but also that of a system of soft loan guarantees, which continues to be one of the most important problems for Egyptian SMEs.

In the industrial sector, the "*Robbiki Leather City*" program is currently underway, with a value of 6 million euros as a grant under direct management. This project supports the ambitious Robbiki Program launched in 2004 by the Egyptian government with the aim of creating a new industrial district for leather processing in the Robbiki industrial area, about 50 km from Cairo (Robbiki Leather City - RLC), where all the production activities related to the tanning of the hides are now located, after being transferred from the central area of old Cairo of Magra el Eyoun, where the leather processing operations were carried out with obsolete and highly polluting means of production. To

date, the infrastructure of the Robbiki industrial area has been completed thanks to the previous important contribution of the Italian Cooperation under the first and second phases of the Debt Conversion Program. The ongoing initiative intends to consolidate what has already been achieved, by supporting tanners in the decisive phase of the transfer to RLC and the requalification of leather production activities. The project focuses on supporting the management of the Leather Tanning Technology Center (LTTC) and the common structures of the RLC.

Furthermore, as part of the Debt Conversion Program, various projects promoted by both Egyptian and Italian civil society support the creation and growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (e.g. the construction and start-up of an incubator of small and medium-sized enterprises in Kharga, in the Governorate of the New Valley), contributing to improving the economic conditions of the most disadvantaged groups of the population of Upper Egypt through training and incentives for the start-up of income-generating activities, especially for women and young people.

# 1. Italian credit line with the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (formerly Social Fund for Development)– AID 99/009/00

Type of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	€ 12.600.000, 00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 0, 00 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 12.600.000,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary Country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Egypt
OCSE-DAC Sectors	32130 - Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) development
Implementing partner	Agenzia per lo Sviluppo delle Micro, Piccole e Medie Imprese (MSMEDA)
Local Partner	Ministry of International Cooperation
Typr of aid	C01 – Project-type intervention
Description	This initiative aims to make available to Egyptian SMEs loans at subsidized interest rates through the local banking system for the purpose of acquiring machinery of Italian origin to cope with a technological update necessary for the sustainable development of their business. The priority, but not exclusive, sectors identified are: agricultural mechanization and agro-food industry, leather, wood, marble, textile, packaging processing.
Duration	24 months
SDGs	<p>SDG 8 - Promote lasting, inclusive and sustainable economic growth</p> <p>8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, the creation of decent work, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation and encourage the training and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services</p> <p>SDG 9 - Resistant infrastructures, sustainable industrialization and innovation</p> <p>9.3: Increase access by small industrialists and other companies, particularly in developing countries, to affordable financial services, including soft loan, to enable their integration into chains and markets</p>
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Gender equality policy marker (Significant)</p> <p>Aid to environment (Significant)</p>



	Participatory development / good governance (Not targeted) Trade development marker (Significant)
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Biodiversity (Not targeted) Climate change (Not targeted) Desertification (Not targeted) Adaptation (Not targeted)
Social and Health Markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	Disability (0) Maternal Health (0) Minors (0)
Programme-based approach	YES
Tied/untied project	Untied



## 2. Private sector development in Egypt– AID 10698

Type of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	€ 45.000.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 0,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 45.000.000,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary Country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Egypt
OCSE-DAC Sectors	321 – Industry 32130--Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) development
Implementing partner	Ministry of Industry and Trade
Local partner	Ministry of International Cooperation
Type of aid	C01 – Project-type intervention
Description	The project aims to contribute to the creation of a favorable environment for the development of the private sector, ensuring sustainable development and inclusive growth of the country's economy. To this end, the initiative will provide both financial services (credit line, technological updating) and non-financial services (training and development of human resources).
Duration	36 months
SDGs	SDG 8 - Promote lasting, inclusive and sustainable economic growth 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, the creation of decent work, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation and encourage the training and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services 8.10: Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all SDG 9 - Resistant infrastructures, sustainable industrialization and innovation 9.3: Increase access by small industrialists and other companies, particularly in developing countries, to affordable financial services, including soft loan, to enable their integration into chains and markets
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Gender equality policy marker (Significant) Aid to environment (Significant) Participatory development / good governance (Not targeted) Trade development marker (Significant)



Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Biodiversity (Not targeted) Climate change (Not targeted) Desertification (Not targeted) Adaptation (Not targeted)
Social and Health markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	Disability (0) Maternal Health (0) Minors (0)
Programme-based approach	No
Tied/untied project	Untied





### 3. Support for the development of the Tanning District "Robbiki Leather City – RLC" AID 11128

Type of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	€ 6.000.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 6.000.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary Country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Robbiki Leather City – Badr City
OCSE-DAC Sectors	25010 Business and other services. 32130; 32163 Industry 41010; 41081 Multisector/crosscutting (general environmental protection).
Implementing partner	Ministry of Trade and Industry; Industrial Development Authority – IDA
Local partner	Ministry of Trade and Industry – MTI
Type of aid	C = project type intervention; D = expert and other technical assistance;
Description	<p>The initiative is implemented as part of the "Robbiki Program" launched in 2004 by the Egyptian government, and aimed at creating an industrial district for leather processing in the Robbiki area, and at moving all tanning production and activities to this district, instead of the center of Cairo (Magra el Eyoun), where this used to take place with obsolete and highly polluting production techniques.</p> <p>The Egyptian government requested the support of the Italian Cooperation for technical assistance and training for the benefit of the tanneries, the common services of the industrial district and the Leather Tanning Technology Center - LTTC, including the supply of machinery.</p> <p>The current initiative ensures continuity, providing support to the Egyptian government and tanners in the Robbiki Leather City and contributes to the development of production activities with modern and environmentally friendly techniques in line with international standard.</p> <p>At the moment, the operations relating to the infrastructures and the transfer of production activities to Robbiki Leather City have been completed, thanks to an important contribution of the Italian Cooperation (about 40 million Euros), mostly disbursed in the years 2004-2010 and to technical assistance</p>

	<p>provided by the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the current program, which began its functions on January 2, 2018.</p> <p>The initiative contributes, in particular, to providing the Cairo Investment Development Co. – CID (management company of ecological services) and the Leather Tanning Technology Center - LTTC (training center), set up within the Robbiki Leather City, with support for the organization of their service activities, through the supply of equipment and of specialized technical assistance provided by Italian experts.</p>
Duration	<p>24 months</p> <p>With no cost extension (Sept. 2017 – Dec 2021)</p> <p>Agreement signed on 2.11.2020</p>
SDGs	<p>SDG 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure. 9.4 by 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with greater resource efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally friendly industrial technologies and processes, with all countries acting in compliance with their respective capabilities.</p> <p>SDG 11 - Making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable 11.6 by 2030, reduce the negative per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying particular attention to air quality and urban and other waste management</p> <p>SDG 12 - ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.</p> <p>12a By 2030, achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources;</p> <p>12b By 2020, achieve environmentally sound management of chemicals and all waste throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and waste. soil in order to minimize their negative impacts on human health and the environment.</p>
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Gender Equality Policy Marker (not targeted);</p> <p>Aid to environment (Principal);</p> <p>Participatory Development/ Good Governance (Significant)</p> <p>Trade development marker (Principal);</p>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Biodiversity (Principal)</p> <p>Climate change (Not targeted)</p> <p>Desertification (Not targeted)</p> <p>Adaptation (Significant)</p>
Social and Health markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	<p>Disabilità (0);</p> <p>Maternal Health - Contributions to reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (0);</p> <p>Minors (1)</p>
Programme-based approach	YES



Tied/untied project

Partially untied



4. Support to the private sector and entrepreneurship through the establishment of a technical assistance team in favour of Egyptian SMEs – AID 9377

Type of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	€ 585.305,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 585.305,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary Country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Egypt
OCSE-DAC Sector	32130 - Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) development
Implementing partner	AICS Cairo
Local partner	AICS Cairo
Type of aid	C01 – Project-type intervention
Description	The project aims to support and strengthen the development of the Egyptian private sector with particular attention to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and to contribute to sustainable and inclusive economic growth of the country, through the creation of a Technical Assistance Team which offers assistance credit extended by the Italian Government to the benefit of the SMEs, as well as to the other initiatives of the Headquarters in the sector of economic development.
Duration	43 months January 2018 – July 2021
SDGs	SDG 8 - Promote lasting, inclusive and sustainable economic growth 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, the creation of decent work, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation and encourage the training and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to services financial 8.10 strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all SDG 9 - Resistant infrastructures, sustainable industrialization and innovation 9.3 Increase access by small industrialists and other companies, particularly in developing countries, to affordable financial services, including soft loan, to enable their integration into chains and markets

Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Gender equality policy marker (Significant) Aid to environment (Not targeted) Participatory development / good governance (Not targeted) Trade development marker (Significant)
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Biodiversity (Not targeted) Climate change (Not targeted) Desertification (Not targeted) Adaptation (Not targeted)
Social and Health markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	Disability (0) Maternal Health (0) Minors (0)
Programme-based approach	No
Tied/untied project	Untied



## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The education, technical and professional training sector is supported by the Italian Cooperation in Egypt through the strong commitment towards the Ministry of Education and Technical Education, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The activities financed by the Italian government through AICS intend to support the Egyptian government in achieving the strategic objectives described in Egypt's Vision 2030.

In 2020, interventions in support of the Egyptian TVET system continued to promote skills that meet the needs of the local labor market and increase the competitiveness of Egyptians in regional and global markets. During the second phase of the Italian-Egyptian Debt Conversion Program, the Italian-Egyptian Integrated Technical Training Center (ITEC project) was created in the sector of electronic and mechanical production in the Governorate of Fayoum, which succeeded in establishing a pilot model of technical education at the service of the industrial sectors of national priority. The ITEC project in Fayoum is one of the leading projects of the Italian Cooperation in Egypt. Since its creation, the project has proved essential to create a link between the vocational and technical education system and the private sector, adapting the training modules to the concrete needs of the Egyptian labor market.

Following the positive results achieved by the ITEC of Fayoum, during the third phase of the Italian-Egyptian Debt Conversion Program, currently underway, a new high school path was established within the ITEC itself and a new pole for technical education was created in the city of Abu Ghaleb, in the Governorate of Giza. Furthermore, in 2020, again as part of the third phase of the Program, a new intervention was launched that will contribute to the improvement of the quality of technical education in the country through the creation of a network consisting of one hundred schools of applied technology (ATS), managed by a unit based at the Ministry of Education. The initiative aims to train students who have certified skills recognized by employers on a national, regional and international level, and to improve the skills of trainers and teachers in order to replicate the educational model in each ATS. The project foresees that in ten years, the Unit (ATSs-MU) set up at the MoETE will manage a network consisting of one hundred schools of applied technology, attended by about 53,600 students and in which 7,600 staff will be employed.



In the same sector, 2020 saw the official launch of the "Support for the improvement of nursing care in three governorates in Egypt" project, the second phase of a previous project. The initiative sees the contribution of the University of Sassari and the Ministry of Health and Population and aims to support the Department for Nursing Assistance of the Ministry for the improvement of the initial and continuing training capacity of nursing staff in the Governorates of Port Said, Sharm el Sheikh and Ismailia. Following a specific request from the Egyptian government, the project has extended the intervention area to Luxor as well.

The "Water Knowledge" initiative is also being launched which will be financed through the multilateral channel and implemented by the IAM for a period of two years with the aim of improving the managerial and technical skills of the operators who deal with water resources in Egypt and the Region.



# 1. Enhance the nursing sector in three governorates in Egypt (Port Said II) – AID 11816

Type of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	€ 2.493.508,45 – 69,66%
Financial allocation a grant	€ 2.493.508,45 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 1.086.000,00 – 30,34%
Beneficiary Country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Port Said, Ismailia, Sharm el Sheikh, Luxor
OCSE-DAC Sectors	12181 Medical education/training 12191 Medical services
Implementing partner	University of Sassari (UNISS)
Local partner	Ministry of Health and Population
Type of aid	B03: Contributions to specific-purpose programmes and funds managed by international organisations (multilateral, INGO)
Description	The project aims to improve the quality of care in health services in three governorates (Port Said, Ismailia and South Sinai) by strengthening their nursing institutes and schools through the training of trainers, continuing education and the provision of technical equipment. Recently, following the needs of the Ministry of Health and Population, the governorate of Luxor was also added as an intervention area.
Duration	24 months Agreement signed on 15/07/2019 and valid until 14/07/2022
SDGs	SDG 3 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, guarantee access to justice for all, and create effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels  3c Significantly increase health funding and the recruitment, development, training and retention of health personnel in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing states  3d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, especially developing countries, for national and global early warning, risk reduction and risk management to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender equality policy marker (Significant)</li> <li>• Aid to environment (Significant)</li> <li>• Participatory development / good governance (Principal)</li> <li>• Trade development marker (Not targeted)</li> </ul>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity (Not targeted)</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Climate change (Not targeted)</li><li>• Desertification (Not targeted)</li><li>• Adaptation (Not targeted)</li></ul>
Social and Health Markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disability (0)</li><li>• Maternal Health (4)</li><li>• Minors (0)</li></ul>
Programme-based approach	YES
Tied/untied project	Untied



## 2. Water knowledge: Egyptian-Italian water training programme – AID 11808

Type of funding	Multibilateral
Total funding	€ 2.268.838,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 2.268.838,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary Country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	The project and activities will mainly be carried out in the Regional Water Resources and Irrigation Training Center (RTSWRI) in Cairo, Giza governorate.
OCSE-DAC Sector	14081 Education and training in water supply and sanitation 11413 Advanced technical and managerial training
Implementing partner	CIHEAM BARI
Local partner	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
Type of aid	C01 – Project-type intervention
Description	<p>The initiative aims to improve specific and professional knowledge and a shared vision on water as a valuable contribution to improve an integrated water management approach at an institutional level through the development of institutional capacities, infrastructural intervention, the strengthening of the network and the improvement of the quality of trainings.</p> <p>The above objective, fully pertinent to both the priorities of the Italian Cooperation and the Egyptian Government, will be achieved through the achievement of the following 2 results:</p> <p>Risultato 1: RTSWRI's physical and technical infrastructure and equipment have been enhanced to host an innovative hub of water education services in the region.</p> <p>This result contributes to achieving the project objective by ensuring adequate physical and methodological support for a better level of training delivery for RTSWRI.</p> <p>Result 2: The quality of the RTSWRI training system in the field of water has improved respectively in terms of teaching methodologies and management skills for trainers and knowledge / leadership acquisition for trainees.</p> <p>This achievement contributes to achieving the project goal, aiming to ensure a flexible and efficient training hub in Egypt and the region.</p> <p>High-level training courses in Egypt and Italy will be provided to 20 young Egyptian employees, 60 Egyptian officials from different key water management ministries at different levels, 20 regional officials from Nile basin countries and 20 Egyptian trainers, 2 laboratory technicians, for a total of 142 direct beneficiaries. Furthermore, through e-learning about 700 beneficiaries could be reached.</p>



	<p>The initiative is part of the Egyptian national 2030 strategy for sustainable development and will have a total duration of 24 months.</p> <p>The Executive Agency is CIHEAM Bari, jointly with Hydroaid.</p>
Duration	24 months (estimated start date: May 2021)
SDGs	<p>SDG 6 - Ensure sustainable management and availability of water and sanitation facilities for all</p> <p>6.4 Significantly increase water use efficiency in every sector by 2030 and ensure sustainable supplies and supplies of drinking water to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people affected</p> <p>6.5 Implement integrated water management at all levels, including through cross-border cooperation, in an appropriate manner by 2030</p> <p>SDG 4 - Quality Education: Ensure inclusive education for all and promote fair and quality lifelong learning opportunities</p> <p>4.4 By 2030, considerably increase the number of young people and adults with specific skills - including technical and professional - for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship</p> <p>4.c Considerably increase the presence of qualified teachers by 2030, also thanks to international cooperation, for their training activities in developing states, especially in less developed countries and small island developing states</p> <p>SDG 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation of the objectives and renew the global partnership for sustainable development</p> <p>17.9 Increase international support to implement effective and targeted capacity development in non-industrialized countries in order to support national plans for the achievement of all Sustainable Development goals, through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation</p>
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Gender equality policy marker (Not Targeted)</p> <p>Aid to environment (Significant)</p> <p>Participatory development / good governance (Significant)</p> <p>Trade development marker (Not Targeted)</p>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Biodiversity (Not targeted)</p> <p>Climate change (principal)</p> <p>Desertification (Significant)</p> <p>Adaptation (Significant)</p>
Social and Health markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	<p>Disability (0)</p> <p>Maternal Health (0)</p> <p>Minors (0)</p>
Programme-based approach	No
Tied/untied project	Tied amount € 2.268.838,00



# GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Italian Cooperation in Egypt has always been committed to protecting the rights of the most vulnerable groups of the population, such as minors at risk, people with disabilities, women, migrants and refugees.

In 2020, the project "Promotion of children's rights and family empowerment in the Governorate of Fayoum" continued in collaboration with the National Council for Childhood and Maternity (NCCM), the body responsible for the social protection system in the country. The program aims to ensure the protection of the rights of minors and their families, starting with the reduction of practices and phenomena such as female genital mutilation, child marriage, early school leaving, child labor, failure to register at birth and maternal and child malnutrition. The project assisted the Governorate of Fayoum in the creation of a Central Committee and six Sub-Committees for Child Protection and trained their staff. The initiative promoted assistance and prevention activities, also through the training of 202 operators including NGO representatives and social workers on mechanisms for monitoring and taking charge of cases in situations of risk and violence and the promotion of family empowerment plans. Since January 2017, 16,000 cases were reported through the Child Helpline managed by NCCM, of which more than 2,400 have been managed in the Governorate of Fayoum. The project also contributed to the creation of *Income Generating Activities* to revitalize Egyptian craftsmanship, mixing modern trends with traditional practices, in order to create new job opportunities for local communities, and in particular for women.

Besides, the initiative aimed at addressing demographic growth, one of Egypt's greatest challenges, is ongoing. To date, there are more than 100 million inhabitants, with an annual growth rate of around 2%. An alarming number, especially when correlated with the poverty rate of 32.5%, the literacy level of 32% in the country's rural areas, and a level of GDP growth that is unable to sustain such an increase in the population. The Italian Cooperation therefore supported the Egyptian Government in the implementation of the National Strategy for Population and Development 2015-2030 by promoting an initiative with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) which intends to address the issue of overpopulation in order to ensure demographic containment, through the promotion of the rights of women and the family. The program includes an innovative awareness-raising approach, which consists of an educational transmedia entertainment campaign that combines the production of a TV

series with community mobilization activities on the ground, and the improvement of reproductive health services.

Again with regard to social protection, the program called "Restorative approach to juvenile justice: socio-educational models of social reintegration and alternative measures to detention" was launched, intending to contribute to the application of the Child Convention and the national law on children's rights in juvenile justice. This two-year program will be implemented thanks to the valuable work of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Furthermore, AICS Cairo will be responsible for a directly managed component in which an exchange of experiences will be promoted between virtuous realities in the field of juvenile justice. These include the Italian system, which will be taken as example through the involvement of the Italian Ministry of Justice and other reference institutions in the restorative justice sector.

The initiative for "Promotion of the rights and social inclusion of people with disabilities in Egypt" was also approved and in the start-up phase, to strengthen the National Council for Persons with Disabilities and to improve concrete recruitment services. in charge of people with disabilities.

# 1. Restorative approach to Juvenile Justice: socio-educational models of reintegration and alternative measures to detention – AID 11925

Type of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	€ 1.994.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 1.994.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary Country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Egypt
OCSE-DAC Sectors	Government and civil society (150); Human rights (150160).
Implementing partner	UNICEF –UNODC –AICS
Local partner	Ministry of Social Solidarity
Type of aid	C01 – Project-type intervention
Description	<p>The initiative contributes to the protection of the rights of children/adolescents in conflict with the law in Egypt, contributing to the application of the Convention on the Child and the Child Law on juvenile justice. In particular, the initiative promotes the implementation and dissemination of a socio-educational model of social reintegration and alternative measures to deprivation of liberty with a restorative approach within the framework of the reform of the juvenile justice system.</p> <p>The program includes 3 results:</p> <p>R.1: A developed, promoted and systematized socio-educational model, with an integral and restorative approach in the 3 juvenile detention centers of El Marg, Ain Shams and Beni Suef (UNODC).</p> <p>R.2: Decriminalization measures (diversion) with or without restorative justice mechanisms, alternative measures to deprivation of liberty (UNICEF) are adopted by the juvenile justice system.</p> <p>R.3: The operational and interinstitutional coordination skills of the juvenile justice system have been improved and the knowledge and skills of the operators in the field of juvenile restorative justice consolidated (Direct management AICS Cairo).</p>
Duration	24 months
SDGs	SDG 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, guarantee access to justice for all,



<p>and create effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.</p> <p>16.3 Promote the rule of law nationally and internationally and ensure equal access to justice for all.</p> <p>SDG 10 - Reduce inequality within and between nations.</p> <p>10.2 By 2030, enhance and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, regardless of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic status or other.</p>	
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Gender Equality Policy Marker (Significant); Aid to environment (Not targeted); Participatory Development/ Good Governance (Principal) Trade development marker (Not targeted);
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Biodiversity (Not targeted) Climate change (Not targeted) Desertification (Not targeted) Adaptation (Not targeted)
Marker socio-sanitari <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	Disability (0) Maternal Health (0) Minors (4)
Programme-based approach	YES
Tied/untied project	Untied



## 2. Rights of minors and family empowerment in Fayoum governorate – AID 9659

Type of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	€ 1.500.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 1.500.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart fundings	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary Country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Governorate of Fayoum
OCSE-DAC Sectors	16010: Social /welfare services
Implementing partner	Consiglio Nazionale per l'Infanzia e la Maternità (NCCM)
Local partner	Consiglio Nazionale per l'Infanzia e la Maternità (NCCM)
Type of aid	C01: Project-type interventions
Description	The initiative intends to strengthen the capacities of the competent Egyptian institutions to ensure the protection of the rights of minors and their families, with particular reference to the most disadvantaged. The intervention aims to reduce practices and phenomena such as female genital mutilation, child marriage, school dropout and child labor, failure to register at birth, maternal and child malnutrition harmful to the realization of the fundamental rights of children and of their families.
Duration	24 months (expected end of project: Dec 2021) Agreement signed on 26/06/2012 and valid until 13/08/2013
MDGs	MDG 1 - Eradicate extreme poverty 1.b - Ensure full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people MDG 2 - Make primary education universal MDG 3 - Promote gender equality and women's autonomy MDG 4 - Reduce infant mortality MDG 5 - Improving maternal health
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender equality policy marker (Principal)</li> <li>• Aid to environment (Not targeted)</li> <li>• Participatory development / good governance (Principal)</li> <li>• Trade development marker (Not targeted)</li> </ul>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity (Not targeted)</li> <li>• Climate change (Not targeted)</li> <li>• Desertification (Not targeted)</li> <li>• Adaptation (Not targeted)</li> </ul>
Social and Health markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disability (1)</li> </ul>



<b>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Maternal Health (4)</li><li>● Minors (4)</li></ul>
Programme-based approach	NO
Tied/untied project	Untied



### 3. Surrounded and engaging platforms campaign: integrated approach to address population growth – AID 11624

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 2.000.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 2.000.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary Country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	National
OCSE-DAC Sectors	13030 Family planning
Implementing partner	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Local partner	Ministry of Youth and Sport (MoYS), National Council for Population (NPC)
Type of aid	B03: Contributions to specific-purpose programmes and funds managed by international organisations (multilateral, INGO)
Description	L'iniziativa ha come obiettivo generale quello di affrontare le sensibili tematiche legate alla rapida ed insostenibile crescita della popolazione egiziana al fine di assicurare il contenimento demografico e, di conseguenza, una migliore qualità della vita e delle condizioni socio-economiche del Paese. Essa intende, a tal proposito, supportare il Governo egiziano ad attuare la "National Strategy for Population and Development 2015-2030", che si pone come obiettivo principale il miglioramento della qualità della vita e la crescita economica attraverso la il contenimento demografico.
Duration	24 months (Expected end of project: May 2021) Agreement signed on 16/12/2018
SDGs	<p>SDG 3 - Promote the health and well-being of all at all ages</p> <p>3.7 - By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including family planning, information, education and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs.</p> <p>SDG 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p> <p>5.6 - Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as agreed in the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the documents produced in subsequent conferences.</p>
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender equality policy marker (Significant)</li> <li>• Aid to environment (Significant)</li> <li>• Participatory development / good governance (Principal)</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trade development marker (Not targeted)</li></ul>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Biodiversity (Not targeted)</li><li>• Climate change (Not targeted)</li><li>• Desertification (Not targeted)</li><li>• Adaptation (Not targeted)</li></ul>
Marker socio-sanitari <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disability (1)</li><li>• Maternal Health (4)</li><li>• Minors (0)</li></ul>
Programme-based approach	YES
Tied/untied project	Untied





# GENDER

The gender approach remains transversal in programs funded or directly implemented by AICS Cairo. The intent is to support Egypt in its path towards building a more inclusive and gender-responsive society through female empowerment projects and the fight against gender violence, as defined in the country's "Women's Strategy 2030".

This year saw the approval of the project "Enhancement of the role of women in Southern Egypt", which will be managed by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and which intends to socially and economically emancipate women in the target areas of Assiut and Sohag, in particular rural and marginalized women. The proposed project will adopt an integrated approach that incorporates economic, social and environmental dimensions to facilitate socio-economic empowerment of women and will bring together different actors, both at community and governmental level, involving women's rights organizations and community leaders as agents of change. The social empowerment component aims to ensure that women in the areas of intervention have better access to services that respond to gender needs and actively participate in public life, while the economic empowerment component aims to empower women and strengthen female businesses already existing in the area thanks to greater participation in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and production clusters.

With the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), a program was concluded in December 2020 to fight gender-based violence through a coordinated prevention and protection approach that aims to create an environment favorable to the enhancement of women's rights from the point of political, legal, social and cultural view, strengthening the competences of national and local entities in responding to cases of gender-based violence and promoting a strategy to combat abuse of women throughout the Egyptian territory. The project has achieved important objectives such as i) the launch of the first national institutional referral process for women and girls victims of violence, ii) the establishment of a unit for gender violence within the National Council of Women and local task forces against gender-based violence, which at the district level represent the key focal points in support of women victims of violence, iii) the establishment of 24 units against sexual harassment in various universities in 24 governorates of Egypt in order to encourage and support reporting of violence within academic institutions, iv) The establishment of the first nationwide clinic for the treatment of gender-

based violence, established within the Qasr El Eini University Hospital in Cairo. The project also provided for the involvement and training of doctors and nurses, judges and prosecutors and representatives of the national media, the Coptic Church and the religious institution of AL-Azhar on their role in the fight against gender violence.

2020 saw the continuation of the activities of the regional program in collaboration with UNFPA, UNESCWA and two consortia of NGOs, led by ARCS and OXFAM. The initiative aims to contribute to improving the living conditions of Syrian refugee women and girls and particularly vulnerable women and girls belonging to host communities in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon. The interventions carried out have a specific focus on sexual and reproductive health rights, on strengthening the capacities of stakeholders for the implementation of the international agenda for women, peace and security and on the socio-economic empowerment of both Syrian women and women of the host community in the affected areas.

Another regional program, "GEMAISA II", implemented by the IAM of Bari for a total of 2 million euros, intends to enhance gender mainstreaming for sustainable rural development and food security in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. Furthermore, among the projects implemented in the Debt Conversion Program, the "Becoming leaders" economic development project, implemented by the NGO MAIS in Upper Egypt, demonstrates a strong gender approach and contributes to supporting the entrepreneurial skills of Egyptian women in rural areas of the country.

## 1. Fighting gender violence in Egypt through a coordinated approach of prevention and protection – AID 10905

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 2.000.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 2.000.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary Country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	National
OCSE-DAC Sectors	15170 Women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions 15180 Ending violence against women and girls
Implementing partner	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Local partner	National Council for Women (NCW)
Type of aid	B03: Contributions to specific-purpose programmes and funds managed by international organisations (multilateral, INGO)
Description	This initiative is aimed at creating an environment favorable to the enhancement of women's rights from a political, legal, social and cultural point of view, strengthening the competences of national and local entities in responding to cases of gender-based violence (Gender-Based Violence - GBV) and promoting a strategy to combat abuse of women throughout the Egyptian territory. The main components of the project are three - prevention, protection and coordination/monitoring - and the related activities will be carried out through the creation of an ad hoc Unit to combat gender-based violence within the National Council for Women (National Council for Women - NCW) already established by the Egyptian government. This integrated approach in responding to the GBV reflects a broader global strategy that aims to guarantee health, legal and social services to women victims or at risk of violence, and to which several United Nations Agencies have joined, including UN Women, WHO and UNFPA. The program will be run by UNFPA for a duration of two years. The requested contribution is equal to 2 million euros.
Duration	24 months (Project ended in Dec 2020) Agreement signed on 24/11/2016
SDGs	SDG 5 - Achieve gender equality and empowerment (greater strength, self-esteem and awareness) of all women and girls 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women, girls and boys in every part of the world 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women, girls and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking for

	<p>prostitution, sexual exploitation and other types of exploitation</p> <p>5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as forced and arranged marriage of girls and female genital mutilation</p> <p>5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as agreed under the "Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development" and the "Beijing Platform for Action" and the final documents of the conferences revision</p> <p>5.c Adopt and strengthen concrete policies and applicable laws for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment, i.e. the strength, self-esteem, awareness, of all women, girls and girls at all levels</p>
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender equality policy marker (Principal)</li> <li>• Aid to environment (Not targeted)</li> <li>• Participatory development / good governance (Principal)</li> <li>• Trade development marker (Not targeted)</li> </ul>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity (Not targeted)</li> <li>• Climate change (Not targeted)</li> <li>• Desertification (Not targeted)</li> <li>• Adaptation (Not targeted)</li> </ul>
Social and Health markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disability (0)</li> <li>• Maternal Health (1)</li> <li>• Minors (0)</li> </ul>
Programme-based approach	YES
Tied/untied project	Untied

## 2. The Socio-Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Assiut and Sohag – AID 12206

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 1.000.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 1.000.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Fondo di contropartita	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contributo ente esecutore	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary Country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Upper Egypt (Assiut e Sohag)
OCSE-DAC Sectors	15170 Women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions 15180 Ending violence against women and girls
Implementing partner	UN Women
Local partner	National Council for Women (NCW)
Type of aid	C01: Project-type interventions
Description	The project intends to socially and economically emancipate women in the target areas of Assiut and Sohag, in particular rural and marginalized women, and will adopt an integrated approach that incorporates economic, social and environmental dimensions to facilitate the socio-economic empowerment of women. It will bring together different actors, both at the community and governmental levels, involving women's rights organizations and community leaders as agents of change.  The objectives envisaged are (a) Women in the intervention areas have better access to services that respond to gender needs and actively participate in public life; (b) The women of Assiut and Sohag are economically emancipated thanks to greater participation in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and production clusters.
Duration	24 months Waiting for the signing of the agreement
SDGs	SDG 5 - Achieve gender equality and empowerment (greater strength, self-esteem and awareness) of all women and girls 5.5 - Guarantee women full and effective participation and equal leadership opportunities at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life 5.c - Adopt and strengthen concrete policies and applicable laws for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment, i.e. the strength, self-esteem, awareness, of all women, girls and girls at all levels SDG 1 - End all forms of poverty in the world



	<p>1.b - Create strong national, regional and international policy frameworks based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies to support accelerated investment in poverty alleviation</p> <p>SDG 8 - Encourage lasting, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p> <p>8.5 - By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including young people and people with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value</p>
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gender equality policy marker (Principal)</li><li>• Aid to environment (Not targeted)</li><li>• Participatory development / good governance (Significant)</li><li>• Trade development marker (Not targeted)</li></ul>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Biodiversity (Not targeted)</li><li>• Climate change (Not targeted)</li><li>• Desertification (Not targeted)</li><li>• Adaptation (Not targeted)</li></ul>
Social and Health Markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disability (0)</li><li>• Maternal Health (0)</li><li>• Minors (0)</li></ul>
Programme-based approach	YES
Tied/untied project	Untied



### 3. Assistance to and empowerment of syrian refugee women and girls and vulnerable women and girls in host communities in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon– AID 11528

Type of funding	Multibilateral and bilateral
Total funding	€ 6.000.000,00 – 100% (di cui € 1.244.660,00 a valere sull'Egitto)
Financial allocation as grant	€ 6.000.000,00 – 100% (di cui € 1.244.660,00 a valere sull'Egitto)
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementin partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary Country	589 – Middle East 189 – Northern Sahara
Place of intervention	Egypt (Governorates of Damietta and Sharqeya), Jordan and Lebanon
OCSE-DAC Sectors	15170 Women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions
Implementing partners	AICS Cairo, UNFPA, UN-ESCWA, Oxfam Italy, ARCS, MAIS, Caritas
Local partner	Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS), Ministry of Youth and Sport (MoYS)
Type of aid	B03: Contributions to specific-purpose programmes and funds managed by international organizations (Multilateral, INGO)
Description	The aim of the initiative is to support Syrian refugee access to sexual and reproductive health and support services for gender-based violence, to promote the participation of Syrian women in the peace process and in the reconstruction phase of Syria in the context of the International program on Women, Peace and Security. In addition, Italian civil society organizations, in collaboration with local organizations, will carry out activities aimed at the socio-economic emancipation of both Syrian refugee women and host communities.
Duration	36 months Agreements signed between 2018 and 2019
SDGs	SDG 5 - Achieve gender equality and empowerment (greater strength, self-esteem and awareness) of all women and girls  5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women, girls and boys in every part of the world 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women, girls and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking for prostitution, sexual exploitation and other types of exploitation 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as forced and arranged marriage of girls and female genital mutilation 5.a Initiate reforms to give women equal rights of access to economic resources, such as access to ownership and control



	<p>of land and other forms of ownership, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws</p> <p>SDG 1 - End all forms of poverty in the world</p> <p>1.2 By 2030, reduce by at least half the percentage of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions</p>
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Gender equality policy marker (Principal)</li><li>Aid to environment (Not targeted)</li><li>Participatory development / good governance (Significant)</li><li>Trade development marker (Not targeted)</li></ul>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Biodiversity (Not targeted)</li><li>Climate change (Not targeted)</li><li>Desertification (Not targeted)</li><li>Adaptation (Not targeted)</li></ul>
Social and Health markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Disability (0)</li><li>Maternal Health (3)</li><li>Minors (2)</li></ul>
Programme-based approach	NO
Tied/untied project	Untied



#### 4. Enhancing gender mainstreaming for sustainable rural development and food security – Gemaisa II – AID 11155

Type of funding	Multibilateral
Total funding	€ 2.304.000,00 – 100% (di cui € 200.000 a valere sull'Egitto)
Financial allocation as grant	€ 2.304.000,00 – 100% (di cui € 200.000 a valere sull'Egitto)
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary Country	589 – Middle East 189 – Northern Sahara
Place of intervention	Egypt (Governorates of Fayoum e Sohag), Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia
OCSE-DAC Sectors	15170 Women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions 43040 Rural Development
Implementing partner	Mediterranean Agronomic Institute (IAM) of Bari
Local Partner	Ministry of Agriculture
Type of aid	B03: Contributions to specific-purpose programmes and funds managed by international organisations (multilateral, INGO)
Description	The program represents a continuation of the previous GEMAISA regional program implemented by the IAM between 2015-2016 in Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia in order to promote the empowerment of women in rural areas by promoting the management of natural resources, food security, economic empowerment and access to resources. As a continuation of the previous program, GEMAISA II has also expanded the intervention area to Jordan, Morocco and Palestine.
Duration	36 months (project expected to end on 2021) Agreement signed on 24/07/2017
SDGs	SDG 5 - Achieve gender equality and empowerment (greater strength, self-esteem and awareness) of all women and girls 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women, girls and boys in every part of the world 5.4 Recognize and enhance unpaid care work and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructures and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the family unit, according to national characteristics 5.5 - Guarantee women full and effective participation and equal leadership opportunities at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life



	<p>5.a Initiate reforms to give women equal rights of access to economic resources, such as access to ownership and control of land and other forms of ownership, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws</p> <p>SDG 2 - End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p> <p>2.3 By 2030, double agricultural productivity and income of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, families of farmers, shepherds and fishermen, including through safe and fair access to land, to other productive resources and stimuli, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities that create added value and non-agricultural employment</p>
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Gender equality policy marker (Principal)</li><li>Aid to environment (Not targeted)</li><li>Participatory development / good governance (Significant)</li><li>Trade development marker (Not targeted)</li></ul>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Biodiversity (Not targeted)</li><li>Climate change (Not targeted)</li><li>Desertification (Not targeted)</li><li>Adaptation (Not targeted)</li></ul>
Social and Health Markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Disability (0)</li><li>Maternal Health (0)</li><li>Minors (0)</li></ul>
Programme-based approach	NO
Tied/untied project	Untied





# MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In terms of migration, Egypt is an important player in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, both in terms of emigration and immigration, being a country of destination, transit and origin. According to IOM estimates, there are about 250,000 refugees and more than 6 million migrants in Egypt, of whom 900,000 are in a situation of vulnerability. At the same time, the country is the largest supplier of migrant labor in the region, mainly in Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, while 3 million Egyptians and their descendants reside in Europe, North America and Australia. Egyptian expatriates have managed to form vibrant diaspora communities around the world.

Egypt actively participates in the Khartoum Process and has proved particularly determined in fighting irregular migration. In 2016 the Government began to collaborate with the European Union to stop irregular migration at the borders and to prevent trafficking in human beings and established the National Coordination Committee for the Fight and Prevention of Irregular Migration and Trafficking in Humans (NCCPIM & TIP), focal point for sector projects

The Italian Cooperation in Egypt is actively engaged in different migration and development initiatives which mainly aim to involve diasporas in local development projects, to combat the root and structural causes of irregular migration, in line with what was decided at the Valletta Summit in 2015, and the protection and socio-economic empowerment of refugees.

The second phase of the program "ILDEA - Initiatives for the local development of Egypt through the support of Egyptians abroad", implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), promotes the enhancement of the role of diasporas as actors of development through a participatory approach that provides for the direct involvement of the Egyptian government and various stakeholders involved in migration and development issues. The first phase of the program, which ended in 2018, led to the formulation of the first National Strategy for the involvement of Egyptians abroad and to the implementation of micro projects of rural development, health care and environmental protection which allowed, through local NGOs coordinated by Egyptian Development Agency for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEDA), to illustrate how remittances from

Egyptians abroad can be used for projects in favor of the communities most affected by migration. This second phase will consolidate and expand the results of the previous intervention.

Two new programs, in their initial phase, will strengthen national capacity to fight irregular migration. The first, a Delegated Cooperation program called "MEPEP - Multi-Educational Program for the Promotion of Employment in Areas Affected by Irregular Migration" and financed through the EU Trust Fund for Africa, addresses the current trend towards irregular migration of young people vulnerable by improving the quality of the Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system in Egypt through the provision of advanced TVET training courses to better respond to the needs of the labor market, and thus increase youth employability and the Egyptian economy in general. The second, entitled "PLAY - Positive life alternatives for young Egyptians", aims to raise the awareness of various vulnerable groups regarding the risks of irregular migration and to promote job opportunities in the tourism sector and regular mobility for young people.

Finally, AICS Cairo supports the coordination of a regional initiative for the socio-economic empowerment of Syrian refugees and women from host communities.

## 1. Initiatives for local development of Egypt through the support of Egyptians abroad (ILDEA II) – AID 11625

Type of funding	Multibilateral
Total funding	€ 500.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 500.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary Country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Egypt (Governorates of Sohag) and Italy
OCSE-DAC Sector	16010 Social/ welfare services
Implementing partner	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Local Partner	State Ministry for Emigration and Egyptian Expatriate Affairs (MoSEEEA)
Type of aid	C01: Project-type interventions
Description	The project aims to support the Egyptian government in consolidating efforts to involve Egyptian expatriates in the development of the country by building a strategic policy framework on expat engagement for development along with a communication strategy with expat communities through a participatory approach which involves the involvement of various stakeholders engaged in migration and development issues.
Duration	16 months (the project is expected to end on 2021) Agreement signed on 05/02/2019
SDGs	<p>SDG 1 - End all forms of poverty in the world</p> <p>SDG 10 - Reduce inequality within and between nations</p> <p>10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and the mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies</p> <p>10.c By 2030, reduce the transaction costs of migrant remittances to less than 3 percent and eliminate remittance corridors costing 5 percent higher</p> <p>SDG 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and renew the global partnership for sustainable development</p> <p>17.18 By 2020, strengthen the capacity support mechanism for developing countries, including least developed countries and small island developing states, to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts</p>

Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender equality policy marker (Significant)</li> <li>Aid to environment (Significant)</li> <li>Participatory development / good governance (Principal)</li> <li>Trade development marker (Not targeted)</li> </ul>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity (Not targeted)</li> <li>Climate change (Not targeted)</li> <li>Desertification (Not targeted)</li> <li>Adaptation (Not targeted)</li> </ul>
Social and Health markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability (0)</li> <li>Maternal Health (0)</li> <li>Minors (0)</li> </ul>
Programme-based approach	NO
Tied/untied project	Untied



## 2. Providing Positive Life Alternatives to Egyptian Youth (PLAY) – AID 11963

Type of funding	Multibilateral
Total funding	€ 1.490.388,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 1.490.388,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary Country	142 – Egitto
Place of intervention	Alexandria and Beheira
OCSE-DAC Sectors	11330 Vocational training 32130 Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) development
Implementing partner	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Local partner	Ministry of State for Emigration and Egyptian Expatriate Affairs (MoSEEEA), Ministry of Tourism, Egyptian Agency for the Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEDA)
Type of aid	C01: Project-type interventions
Description	The general objective of the project is to help prevent the illegal migration of young Egyptians by offering them viable alternatives. We want to achieve this goal through the implementation of a series of activities divided into three components: i) raising awareness and empowerment of young people and other vulnerable groups regarding the risks of irregular migration; ii) improve training and increase job opportunities in the tourism sector; iii) promoting the mobility of young people through regular migration.
Duration	24 months Waiting for the signing of the agreement
SDGs	SDG 1 - End all forms of poverty in the world SDG 8 - Encouraging lasting, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all SDG 10 - Reduce inequality within and between nations 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and the mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies SDG 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, long-lasting and sustainable SDG 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and renew the global partnership for sustainable development
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender equality policy marker (Significant)</li> <li>• Aid to environment (Not targeted)</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participatory development / good governance (Principal)</li><li>• Trade development marker (Not targeted)</li></ul>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Biodiversity (Not targeted)</li><li>• Climate change (Not targeted)</li><li>• Desertification (Not targeted)</li><li>• Adaptation (Not targeted)</li></ul>
Social and Health Markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disability (0)</li><li>• Maternal Health (0)</li><li>• Minors (0)</li></ul>
Programme-based approach	SI
Tied/untied project	Untied





# ENVIRONMENT

In Egypt, environmental protection and biodiversity face several challenges: the effects of climate change, mass tourism, degradation of natural habitats and poaching have a direct effect on Egyptian ecosystems. To address these threats, Egypt adopted Law 102/1983, which established a national system of Protected Areas, launched a national strategy and signed several international protocols and conventions.

The Italian Cooperation has supported various environmental protection and support activities for the development of the Egyptian system of Protected Areas. Since the 1990s, Egypt has been supported by the Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation Program - EIECP. The first phase of the program began in the late 1990s, while its second phase ended in 2010.

The EIECP has supported Egypt in the protection of natural resources and cultural heritage through (i) strengthening the legal framework and capacity-building and institutional support activities; (ii) the implementation of the Siwa Environmental Amelioration Project (SEAP), the development project of the Gebel Elba National Park and the intervention in the Protected Area of Wadi Rayan and Wadi Hitan, which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the second phase, attention was focused on improving the governance of natural resources and strengthening local communities.

Today the Egyptian Ministry of the Environment is supported by the third phase of the EIECP which aims at a sustainable use of protected areas through a community-based management of natural resources (CBNRM). Through the involvement of stakeholders for each area of intervention and under the management of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the initiative promotes sustainable eco-tourism with the direct involvement of local communities and the integration of all other potential local economic activities, such as agriculture and fishing. As part of these activities, the Program favors the increase in economic income for families living around protected areas, also encouraging participation in management decisions concerning the same areas and through the promotion of local crafts.

The collaboration with the Ministry of Construction and Urban Planning continues for the development of the community of "Zabaleen", the informal recyclers in the city of May 15 in Cairo, which is among the most discriminated and poor groups, and is afflicted with major problems in urban planning, health, education, such as the lack of basic services, the sewage system, schools and health

centers. The presence of large quantities of waste and the high concentration of children generates major health risks. The project, in a first phase, made the area safe and protected from any floods, financing the construction of a drainage canal, and is now developing, with the participation of the entire community, an urban plan. In the next phase, the project will contribute to the implementation of the aforementioned plan and awareness campaigns among the population on the environment, health and education.

The important contributions of the Italian Government for the creation and management of Protected Areas, and in general of environmental programs in Egypt, were presented by the AICS Headquarters in Cairo during COP 14 - Meeting of the Conference of the Parties at the Convention on Biological Diversity - held in Sharm el Sheik in November 2018.

As part of previous initiatives, the Italian Cooperation has financed the installation of a municipal solid waste collection and recycling plant in the Governorate of Minya, giving a strong boost to the sustainable management of urban pollution and rural areas.

# 1. Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation Program (EIECP III)

## – AID 5299

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 2.400.000, 00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 2.400.000, 00 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementig partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary Country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Wadi El Gemal, Red Sea, Wadi Rayan, Fayoum, Siwa, Matrouh, White Desert and New Valley
OCSE-DAC Sectors	41030 Biodiversity 41040 Site preservation 41010 Environmental policy and administrative management
Implementing partner	United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
Local partner	Ministry of environment
Type of aid	C01 – Project-type intervention
Description	The initiative aims to support the Nature Conservation Sector, the Egyptian Ministry of the Environment agency for the management of protected areas, in promoting community-based income generation mechanisms for the management of protected areas. The program will support eco-tourism activities to strengthen local communities living next to protected areas and at the same time implement plans for the sustainable management of natural resources.
Duration	36 months + 36 months no cost extension Agreement signed on 17/06/2015 and valid until 31/05/2021 Activities started on 01/06/2016
SDGs	SDG 15 - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of the terrestrial ecosystem, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and stop the loss of biological diversity 15.a Mobilize and significantly increase economic resources from all sources to preserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems. SDG 13 - Promote actions, at all levels, to combat climate change 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptation to climate-related risks and natural disasters in all countries. SDG 14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Gender equality policy marker (Significant) Aid to environment (Principal) Participatory development / good governance (Significant) Trade development marker (Significant)
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Biodiversity (Principal) Climate change (Not targeted) Desertification (Not targeted) Adaptation (Significant)
Social and Health Markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	Disability (0) Maternal Health (0) Minors (0)
Programme-based approach	YES
Tied/untied project	Untied



## 2. Development of 15th of May Zabaleen Recyclers Community – AID 04704

Tie of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	€ 850.000, 00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 850.000, 00 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary Country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	15 May, Governorate of Cairo
OCSE-DAC Sector	43030 – Urban development and management 43031 – Urban land policy and management 43032 – Urban development
Implementing partner	Informal Settlements Development Funds (ISDF)
Local partner	Ministry of International Cooperation
Type of aid	C01 – Project-type intervention
Description	The project contributes to the development of the “zabbaleen” community (ie those who collect and sort urban waste) in the May 15 district of the Cairo Governorate
Duration	48 months Dec 2017 - Dec 2021
SDGs	SDG 11 - Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, flexible and sustainable  11.1: By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and the elimination of slums  11.3: By 2030, improve urbanization and inclusive and sustainable capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable planning and management of human settlement in all countries
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Gender equality policy marker (Significant) Aid to environment (Significant) Participatory development / good governance (Significant) Trade development marker (Not targeted)
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Biodiversity (Not targeted) Climate change (Not targeted) Desertification (Not targeted) Adaptation (Not targeted)
Social and Health markers	Disability (0 - 1)

<i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	Maternal Health (0) Minors (1)
Programme-based approach	No
Tied/untied project	Untied



# CULTURE AND TOURISM

The Italian Cooperation in Egypt supports the Ministries of the Environment and Antiquities in the field of environmental protection and the conservation and promotion of historical, archaeological and cultural heritage. In particular, the objectives envisaged for the coming years include strengthening and improving the management of historical and cultural heritage (e.g. archaeological sites and national museums).

In detail, a project has been launched that intends to rehabilitate the collection of the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo (MIA), which was damaged in 2014. MIA is considered one of the most important in the world for its exceptional collection of rare objects in wood, plaster, metal, ceramic, glass, crystal and textiles. On 24 January 2014, the museum was severely damaged due to a terrorist attack on the main security centers located in front of the building. The government then launched a request for cooperation and the Italian government responded. The Ministry of Antiquities and the implementing body, the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) have selected three other museums that will participate in the project, in addition to MIA, or the National Museum of Egyptian civilization (NMEC), the Gayer Anderson Museum and the El Manial Palace Museum. This network of museums will benefit from theoretical and on-the-job training in museum management and restoration. The project also includes the restoration of damaged exhibition objects and the preparation of the exhibition of an emblematic masterpiece of Islamic art, restored in the context of the aforementioned training activities. As for the communication and visibility part, the initiative will support the use of digital technologies and the creation of a website, a mobile application and a social page for the promotion of the Islamic art collections of the selected museums.

## 1. Rehabilitation of the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo damaged exhibition – AID 10439

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 800.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 800.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary Country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Cairo
OCSE-DAC Sectors	16350 – Culture and recreation
Implementing partner	UNESCO
Local partner	Ministry of Turism and Antiquities (MoTA)
Type of aid	C01: Project-type interventions
Description	The Cairo Museum of Islamic Art is considered one of the most important in the world for its exceptional collection. On 24 January 2014 it was heavily damaged in a terrorist attack. The government has launched a request for cooperation to which the Italian government has responded. Therefore, the Italian Cooperation in Cairo, the Ministry of Antiquities of Egypt and UNESCO have agreed to join forces through this project which aims to improve the enhancement of Islamic art in Egypt by contributing to the full rehabilitation of the Museum.
Duration	12 months (Project expected to end on Dec 2021) Agreement signed on 27/11/2014
MDGs	MDG 1 - Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger 1.2 Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender equality policy marker (Not targeted)</li> <li>• Aid to environment (Not targeted)</li> <li>• Participatory development / good governance (Not targeted)</li> <li>• Trade development marker (Not targeted)</li> </ul>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity (Not targeted)</li> <li>• Climate change (Not targeted)</li> <li>• Desertification (Not targeted)</li> <li>• Adaptation (Not targeted)</li> </ul>
Social and Health Markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disability (0)</li> <li>• Maternal Health (0)</li> <li>• Minors (0)</li> </ul>
Programme-based approach	YES
Tied/untied project	Untied



# ITALIAN-EGYPTIAN DEBT SWAP PROGRAM PHASE III

The Italian-Egyptian Debt Conversion Program is one of the most important cooperation tools between the two countries and it is based on the concepts of local ownership of the development processes and full involvement of Egyptian Public Bodies and Italian and Egyptian Civil Society in the implementation of the funded initiatives.

The Program was created in 2001, the year in which the first debt conversion agreement was signed between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for an amount of 149 million US dollars. This phase has seen numerous successes with a total of fifty-three funded initiatives in various fields of action such as the environment, cultural heritage, rural development, development of small and medium-sized enterprises, education, and social protection.

The second phase began in 2007 with the signing of the second intergovernmental agreement, and ended in December 2017 financing thirty-one projects for a total of 100 million dollars. In line with the bilateral cooperation interventions and with the priorities identified in the National Development Plan, and on the basis of the Joint Declaration of the two Governments signed on 12 May 2009, the funded initiatives focused on issues in continuity with those of the first agreement.

The third debt conversion agreement between Italy and Egypt was signed on 10 May 2012 and entered into force on 15 August 2012, with an expected duration of 11 years and a total value of 100 million US dollars.

To date, twenty-one initiatives with signed executive agreements have been approved by the Management Committee, of which seven for the benefit of public bodies, one promoted by the World Food Program and thirteen in favor of civil society organizations. Of these initiatives, ten have been completed, two projects have been canceled and nine are in progress.

In the sector of socio-economic development of women, in 2020 a project promoted by the Egyptian association FAODA was concluded, with the aim of improving the conditions of unemployed mothers

and younger girls, through training courses and the provision of loans for the development of small activities related to the breeding of chickens. As part of the project, 750 direct beneficiaries and about 2000 indirect beneficiaries received poultry of the indigenous Bigawi breed (for a total of 68,000 specimens), along with feed, vaccinations, and construction / renovation of chicken coops. The women also participated in training courses organized by the NGO. Thanks to these courses, egg production has increased from one egg every 96 hours to one egg every 36 hours, the mortality rate of chickens has decreased (about 16 chickens per 100 over a 500-day production cycle) and there was a reduction in the use of medicines and veterinary care. Finally, 5 marketing committees have been created and are responsible for devising business plans for the sale of poultry and eggs.

In the sector of creating job opportunities for the young sections of the population, it is important to underline the valuable contribution of the Italian NGO CISS and its project currently underway in the New Valley Governorate. This project aims to strengthen the social and economic role of women and young people in the governorate through income-generating activities closely related to local needs and the availability of natural resources. The project has established a business incubator that will support the creation of around 50 small formal and informal businesses run by women and young people. In particular, the incubator will offer various services, including work spaces and professional training courses in the sectors of artisanal production, local agricultural production and ecotourism.

Also worthy of mention is the project carried out in the Governorates of Behera and Alexandria by the Egyptian NGO Alex Workshop Center, which aims to promote the dignity and social inclusion of people with mental disabilities and speech difficulties, using art as a tool for personal expression and as means of creating economic opportunities. The art workshops have already been created and equipped with all the necessary machinery and equipment and about 40 beneficiaries have received training courses in artistic disciplines such as glass and porcelain processing, wood carving, recycling of leather products. It is interesting to note that, while the instructors are professionals (university professors), their assistants and facilitators are the beneficiaries of a previous project with the same objective funded under the second phase of the Program.

Two other projects, the first phases of which ended in 2020 and the second will begin shortly, are dedicated to local economic development, especially in favor of women and small producers.

The first, "HOPE", presented by the Italian NGO COSPE, aims to improve the efficiency and sustainability of the Kheir we Baraka foundation in a national platform for small agricultural producers and artisans, and to guarantee better working and socio-economic conditions through the supply of ad hoc and low cost social services. The project organized training courses for 13 groups of artisans, mainly women, residing in eight different governorates (Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, Sharkia, Behera, Sohag, Qena and Assiut). As a result of the courses, new products have been developed such as wooden dolls, accessories made from cow horns and banana leaves, kilim rugs, items embroidered with crochet and other traditional embroidery techniques, and objects in leather and brass. Different designs have been created for each type of product. At the same time, in the governorate of Minya 6 groups of farmers participated in training courses and acquired practices in the agricultural field. Old bad habits that had negative effects on the harvest have been eradicated and there is a general increase in the quality and quantity of production.

The second, "Becoming Leaders", promoted by the NGO MAIS, aims to support the productive activities of a group of artisans in the Governorate of Sohag through the creation of a Committee for Crafts with the involvement of five local NGOs, which will play a role active in safeguarding the traditional crafts of the area. To date, the Crafts Committee, whose mission is to promote crafts and support small local producers, has consolidated and is gaining great popularity in the Governorate of Sohag. Thanks to the training courses, the beneficiaries began to produce and sell both in groups, in order to minimize costs and maximize profits, and by setting up their own business and starting small businesses. From a social point of view, in addition to having increased the level of trust, established a climate of solidarity and created a strong sense of belonging to the Committee, the project has made the beneficiaries active subjects, ready to set aside from time to time the pre-established role of woman and mother to get involved and dedicate themselves to their aspirations. It is gratifying to note that, in a completely spontaneous way, the beneficiaries of the courses organized themselves to give lessons and transfer the skills learned to other women in the community.

As far as public bodies are concerned, it is worth noting the contribution of projects promoted by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education, which aim to improve the technical education sector in Egypt in order to meet the needs of the labor market and to increase the competitiveness of Egyptian technicians in the regional and global market. The initiative that establishes a new high school path within the first Italian-Egyptian integrated center for technical training (ITEC) in the city of Demo, Governorate of Fayoum, fits into this framework. The courses of the first three specializations (electrical and photovoltaic systems, vehicle repair and maintenance and manufacturing) started in September 2018. As regards the fourth specialization (air conditioning maintenance), the courses started in September 2019.

Currently, the students enrolled in the four specializations are 186 in total. A quality control system has been developed and both teaching and administrative staff have been trained on how this system works.

Based on the success and experience acquired within the first Italian-Egyptian Integrated Technical Education Cluster (ITEC) at Demo, the Ministry of Higher Education has proposed the establishment, as part of the Third Phase of the Program, of a new ITEC in the city of Abu Ghaleb (Governorate of Giza), which will host about 1000 students. To date, the periodic recruitment of teachers and administrators continues, and they can periodically benefit from training courses, and orientation sessions have been organized for students and their families. Vocational Education and Training (IeFP) offers two specializations: electrical and photovoltaic systems and clothing. Students who pass the final exam will obtain a double high school diploma valid in both countries. Currently 388 students are enrolled.

Also in the education sector, in 2020 a new initiative was planned and will contribute to the improvement of the quality of technical education in the country through the creation of a network consisting of one hundred schools of applied technology (ATS), managed by a unit based at the Ministry of Education. The initiative aims to train students who have certified skills recognized by employers on a national, regional and international level and to improve the skills of trainers and teachers in order to replicate the educational model in each ATS. The project foresees that in ten

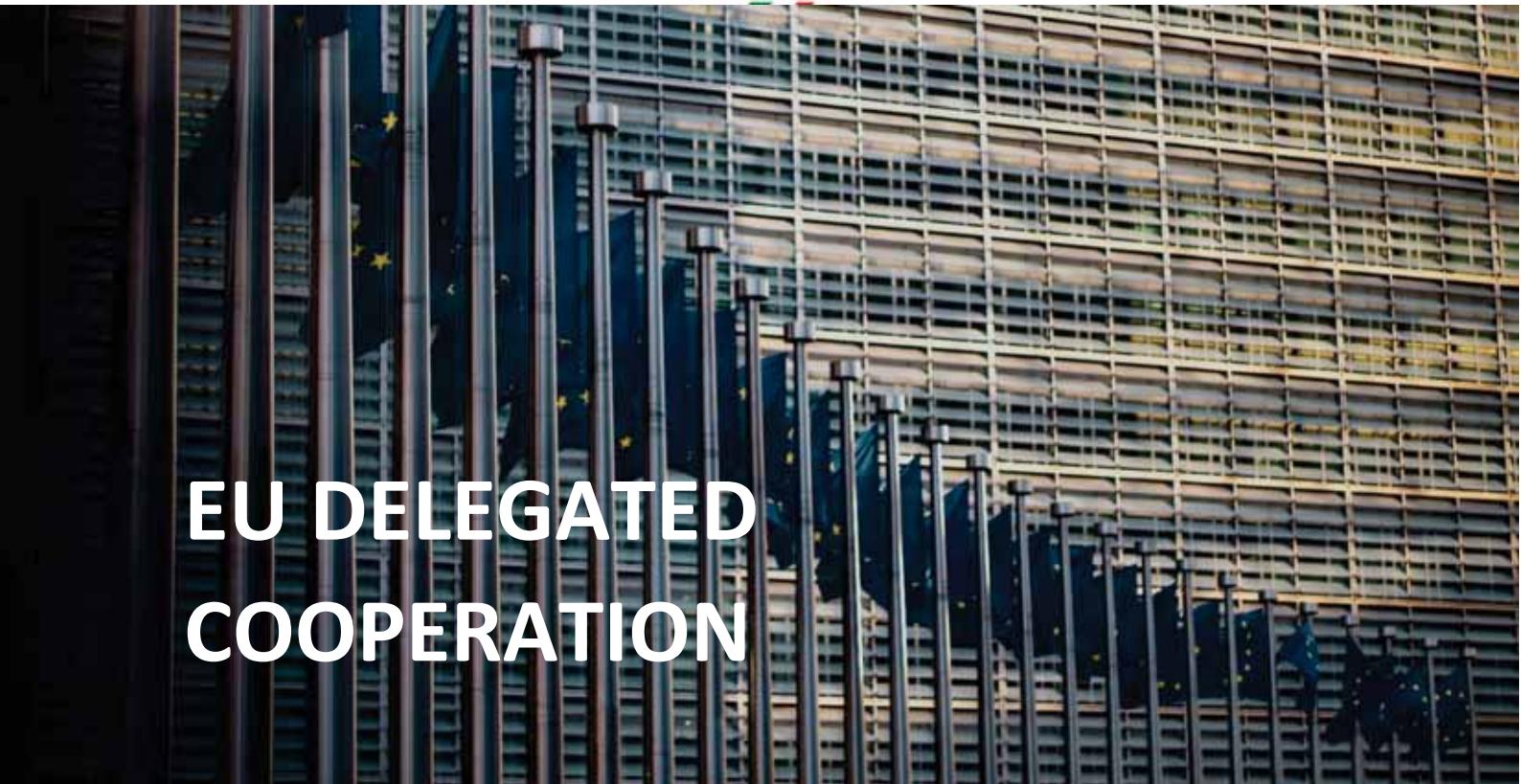
years, the Unit (ATSS-MU) set up at the MoETE will manage a network consisting of one hundred schools of applied technology, attended by about 53,600 students and in which 7,600 staff will be employed, including teachers and trainers.

Another important initiative funded under the third phase of the Program is the MADE II project, promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation. The initiative represents an expansion of the MADE I project (IEDS Phase II) and aims to further consolidate the marine aquaculture sector in Egypt taking into account the local economy and needs through a sustainable and responsible approach. The initiative will build two hatcheries at the Port Said and K21 sites. To date, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation has developed a strategic plan for the development of aquaculture at the national level and has identified 21 areas suitable for the construction of plants on the shores of the Mediterranean (12) and the Red Sea (9). The plan will become operational following the issuance of a presidential decree. As regards technical assistance services for private producers, a dialogue has been established between a delegation of 10-15 producers and the governmental authority responsible for exports, which is carrying out a feasibility study for the sale of fish products. Meanwhile, the construction of the veterinary laboratory, the hatchery for fry in Port Said and the completion of the hatchery at Km 21-Agamy (Alessandria) are underway.

As regards the Environment Sector, in 2020 an intervention was launched which intends to further improve the solid waste collection and management system in the governorate, building on the successes recorded in the context of a previous intervention, which allowed the construction from scratch of a pilot plant for the management of solid waste in the city of Edwa, in the north of Minya governorate. To achieve this goal, the main components of the project are the transfer of technical skills for the implementation and monitoring of the waste management plan in the Governorate prepared by the National Solid Waste Management Program (NSWMP) and the construction of a new recycling implant in the city of Minya for the biomechanical treatment of municipal waste, on the model of the one implemented in Edwa with the use of Italian technology in the sector.

In 2020, the executive agreement was signed for a project promoted by the World Food Program that supports students in first grade community schools and their families, especially women and adolescents, through innovative multidisciplinary approaches complementary to national social protection programs. The interventions that includes: the distribution of meals in schools (School Feeding), the provision of subsidies on a monthly basis to the families of conditional students with a high rate of school attendance, the organization of professional training courses, improving the access of beneficiary families to livelihood opportunities and the granting of micro-loans on a rotating basis.

Finally, again within the debt conversion program, an initiative is underway for a value of approximately LE 360 million (approximately 18.7 million euros) which envisages the construction of 10 vertical silos for the storage of grain in collaboration with the Ministry of Supply. The project aims to improve food security and the value of local grain production in Egypt.



# EU DELEGATED COOPERATION

The European Union and its member countries, at an aggregate level, represent the main source of Official Development Aid on a global scale (OECD-DAC). In 2017, the European Union embraced the sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda and placed them at the helm of its cooperation action through the "New European Consensus on Development" which represents a strategic reference framework for both EU institutions than for member countries. Development cooperation is a pillar of the European Union and the financial instruments it uses are managed by three Directorates General of the Commission, in synergy with the External Action Service (EEAS): DEVCO, NEAR and ECHO.

Art. 6 of Law 125/2014 traces a two-way relationship between the Italian Cooperation system and the European Union: on the one hand, "Italy participates in the definition of the European Union's development aid policy, contributes to the budget and funds of the European Union and harmonises its own guidelines and programming lines with those of the European Union, favoring the realization of joint projects ", on the other hand" Italy contributes to the execution of European development aid programs, also by participating in indirect centralized management, usually through the Agency. "

In May 2018, the Agency completed the accreditation process as a qualified organization for the indirect management of European funding, passing the pillar assessment. From that moment on, AICS assumed full ownership of delegated cooperation initiatives.

The expression "delegated cooperation" indicates, in the framework of the "EU Code of Conduct on the division of labor in the field of development policy", a management method that allows the European Commission to delegate funds to a Member State for the execution of cooperation programs following the signing of specific Delegation Agreements and, in turn, for the Member States to transfer resources to the Commission itself through the signing of Transfer Agreements, all in order to promote greater concentration and aid effectiveness in those partner countries and sectors in

which the added value of a specific donor is more evident, with a view to reciprocity and maximization of aid effectiveness.

From 2012 to today, delegated cooperation has been consolidated to the point of representing an essential element of Italian cooperation. Italy was among the first four Member States performing EU cooperation, with clear positive returns for the Italian development cooperation system as a whole, in terms of both the volumes of resources available for cooperation interventions and political visibility within the EU itself, with partner countries and with other donors.

To date, AICS Cairo manages two programs under EU external action funds. The "EU-JRDP - EU Joint Rural Development Program", concluded in October 2020 and financed for an amount of about 22 million euros, aims to improve the quality of life of people living in rural areas by setting two objectives: to increase the production of sustainable agriculture through good management in terms of effectiveness and efficiency of water and natural resources, and to improve the living conditions of rural areas through the increase of activities that provide economic returns. The "MEPEP - Multi-Educational Program for Employment Promotion in Migration-affected areas", whose Agreement was signed at the end of 2020 for a total of 6 million euros, intends to improve the socio-economic conditions in the areas of intervention to counter trends towards irregular migration by strengthening the national technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system.

Two other Delegated Cooperation proposals are under negotiation. The first, entitled "EU-ZIRA3A - European Union Integrated Rural Development Program for Egypt" (€ 27.3 million), was designed to support the Egyptian government in implementing the Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy (SADS) for 2030 in three governorates of Sohag, Asyut and Damietta. The objective of the action is to improve the living conditions and incomes of smallholder farmers and their communities in the three governorates through a sustainable and integrated approach to rural development, while addressing the issues of increasing scarcity of resources in a context of rapid population growth. The second, called "WATDEV - Climate Smart Water Management and Sustainable Development for Food and Agriculture in East Africa" (EUR 7.5 million) aims to ensure the sustainability of water management in agricultural systems and the resilience of agro-systems to climate change in East Africa and Egypt.



## Eu-Joint Rural Development Programme (EU-JRDP)

The European Union program called European Union - Joint Rural Development Program provides for initiatives focused on geographical redevelopment implemented by the local offices of the Italian Development Cooperation in the Governorates of Matrouh, Fayoum and Minya. The program is funded by the European Union for 21.9 million euros under the "European Neighborhood Program for Agriculture and Rural Development" and co-financed in parallel by the Italian government for 11 million euros.

In the Governorate of Matrouh, the European Union also financed, under the leadership of the same steering committee of the EU-JRDP, the "Demining" component implemented by the UNDP. The purpose of the EU-JRDP is to improve the quality of life of people living in rural areas by setting two specific objectives: (i) to increase the production of sustainable agriculture through good management in terms of effectiveness and efficiency of water resources and natural; and (ii) to improve living conditions in rural areas by increasing activities that provide for economic returns.

The results achieved in the implementation phase of the program are the following:

Matrouh:

- With reference to the expected result "Collection of rainwater and increase of land destined for agriculture", the Program has rehabilitated 1355 Roman cisterns and wells, increasing water storage capacity by 3.3% and reducing water scarcity for domestic use by 72%, the cost of drinking water by 87% and the water supply time by 80%. The rehabilitation or construction of small dams along Wadi's 55 km have contributed to increasing the availability of productive land (750 feddan, about 315 hectares) and significantly reducing soil erosion and degradation by 50 to 25%. All these actions have contributed to a substantial increase in the quality of life of people living in these rural areas, especially the poorest ones in Matrouh where there are more than 9500 families living in conditions of extreme poverty
- With reference to the expected result "Adoption of Good Agricultural Practices in order to enhance the quality and quantity of products and strengthen local associations in order to improve agricultural services", the practices introduced, thanks to the construction of demonstration sites for production mainly of oil, figs and table grapes, but also of almonds, barley and wheat, have increased the productivity of these crops by up to 30% in the Wadis and 25% for crops registered as Geographical Indications (GIs). Selected varieties were promoted and horticultural gardens created for women, increasing the income produced and improving the nutritional status of the families involved, thanks to the greater diversification of available food products, mainly vegetable.
- With reference to the expected result "Strengthening rural communities and community associations", the main success concerns the MADAD association of Matrouh which was directly involved in the registration of some products (olive oil, figs and grapes) as GIs products, increasing their pool of users and members. Through MADAD, the access to the



market of the farmers involved has been improved, the value of the products increased and traditional production methods and knowledge preserved. For the first time in Egypt, a national committee on Geographical Indications was created within the Ministry of Commerce.

- With reference to the expected result "Improvement of pastoralism and pastures", 200 farming communities (35,000 people) received improved sheep and goats and numerous veterinary services including vaccination of livestock (27,800 vaccinated animals). As a result, mortality has decreased, prices and the average weight of the improved animals have increased, and the quantity of milk produced (+ 50%). Milk is used by 15 groups of women for the production of dairy products for self-consumption and sale.

Minya and Fayoum:

- With reference to the expected result "Improving the efficiency of the irrigation system and water management", the Program has restructured the irrigation infrastructures at the level of the main and secondary channels. These are interventions for a total of 3,554 feddan and 2,351 small agricultural producers. The program has also improved irrigation efficiency at the level of irrigated parcels on a total of 394 feddans and 389 small producers and has introduced new practices and technologies in favor of an additional 1000 farmers. Thanks to these works, the productivity and value of all the land involved have increased. In addition, renovations through local companies have favored the creation of seasonal and permanent jobs, producing further positive effects in the local economy.

- With reference to the expected result "Adoption of Good Agricultural Practices in order to enhance the quality and quantity of products", 1,000 families benefited from interventions to improve horticultural production, such as the introduction of new technologies for irrigation (leveling laser and raised bed irrigation) and for agricultural production (greenhouses and improved seeds).

- With reference to the expected result "Management and conversion of agricultural waste and urban solid waste", agricultural producers and women were trained, through extensive awareness campaigns, respectively in composting techniques and in better management of urban residues, which are then recycled and sold to large recycling companies or local farmers. The success of these activities is also demonstrated by the expansion of the same, beyond the objectives of the Program, by the women involved. The use of agricultural and urban waste, which is no longer thrown into canals or burned, has favored an improvement in the quality of water and air, with obvious positive effects on the health of the surrounding communities.

- With reference to the expected result "Improvement of rural communities and community associations", 70 associations, elected committees and organizations have been created and supported for the management of specific issues, such as the management of irrigation channels or technical support to local farmers, who are also put in direct contact with the Ministry of Agriculture and its technicians. These activities have significantly improved the

management of available resources, reducing conflicts between farmers and increasing productivity and access to local and regional markets.

- With reference to the expected result "Improvement of the capacity building of local service providers", closely linked to the previous expected result, the aforementioned entities were trained towards a vision aimed at business, with specific and regulated roles and functions. These entities do not function only as a point of contact, but as real service providers, able to also offer technical services, machinery and inputs to their members, allowing the increase of the income generated by these activities.

- With reference to the expected results "Development of archaeological sites and creation of an action plan" and "Creation of a local action group", specific to the Governorate of Fayoum, the Program facilitated access to multiple archaeological and cultural sites through the restructuring of access roads and tourist centers. Maps have been created with different itineraries (Culture, Archeology, Nature), also available on the specific application for Android and iOS "VisitFayoum". The tourist offer was also strengthened through the creation of a community kitchen, entirely managed by women throughout the production chain, and the introduction of new designs, mostly geometric, for the typical ceramics of the village of Tunis. The Local Action Group, made up of local stakeholders, both public and private, active in the tourism sector, has the function of directing future activities, increasing the capacities of local actors in the offer, management and advertising of tourism in the Governorate of Fayoum.

# **Multi-Educational Programme for Employment Promotion in Migration-Affected Areas (MEPEP)**

The project is a component assigned to Italy of the program called "ERMCE - Enhancing the Response to Migration Challenges in Egypt", approved by the Valletta Trust Fund (EUTF) in 2017 for a total amount of 60 million euros. The general objective of the project is to improve the socio-economic conditions in the areas of intervention to counter the trends of irregular migration due to widespread poverty and conditions of vulnerability. The specific objectives are i) to improve the quality level of the teaching system in technical schools in Egypt; ii) to promote new and fairer employment opportunities and income generation for young people and vulnerable people, by improving their skills and competences to seize the potential offered by current industrial development in the areas of interest.

The MEPEP is therefore in line with the operational framework of the North Africa section of the European Union Trust Fund for Africa, and is in particular part of priority action 4 "addressing the drivers of irregular migration" and the strategic objective 4 "to promote a more inclusive social and economic environment and stability in the region". Within the ERMCE program for Egypt it falls under specific objective 2, or "addressing the root causes of irregular migration".

With a planned duration of three years, the action aims to strengthen economic opportunities, in particular for vulnerable groups, by improving the quality of the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system in Egypt. The action identified Sharkeya governorate as a target area in consultation with local authorities. Sharkeya is in fact one of the governorates with the largest number of young Egyptians who wish to leave Egypt and emigrate irregularly to other countries. In particular, the industrial zone of 10th Ramadan turned out to be the most appropriate target area thanks to the presence of a dynamic industrial force, both Egyptian and foreign, on which the creation of a high-level and market-oriented TVET center can have the greatest impact. This area houses the Ramadan Training Center 10 belonging to the Productivity and Professional Training Department of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, which will be the beneficiary center of the activities.

The expected results of the program are: i) The quality of the TVET system in the industrial field has improved both in terms of teaching methodologies for teachers and trainers and in the acquisition of skills for students; ii) The physical and technical infrastructure of the 10th Ramadan Training Center in Sharkeya Governorate is upgraded to house a Vocational Training Center; iii) The employability of young boys and girls has improved through the promotion of job placement and the creation of synergies with industrial players at national and local level.

AICS Cairo will work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE) and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoTI), in particular with its Department for Productivity and Vocational Training (PVDT), as these are the main national bodies in charge of technical and professional education and training.



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