



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Cairo Office  
EGYPT



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An aerial photograph of Cairo, Egypt, showing a mix of modern and traditional architecture. The Cairo Tower, a prominent landmark with a lattice-like structure, stands on the right. In the foreground, there are several large, light-colored buildings with domes, surrounded by lush green trees. The background shows a dense urban landscape under a clear blue sky.

AICS  
CAIRO



# COUNTRY PROFILE

## Demographic data

**Official language:** Arabic

**Other spoken languages:** English and French are fluently used by the most educated classes

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

**Capital city:** Cairo

**Population:** about 112 million

**Population density:** 113 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>

**Population growth rate:** 1,5 %

**Life expectancy:** 74,7 years

**Literacy rate:** 73,1 %

**Religions:** Islam 90% (predominantly Sunni), christianity 10% (mostly Coptic Orthodox; there are also Aphostolic Armenians, Catholic, Maronites, Orthodox and Anglicans)

**Human Development Index:** 0,731

## Economic data

**GDP:** 398,40 billion USD

**GDP yearly growth rate:** 4,2 %

**GDP per capita at purchasing parity power:** 12.320 international dollar

**Unemployment rate:** 7,1%

**Inflation rate:** 25.8% January 2023 - 33.7% December 2023

**Export goods:** Unrefined oil and derivatives, gold, chemical and agricultural sector, cotton, textile sector, metal products

**Import goods:** Grain, oil, food sector, chemical sector, machinery and equipment, wood

**Principali partner d'esportazione:** United States of America, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Greece, Italy, India, Germany





# THE ITALIAN COOPERATION IN EGYPT

The Italian Cooperation has forty years of activity in Egypt, promoting since 1982 projects that help foster sustainable socio-economic development in the country. Egypt is one of the 22 Priority Countries for 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 Italian Cooperation's areas of intervention in Egypt have been identified in agreement with local stakeholders, including the Egyptian Ministry of International Cooperation, and in harmony with other donors' programs, particularly in coordination with the European Union Delegation in Cairo. The areas of intervention are in line with the priorities of the EU-Egypt Partnership for 2021-2027 and take into account the development sectors identified by Egypt as priorities within the Egypt vision 2030 document and in the Strategic Framework for the National Economic and Social Development Plan launched by the Egyptian Ministry of International Cooperation and the Egyptian Ministry of Planning.

With a committed total of more than EUR 240 million<sup>1</sup>, the work of the Italian Cooperation in Egypt is currently divided into eight areas of intervention that include: (i) rural development, in which Italy stands out for a long and appreciated action, including with a view to 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 (MPMIs) and the promotion of employment opportunities, especially for young people; (iii) a focus on the social dimension, particularly in support of the most vulnerable population groups such as minor children and people with disabilities; (iv) combating all forms of gender-based violence and supporting the socio-economic empowerment of women and girls; (v) migration and development interventions, such as the involvement of the Egyptian diaspora in local development initiatives, the protection and integration of the migrant population, and the prevention of irregular migration; (vi) human resource development through education and technical and vocational training; (vii) environmental protection; and (viii) the enhancement of Egypt's cultural and archaeological heritage.

The ongoing and planned initiatives follow up on what has already been achieved in the past years and expand activities in support of the country's socio-economic development, with special attention to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable segments of the population. In 2023, initiatives remained in line with the priorities indicated by the Egyptian government to respond to the consequences of the crisis generated since the outbreak of Covid-19 in 2020, which has been followed by a recent rise in the inflation<sup>2</sup>, as well as to support the socio-economic fabric harshly affected by the consequences of the outbreak of the war in Ukraine with interventions aimed at addressing food insecurity.

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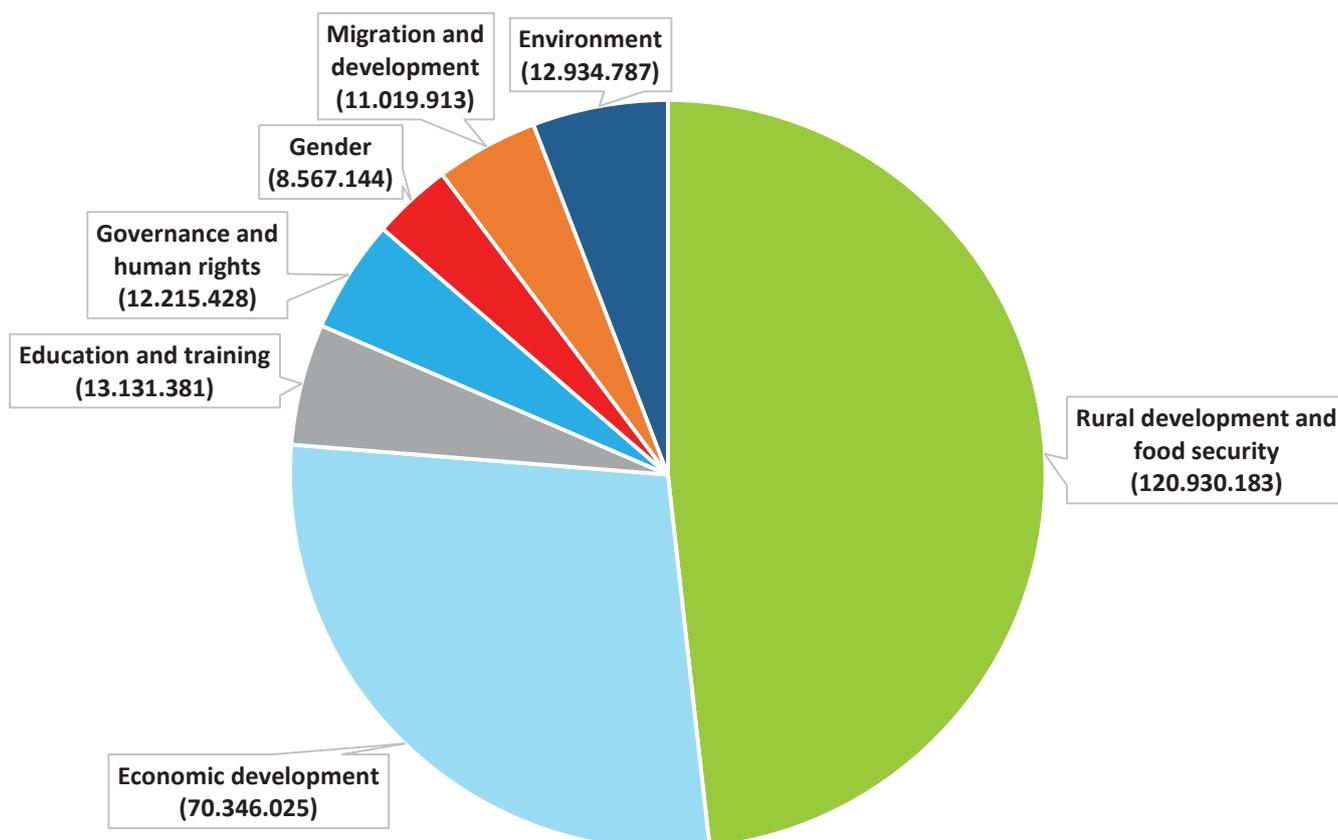
<sup>1</sup> The total portfolio amounts to 249,144,861 euros, and includes all initiatives active or approved in 2023. The calculation considers the total funding approved for each initiative or program, and not only the amount allocated for the year 2023.

<sup>2</sup> During September 2023 the inflation rate reached 38% <https://www.cbe.org.eg/en/economic-research/statistics/inflation-rates/historical-data>.

# DATA AND AREAS OF INTERVENTION

During 2023, the Italian Cooperation in Egypt operated within eight macro-sectors of intervention with a total of more than 240 million euros. The priority sectors of the 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.

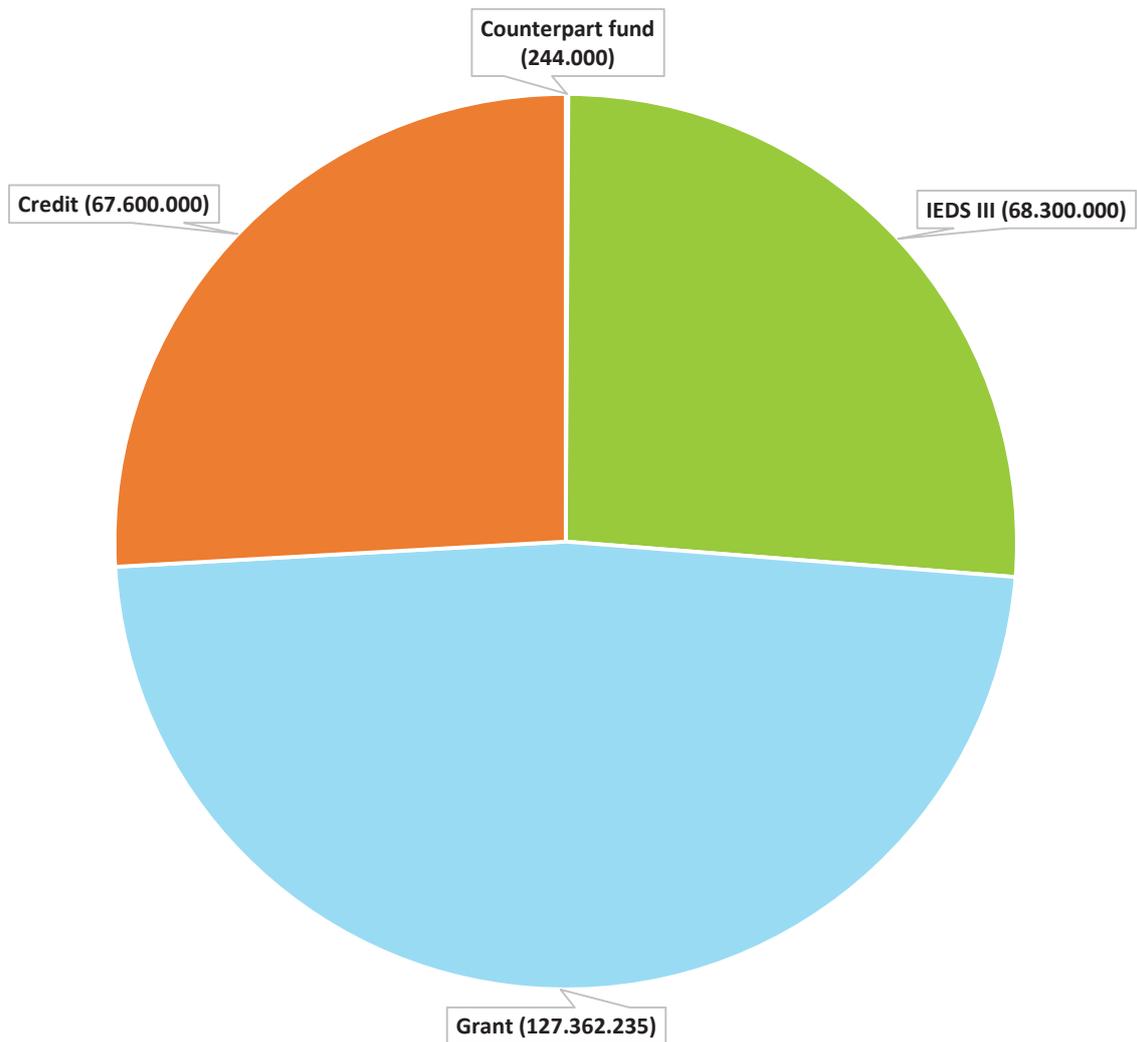
## Sectors of intervention (2023)



The Italian Cooperation operates with grant and aid credit financing. Grant funding is provided on the bilateral channel (contributions to local entities and institutions) and multilateral channel (contributions to International Organizations and UN Agencies). Numerous initiatives<sup>3</sup> are also financed through the Italian Egyptian Debt Swap Program, currently in its third phase, under the Agreement signed in 2012, so far disbursing more than 770 million Egyptian Pounds (EGP) equivalent to about 90 million United States Dollar (USD), and to 68.3 million euros. An additional type of funding is counterpart funds, amounting to 244.000 euros in 2023, and generated by the food aid program.

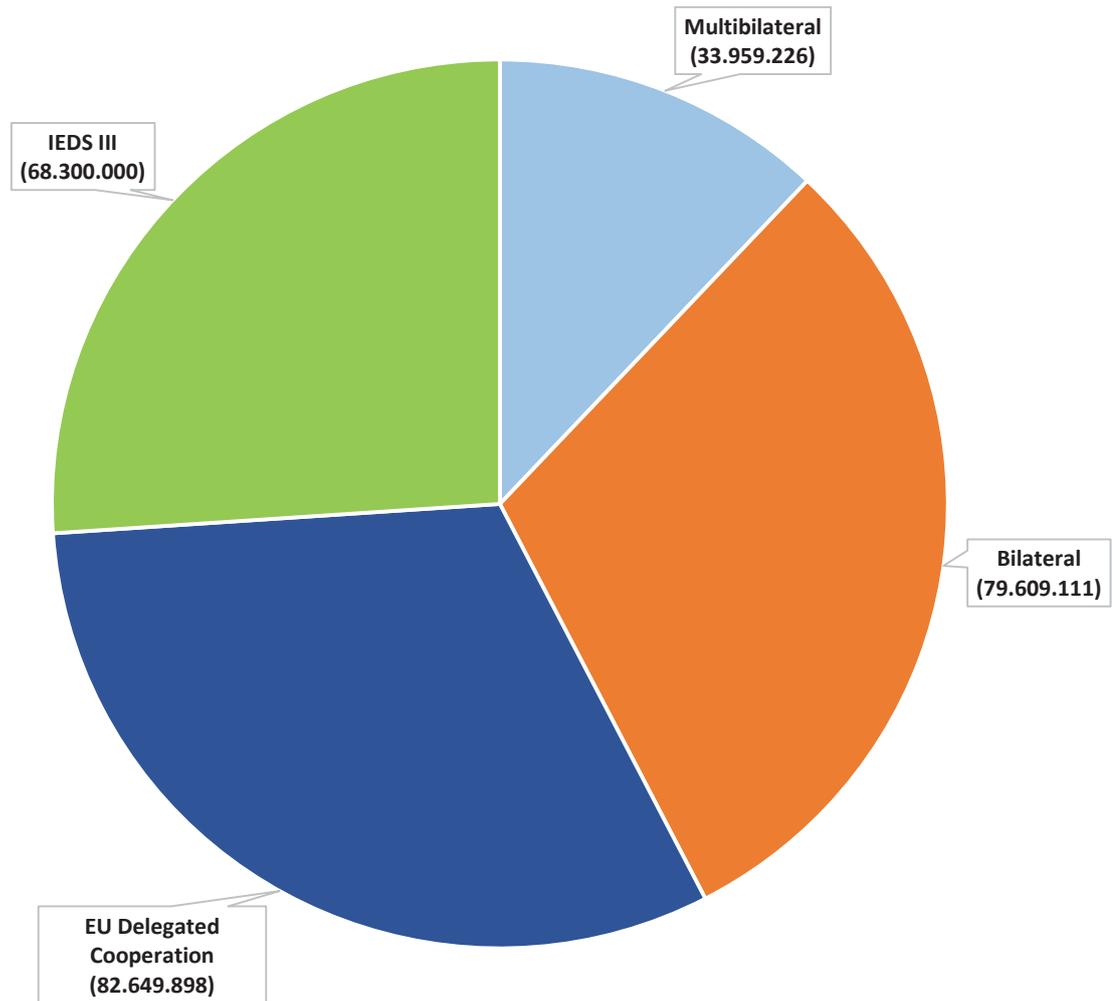
<sup>3</sup> For statistical purposes the average exchange rate between April 2012 and January 2021 of 1 euro = 14 EGP was used in order to calculate in euros the interventions financed by the Italian-Egyptian Debt Conversion Program.

## Type of funding (2023)



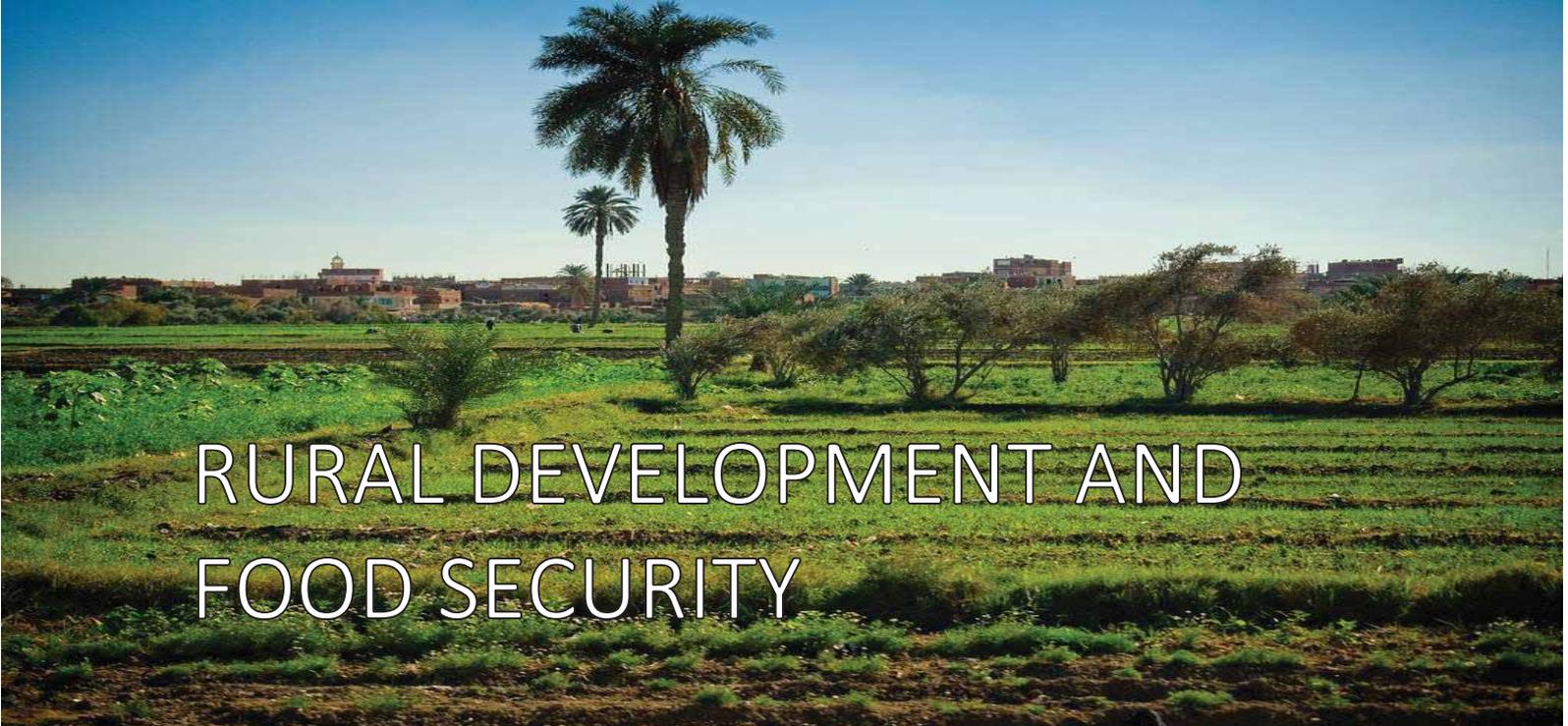
In addition, AICS Cairo directly manages projects funded by the European Commission. In 2023, AICS Cairo managed a total of seven delegated cooperation programs worth a total of 82 million euros, while also continuing defining new interventions, jointly with the European Delegation in Egypt, the main partners present in the country, and the Italian system.

## Funding channels (2023)





OUR  
PROJECTS



# RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

Rural development and food security have always been priority sectors of the Italian cooperation in the country, and over the years the Agency has relied on fruitful collaborations with local and international actors and institutions, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Reclamation, the Desert Research Center the Agricultural Research Center, the General Authority for Fish Resources Development (of the Egyptian Ministry itself), the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute (IAM) in 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 for the agriculture and rural development sectors, which brings together donors in Egypt (Development Partners Group - DPG). With the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Egyptian Cotton Supply Chain Development project plays a considerable role in promoting sustainability and inclusiveness along the cotton value chain, while strengthening the valuable quality of Egyptian cotton and fostering new market opportunities. The tomato supply chain support program, also with UNIDO, on the other hand, aims to support the value of production for processing by improving the technical skills of young people, and thus their employment opportunities.

Moreover, jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture and Reclamation the "SAMSIMIFA" project enables, through the technical assistance of IAM Bari, the improvement of agricultural mechanization systems in the governorates of Minya and Fayoum.

In this sector also the delegated cooperation program "EU-ZIRA3A -Integrated Rural Development Program for Egypt" is being implemented. The program aims to strengthen smallholder farmers but also local counterparts to provide quality services to support food security, irrigation and the dairy sector.





The EU-KAFI project "Supporting Grain Production in Egypt" is another delegated cooperation program that aims to support the grain production system, and grain storage in Egypt, which is facing a serious shortage and difficulties in meeting the needs for this grain. The project is based on three main axes that cover the entire grain production and storage chain: the first axis is based on the production of high-quality, highly productive varieties that are resistant to diseases and climatic and environmental conditions. The second axis is based on supporting the fleet of agricultural equipment used to grow and harvest grain in five of the largest governorates that produce these crops. The third axis aims to establish five field silos to store the grain produced by farmers in a safe and healthy manner, and to prevent the losses now occurring, as a result of storage on open land. The program also supports an existing system for monitoring the flow of grain between production, import and storage areas.

With funding from the Italian-Egyptian Debt Swap Program, three projects are being implemented: the first aims to improve food security and the value of local grain production by increasing storage efficiency and reducing the government's physical and economic losses through the introduction of modern technologies; the second aims to develop and consolidate the aquaculture sector in Egypt's north coast by providing technical support to the public and private sectors to establish a state-of-the-art aquaculture district, and improve the technical and economic capacities of farmers as well as the performance of the General Authority for Fisheries Resource Development (GAFRD, in its English acronym) to provide up-to-date technical service. The third is a project that aims to support an existing Egyptian national project to produce hybrid vegetable seeds with high productivity and quality characteristics. It aims to produce vegetable seeds for 8 crops and to support the technicians involved in this work with intensive training programs, as well as to support and strengthen the infrastructure needed for the production, monitoring, and registration of productive vegetable seeds.

Finally, a project is being implemented to strengthen the Siwa date production chain through the use of sustainable agricultural practices and the creation of a geographical indication, while also supporting marketing strategies for the product. The project is funded by the Italian counterpart funds generated by the food aid program for Egypt.

## 1. The Egyptian cotton project – Phase II - AID 12337

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 1.500.000,00 – 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 0,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 10.000.000,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary country	142 – Egitto
Place of intervention	Damietta Governorate, Kafr El-Sheikh, Behera, Beni Suef, Fayoum
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 Commerce and Industry Ministry of Agriculture and Reclamation
Type of aid	C01 – Project-type intervention
Description	The project builds on the positive results of the previous successful phase, and aims to strengthen and increase the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of the Egyptian cotton production chain. The initiative will focus on expanding sustainable practices and related certifications (BCI and organic) in new areas, as well as strengthening the implementation capacities of cotton production stakeholders (growers, extension services, ginners) and relevant institutions.
Duration	34 months
SDGs	SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere. Target 1.a Ensure significant resource mobilization from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, to implement programs and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.  SDG 8 Fostering sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Target 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and

	<p>innovation, including through a focus on high value-added and labor-intensive sectors.</p> <p>SDG 9 Build a resilient infrastructure and promote innovation and equitable, responsible and sustainable industrialization. Target 9.3 Increase 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 Ensure sustainable patterns of production and consumption. Target12.2 By 2030, achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources. Target12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.</p> <p>SDG 17 Strengthen means of implementation and renew the global partnership for sustainable development. Target 17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion schemes for least developed countries.</p>
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Gender equality policy marker (Significant)</p> <p>Aid to environment (Significant)</p> <p>Participatory development / good governance (Significant)</p> <p>Trade development marker (Principal)</p>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Biodiversity (Not targeted)</p> <p>Climate change (Significant)</p> <p>Desertification (Significant)</p> <p>Adaptation (Not targeted)</p>
Health and social 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
Progetto legato/slegato	Untied

## 2. Inclusive and sustainable development of the tomato value chain in Egypt - AID 170251

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 2.000.000, 00 - 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 2.000.000, 00 - 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 0,00 - 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 - 0%

Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 - 0%
Beneficiary country	142 - Egypt
Place of intervention	Agricultural Area of 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; Ministry of Trade and Industry
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 outputs for processing and improving the technical skills of youth and thus their employment/business opportunities. The project promotes activities at the farm and factory level by encouraging quality farming and processing while respecting the environment and food hygiene standards by paving the way for new business opportunities. The initiative also aims to create a Pilot Training and Service Center serving the tomato processing chain by linking primary producers with the processing industry, offering a range 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 domestic and external markets.
Duration	24 months
SDGs	SDG 1 Porre fine ad ogni forma di povertà nel mondo. SDG 8 Incentivare una crescita economica duratura, inclusiva e sostenibile, un'occupazione piena e produttiva ed un lavoro dignitoso per tutti. SDG 9 Costruire una infrastruttura resiliente e promuovere l'innovazione ed una industrializzazione equa, responsabile e sostenibile. SDG 12 Garantire modelli sostenibili di produzione e di consumo. SDG 17 Rafforzare i mezzi di attuazione e rinnovare il partenariato mondiale per lo sviluppo sostenibile.
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	Biodiversity (Not targeted)

<i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Climate change (Not targeted) Desertification (Not targeted) Adaptation (Not targeted)
Health and social 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. Agricultural mechanisation in Minya and Fayoum – SAMSIMIFA - AID 10368

Type of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	€ 10.000.000, 00 - 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 0, 00 - 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 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 dl Fayoum
OCSE-DAC sectors	311 - Agriculture
Implementing partner	Ministry of Agriculture and Reclamation, IAMB
Local partner	Ministry of Agriculture and Reclamation
Type of aid	C01 - Project-type intervention
Description	The project aims to provide small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises and agricultural cooperative associations in the Governorates of Fayoum and Minya with effective sustainable and innovative mechanization for major agricultural systems at the ground level. The project also aims to enhance and strengthen staff research centers and applied mechanization stations through sustainable innovations and a participatory knowledge management system.
Duration	30 years
SDGs	SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.  Target 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, indigenous peoples, farm families, pastoralists, and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land and other productive resources, knowledge, financial services, markets, and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.

	<p>SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.</p> <p>Target 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including by targeting high value-added in labor-intensive sectors.</p>
<p>Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i></p>	<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 (Significant)</p>
<p>Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i></p>	<p>Biodiversity (Not targeted)</p> <p>Climate change (Not targeted)</p> <p>Desertification (Not targeted)</p> <p>Adaptation (Not targeted)</p>
<p>Health and social markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i></p>	<p>Disability (0)</p> <p>Maternal Health (0)</p> <p>Minors (0)</p>
Programme-based approach	No
Tied/untied project	Untied

#### 4. 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%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	EGP 0.00 - 0%
Financial allocation as grant	EGP 0.00 - 0%
Counterpart funding	EGP 9,000,000, 00 - 100%
Contribution implementing partner	EGP 0.00 - 0%
Beneficiary country	142 - Egypt
Place of intervention	Oasis of SIWA, Matrouh Governorate
OCSE-DAC sectors	<p>311 - Agriculture</p> <p>31120 Agricultural Development</p> <p>31162 Industrial crops/Export crops</p> <p>32130 Small and Medium enterprises (SME) Development</p>
Implementing partner	31162 Industrial crops/Export crops.

Local partner	Ministry of Trade and Industry
Type of aid	Ministry of Trade and Industry
Description	C01 - Project-type intervention
Duration	Egypt is the leading date palm fruit producing country in the world and the potential to increase production is high. In the Siwa Oasis, due to its special ecological characteristics, the date palm is the most important crop and is the main source of income for the population. Most 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, strengthen its agro-industrial process, and enhance its marketing nationally and internationally through a package of practical activities to be implemented in the Oasis. To ensure the sustainability of the project, the project will register a new trademark for the Siwa date palm and train an institutional structure with valuable human and financial resources.
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 Foster sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. SDG 9 Build a resilient infrastructure and promote innovation and equitable, responsible and sustainable industrialization. SDG 12 Ensure sustainable patterns of production and consumption. SDG 17 Strengthen 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)
Health and social 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

With a portfolio of some 68.6 million euros allocated, including 11 million euros in grants and 57.6 million euros in aid credit, Italian Cooperation in Egypt is committed to promoting inclusive and sustainable economic development, and private sector technological innovation. In particular, the initiatives work on improving industrial sectors where Italy can bring added value, such as tanning, and on the growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and startups. In addition, initiatives in this area pay special attention to environmental protection, respect for workers' rights, and support for the segments of the population most affected by unemployment such as young people and women

## **Industry**

In the industrial sector, the technical assistance program for the "Robbiki Leather City" (RLC) tanning industrial park, worth €6 million per gift under direct management, is underway. The initiative offers support to tanners in the decisive phase of relocation to RLC and the upgrading of leather production activities. The project focuses on supporting the management of the Leather Tanning Technology Center (LTTTC) and common facilities of RLC.

## **MPMIs and Startups**

Initiatives to support MPMIs and startups focus on supporting activities to improve productivity, and access to credit. In 2023, the "Accelerating High Potential Entrepreneurship in Egypt" initiative started, in the amount of €5 million gift to be implemented by the World Bank, which aims to fill identified gaps in the entrepreneurial ecosystem through four components: 1) Improving the capacity of startups and organizations that support entrepreneurship to receive investment; 2) Developing partnerships between local startups and the international ecosystem; 3) Strengthening angel investor groups in Egypt; and 4) Strengthening the Venture Capital sector.

Initiatives that promote access to credit include two projects financed through aid credit. The first is the "MPMI Development Credit Line with MSMEDA" project (AID 6437), which amounts to 12.6 million euros and is implemented by the Egyptian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency



(MSMEDA), which offers credits with favorable interest rates through the local banking system to be used both for the purchase of machinery and technical assistance services.

In addition, an initiative implemented by the Ministry of Industry and Trade in the amount of 45 million euros, entitled "Supporting Private Sector Development in Egypt" (AID 10698), is being launched to help create an enabling environment for private sector development, ensuring sustainable development and inclusive growth of the country's economy. To this end, the initiative will provide both financial services (line of credit, technology upgrading, Venture Capital) and non-financial services (training and human resource development). Finally, the directly managed initiative "Program to Support the Private Sector and Entrepreneurship through the Establishment of a Technical Assistance Team in Favor of Egyptian SMEs" supports the two credit initiatives with some technical assistance and support to local entities.

## 1. 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%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 6.000.000,00 - 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 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	AICS Cairo
Local partner	Ministry of Trade and Industry – MTI
Type of aid	C = project type intervention; D = expert and other technical assistance;
Description	<p>The project is being carried out 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 relocating to that district all the leather tanning production activities previously carried out in downtown Cairo (Magra el Eyoum), with obsolete and highly polluting production techniques.</p> <p>The initiative is being implemented as part of the "Robbiki Program" launched in 2004 by the Egyptian Government, and aimed at the creation of an industrial district for leather processing in the Robbiki area, and the transfer to that district</p>

of all the leather tanning production activities previously carried out in downtown Cairo (Magra el Eyoun), with obsolete and highly polluting production techniques.

The project contributes, in particular, to provide the "Cairo Investment Development Co. - CID, ecological service management company and the training center "Leather Tanning Technology Center - LTTC" established within the Robbiki Leather City, support for the organization of their service activities to tanners, through the provision of equipment and equipment and specialized technical assistance provided by Italian experts.

The Egyptian government has requested the support of Italian Cooperation for technical assistance and training for the benefit of the tanneries, the joint services of the industrial district and the Leather Tanning Technology Center - LTTC, including the supply of machinery.

Thus, with the current initiative, continuity is being given to what has been achieved, providing support to the Egyptian government and tanners in Robbiki Leather City and in the development of production activities with modern and environmentally friendly techniques in line with international production standards.

At present, operations related to infrastructure and the transfer of production activities to Robbiki Leather City have been completed, thanks to an important contribution from Italian Cooperation of about 40 million euros, disbursed mostly in the years 2004-2010, and technical assistance provided by the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the current program, which began its functions on January 2, 2018.

Duration	24 months + extension (September 2017 - December 2024)
SDGs	<p>SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. Target 9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with greater resource use efficiency and increased adoption of clean and environmentally friendly technologies and industrial processes, with all countries acting in accordance with their respective capabilities.</p> <p>SDG 11 Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Target 11.6 By 2030, reduce the negative environmental impact per capita of cities, including by paying particular attention to air quality and the management of municipal and other waste.</p> <p>SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Target 12a By 2030, achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.</p>

	Target 12b By 2020, achieve environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Gender equality policy marker (Not targeted) Aid to environment (Principal) Participatory development / good governance (Significant) Trade development marker (Principal)
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Biodiversity (Principal) Climate change (Not targeted) Desertification (Not targeted) Adaptation (Significant)
Health and social 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 (1)
Programme-based approach	Yes
Tied/untied project	Untied

## 2. Credit line for Egyptian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in cooperation with the Agency for the Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises - AID 99/009/00

Type of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	€ 12.600.000, 00 - 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 0, 00 - 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 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	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (MSMEDA)
Local partner	Ministry of International Cooperation
Type of aid	C01 Project-type intervention

Description	This initiative aims to make financing at subsidized interest rates available to Egyptian MPIMs through the local banking system for the purpose of acquiring machinery of Italian origin to cope with a technological upgrade necessary for the sustainable development of their business. The priority, but not exclusive, sectors identified are: agricultural mechanization and agribusiness, leather processing, wood, marble, textiles, and packaging.
Duration	24 years
SDGs	SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Target 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent work creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formation and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.  SDG 9 Resilient infrastructure, sustainable industrialization and innovation. Target 9.3 Increase access of small industrialists and other firms, particularly in developing countries, to affordable financial services, including credit, 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)
Health and social 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	Tied

### 3. Accelerating High Potential Entrepreneurship in Egypt - AID 12617

Type of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	€ 5.000.000 - 100%

Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 5.000.000 - 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 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	25030 - Business development services.
Implementing partner	World Bank
Local partner	MSMEDA
Type of aid	B03 - Contributions to programs and earmarked funds managed by implementing partners.
Description	<p>The initiative provides technical assistance to the CEJC project, and aims to fill identified gaps in the 'entrepreneurial ecosystem through four components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Improving the capacity of startups and organizations that support entrepreneurship to receive investment;</li> <li>2) Develop partnerships between local startups and the international ecosystem;</li> <li>3) Strengthen the groups of angel investors present in Egypt;</li> <li>4) Strengthen the venture capital sector.</li> </ol>
Duration	36 months
SDGs	<p>SDG 8 decent work and economic growth.</p> <p>Target 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including by targeting high value-added in labor-intensive sectors.</p> <p>Target 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent work creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formation and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.</p> <p>Target 8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and increase the use of banking, insurance and financial services for all.</p>
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Gender equality policy marker (Significant)</p> <p>Aid to environment (Not targeted)</p> <p>Participatory development / good governance (Not targeted)</p> <p>Trade development marker (Not targeted)</p>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Biodiversity (Not targeted)</p> <p>Climate change (Not targeted)</p> <p>Desertification (Not targeted)</p> <p>Adaptation (Not targeted)</p>
Health and social markers	Disability (0)

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

#### 4. Supporting Private Sector Development in Egypt - AID 10698

Type of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	€ 45.000.000,00 – 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 0,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 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 Trade and Industry
Local partner	Ministry of International Cooperation
Type of aid	C01 - Project-type intervention
Description	The project aims to help create an enabling environment for private sector development, ensuring sustainable development and inclusive growth of the country's economy. To this end, the initiative will provide both financial services (line of credit, technology upgrading, Venture Capital) and non-financial services (training and human resource development).
Duration	36 months
SDGs	SDG 8 Promote lasting, inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Target 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent work creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formation and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services. Target 8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all. SDG 9 Resilient infrastructure, sustainable industrialization and innovation.

	Target 9.3 Increase access of small industrialists and other businesses, particularly in developing countries, to affordable financial services, including credit, 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)
Health and social 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

## 5. Program to Support the Private Sector and Entrepreneurship by Establishing a Technical Assistance Team in Favor of Egyptian SMEs - AID 9377

Type of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	€ 585.305,00 - 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 585.305,00 - 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 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	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 a focus on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and to contribute to the country's sustainable and inclusive economic growth, through the creation of a Technical Assistance Team that offers assistance

	to credit lines extended by the Italian government for the benefit of MPIMs, as well as other initiatives of the Headquarters in the economic development sector.
Duration	43 months (January 2018 - December 2024)
SDGs	<p>SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>Target 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent work creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formation and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.</p> <p>Target 8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.</p> <p>SDG 9 Resilient infrastructure, sustainable industrialization and innovation.</p> <p>Target 9.3 Increase access of small industrialists and other businesses, particularly in developing countries, to affordable financial services, including credit, 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 (Not targeted)</p> <p>Participatory development / good governance (Not targeted)</p> <p>Trade development marker (Significant)</p>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Biodiversity (Not targeted)</p> <p>Climate change (Not targeted)</p> <p>Desertification (Not targeted)</p> <p>Adaptation (Not targeted)</p>
Health and social 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	Untied



## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

During 2023 the interventions to support the Egyptian TVET system continued and contributed 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 Italo-Egyptian Debt Conversion Program, an Italo-Egyptian Integrated Technical Education Center (ITEC project) was established in the electronics and mechanical manufacturing sector in Fayoum Governorate, which succeeded in establishing a pilot model of technical education, serving industrial sectors of national priority. The ITEC project in Fayoum is one of the flagship projects of the Italian Cooperation in Egypt. Since its inception, it has been essential to create a link between the vocational and technical education system and the private sector, adapting training modules to the real needs of the Egyptian labor market.

As a result of the positive results achieved by the ITEC in Fayoum, during the third phase of the ongoing Italian-Egyptian Debt Conversion Program, a new high school was established within the same ITEC and a new integrated technical education hub was created in the city of Abu Ghaleb, Giza Governorate. In addition, 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 establishment of forty of the more than one hundred schools of applied technology (ATS) that are aimed to be established in the country, managed by a unit based in the Ministry of Education. The initiative aims to train students with certified skills recognized by employers nationally, regionally and internationally and to further education.

Within the same sector, the project "Support for Improvement of Nursing Care in Three Governorates in Egypt," which started in 2019 in continuity with a previous program, ended in March 2023 with the satisfaction of the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), which requested a third phase. The new program, "Supporting the Improvement of Medical and Nursing Care in Egypt - Phase III," deliberated in July 2023, will begin in 2024 in continuity with previous activities aimed at contributing to the improvement of the health of the Egyptian population. The third phase will continue to promote



exchanges, through scholarships, and mentorship with Italy, will keep the pediatric heart disease outpatient clinic in Port Said running, and will support missions of Italian surgeons to Cairo for pediatric heart disease operations.

Moreover, the program also includes some new features and it will promote: medical as well as nursing care in the Governorates of Cairo, Giza, and Alexandria; assistance in improving the management of cases requiring bone marrow transplantation in Cairo; support for the development of clinical and diagnostic protocols operating procedures of nurses and physicians in the field of pediatric oncology and cardiac surgery; patient-related data collection and analysis and research in collaboration with the scientific directorates of Dar El Salam Cancer Hospital, Zayed Cancer Hospital, Nasser Institute for Research, and Children Cancer Hospital on the topic of fact-jacie accreditation (car-t a and gene therapy).

Furthermore, also the implementation of the Water Knowledge initiative is ongoing, in cooperation with the Bari IAM for a two-year duration with the aim of improving the managerial and technical skills of water resource workers in Egypt and the region. Despite delays in the start of field activities, after the approval of June 18, 2023, activities took an accelerated lane, and the upgrading of the RTCWRI's training infrastructure was completed (following the findings of the needs assessment, the water quality laboratory was rehabilitated, the technical scheme for the pilot/demo area was finalized, as well as the equipment of the pilot project including sensors and IoT, IT materials and media room equipment has been completed), as well as the implementation of seven training courses, which following the definition of the training pillars carried out during the inception phase, involving more than 288 trainees, 66 trainers and several Egyptian, Italian and international institutions.

## 1. Supporting the improvement of medical and nursing care in Egypt (Port Said III) - AID 012836

Type of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	€ 3.587.811,65
Financial allocation as grant	€ 2.507.811,65 – 69,90%
Financial allocation as soft loan	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 240.000 – 6,69%
Country beneficiary	€ 330.000 – 9,20%
Intervention location	Cairo, Giza, Alessandria and Port Said Governorates
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	<p>The project intends to improve nursing and medical care in the country, increasing the competence and quality of the performance of students and medical and nursing staff, particularly in the Governorates of Cairo, Giza, Alexandria and Port Said, in order to consolidate and extend the impact of the two previous projects (Phase I and Phase II) already funded by AICS and implement new activities in line with national strategic directions. The Institutional Counterpart of the Project will be, in continuity with the two previous phases, the technical office of the Egyptian Minister of Health and Population and it will be this one that will ensure, together with the Project Leader and in close liaison with the AICS Foreign Office, the overall coordination of the initiative. Other institutional counterparts will be the Health Departments of the Governorates benefiting from the initiative. Operational counterparts will be the University of Sassari -UNISS, Department of Biomedical Sciences, the executing entity, and the directorates of the Technical Institutes and hospitals of the governorates of Cairo, Giza, Alexandria and Port Said, with particular reference to the hospital referents of medical and nursing training.</p>
Duration	36 months
SDGs	<p>SDG 3 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensure access to justice for all, and create effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.</p> <p>Target 3c Significantly increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training, and retention of health</p>

	<p>personnel in developing countries, especially in LDCs and small island developing states.</p> <p>Target 3d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, especially developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction, and management of national and global health risks Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.</p>
<p>Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i></p>	<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>
<p>Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i></p>	<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>
<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disability (0)</li> <li>• Maternal Health (4)</li> <li>• Minors (0)</li> </ul>
Programme-based approach	SI
Tied/untied project	Untied

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

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 2.268.838,00 – 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 2.268.838,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 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 be implemented mainly in the Regional Water Resources and Irrigation Training Center (RTSWRI) in Cairo, Giza governorate
OCSE-DAC sectors	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	The initiative aims to improve specific and professional knowledge and a shared vision on water as a valuable



	<p>contribution to improve an integrated water management approach at the institutional level through institutional capacity building, infrastructural intervention, network upgrading, improving the quality of training.</p> <p>The above objective, which is fully relevant to both Italian Cooperation and Egyptian Government priorities, will be achieved through the achievement of the following 2 outcomes:</p> <p>Outcome 1: The physical and technical infrastructure and equipment of RTSWRI has been upgraded to accommodate an innovative hub of water training services in the region.</p> <p>Outcome 2: The quality of RTSWRI water training system has improved in terms of teaching methodologies and management skills for trainers and knowledge/leadership acquisition for trainees, respectively.</p> <p>High-level training courses in Egypt and Italy will be delivered to 20 Egyptian youth 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. In addition, through e-learning it is estimated n. of 700 beneficiaries could be reached.</p>
Duration	24 months
SDGs	<p>SDG 4 Quality education: ensure inclusive education for all and promote equitable and quality lifelong learning opportunities.</p> <p>Target 4.4 Increase considerably by 2030 the number of youth and adults with specific skills-including technical and vocational skills-for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Target 4.c Increase considerably by 2030 the number of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation, for their training in developing states, especially in least developed countries and small island developing states.</p> <p>SDG 6 Ensure sustainable management and availability of water and sanitation for all.</p> <p>Target 6.4 Substantially increase water-use efficiency in every sector by 2030 and ensure sustainable supplies and procurement of safe water, to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people affected by it.</p> <p>Target 6.5 Implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation, as appropriate by 2030.</p> <p>SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementing the goals and renew the global partnership for sustainable development.</p>



	Target 17.9 Increase international support to implement effective and targeted capacity development in nonindustrialized countries to support national plans for achieving all Sustainable Development Goals, through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.
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 (Not Targeted)
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Biodiversity (Not targeted) Climate change (Principal) Desertification (Sgnificant) Adaptation (Significant)
Health and social 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 amount € 2.268.838,00



# GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The protection of the rights of the most vulnerable segments of the population, such as minors at risk, people with disabilities, women, migrants and refugees remains a central sector of intervention of the Italian Cooperation in Egypt with an increasing programming in quantity and quality.

During 2023 two projects were concluded with the satisfaction of all stakeholders involved: the one on "Promotion of Children's Rights and Family Empowerment in the Governorate of Fayoum" in collaboration with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), and the one on "Restorative approach to juvenile justice: socio-educational models of social reintegration and alternative measures to detention" carried out partly by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and partly managed directly by AICS Cairo in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS).

The first project has contributed since 2016 to ensuring the protection of the rights of children and their families, through the implementation of the National Plan on the Rights of Children in Fayoum Governorate, one of the poorest and most populous governorates in Egypt. The project has worked to counter situations of violence and abuse, or harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, child labor, and early marriage, or other risk situations such as school dropout, non-registration at birth, and maternal and child malnutrition. As a result of this initiative, a Central Committee and several Subcommittees for Child Protection have been established, staff have been trained, digitization of work has been initiated, and various protection activities have been implemented.

The second project on juvenile justice, implemented since 2020, was aimed at supporting Egypt in the implementation of the Children's Convention and the National Law on Children's Rights in Juvenile Justice through interventions that produced positive changes on laws, regulations, and policies, provided capacity building, supported best practices, and included a rich exchange of experiences with the Italian juvenile justice system, particularly on juvenile restorative justice.

AICS Cairo hopes that the interventions concluded will leave a deep sense of motivation among the actors involved in order to keep improving the systems for the protection of the children and their families, whether preventive or responsive to needs, or for protecting and promoting their rights.

Moreover, three projects were signed in 2023, respectively, the "Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Small Industries and Roads and Contributing to the Implementation of the National Plan of Action in Egypt" project, for promoting alternative forms of care for children, the "Strengthening the Alternative Care System for Children of Age Deprived of Family Care in Egypt" project, and the "Strengthening the Human and Institutional Capacity of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities – NCPD to Promote Better Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Egypt" one. The first will be managed by the International Labor Organization (ILO), the second by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the third, funded by the European Union, will be managed directly by AICS Cairo.

Furthermore, the second phase of the "A Holistic Approach to Population Growth: Improving the Quality of Life of the Population & Strengthening Reproductive Health Information & Service Delivery Channels" project implemented by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), aimed at addressing one of Egypt's greatest challenges, population growth, is also currently being planned. The proposed project is a continuation of the intervention concluded in 2023 "Surrounded and Engaging Platforms Campaign: Innovative Outreach Approach to Address Population Growth in Egypt" and aims to further support national population growth priorities, and in particular the new "National Family Development Program." The project aims to achieve the following specific objectives: 1) The capacities of national and local government systems are strengthened to ensure the provision of quality services that provide comprehensive reproductive health information and counseling services tailored to community needs; 2) Local communities, with a focus on women, adolescents, and youth, have knowledge and skills that enable them to make informed decisions about their reproductive health and reach their full potential.

## 1. Promotion of children's rights and family empowerment in the Governorate of Fayoum - AID 9659

Type of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	€ 1.500.000,00 – 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 1.500.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 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	National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM)
Local partner	National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM)
Type of aid	C01: Project-type interventions
Description	The initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of relevant Egyptian institutions to ensure the protection of the rights of children 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, non-registration at birth, and maternal and child malnutrition that are detrimental to the realization of the fundamental rights of children and their families.
Duration	24 months + extensions (start date 01/05/2026 - end date 31/12/2023)
MDGs	MDG 1 Eradicate extreme poverty 1.b Ensure full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and youth MDG 2 Make primary education universal. MDG 3 Promote gender equality and empower women MDG 4 Reduce child mortality. MDG 5 Improve maternal health.
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Gender equality policy marker (Principal) 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)
Health and social markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	Disability (1) Maternal Health (4) Minors (0)
Programme-based approach	No
Tied/untied project	Untied

## 2. Restorative approach to Juvenile Justice: modelli socio-educativi di reintegrazione sociale e misure alternative alla detenzione – AID 11925

Type of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	€ 1.994.000,00 – 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 1.994.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 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 (MoSS)
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 by contributing to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Egyptian Child Law in the field of juvenile justice. Specifically, 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 juvenile justice system reform.</p> <p>The project includes 3 outcomes:</p> <p>R.1. Developed, promoted and systematized a socio-educational model with an integral and restorative approach in 10 juvenile detention centers (UNODC).</p> <p>R.2 Adopted by the juvenile justice system measures of decriminalization (diversion) with or without restorative justice mechanisms, alternative measures to deprivation of liberty (UNICEF).</p> <p>R.3. Improved the operational and inter-institutional coordination capacities of the juvenile justice system and consolidated the knowledge and skills of practitioners in juvenile restorative justice (AICS Cairo Direct Management).</p>
Duration	<p>24 months for UNICEF and UNODC (ended January 23, 2023)</p> <p>24 months + extension for AICS (ended June 30, 2023)</p>
SDGs	<p>SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensure access to justice for all, and create effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.</p> <p>Target 16.3 Promote the rule of law at national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.</p> <p>SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among nations.</p> <p>Target 10.2 By 2030, enhance and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic or other status.</p>
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Gender equality policy marker (Significant)</p> <p>Aid to environment (Not targeted)</p> <p>Participatory development / good governance (Principal)</p> <p>Trade development marker (Not targeted)</p>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Biodiversity (Not targeted)</p> <p>Climate change (Not targeted)</p>

	Desertification (Not targeted)
	Adaptation (Not targeted)
Health and social markers	Disability (0)
<i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	Maternal Health (0)
	Minors (4)
Programme-based approach	Yes
Tied/untied project	Untied

### 3. Combating the worst forms of child labor in small industries and on the streets and contributing to the implementation of the national action plan in Egypt - AID 12517

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 1.500.000,00 – 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 1.500.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary country	142 – Egitto
Place of intervention	Nazionale
OCSE-DAC sectors	16010 Social Protection
Implementing partner	International Labour Organization (ILO)
Local partner	Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS); Ministry of Labor (MoM)
Type of aid	C01 – Project-type intervention
Description	<p>The initiative aims to help implement the National Action Plan (NAP), launched by the Egyptian government in July 2018, and targets children working in small industries, workshops, and on the roads.</p> <p>The initiative has four main components.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening the capacity of the Egyptian government, (Ministries and Agencies that are members of the National Committee against Child Labor), the Egyptian Federation of Industry, and workers' organizations, to deal with countering child labor and effectively implement the NAP.</li> <li>2. Ensure that all stakeholders within the framework of the project are able to deal with countering child labor, especially in small industries and roads.</li> <li>3. The use of art and media to effectively raise awareness of the risks and dangers of child labor. These artistic tools are also used for the psychosocial rehabilitation of children.</li> </ol>

	4. Institutionalization, coordination and complementarity among services provided to working children or children at risk of labor exploitation and their families at the central and district levels.
Duration	24 months - agreement signed on 05 October 2023
SDGs	<p>SDG 4 Provide quality, equitable and inclusive education and learning opportunities for all.</p> <p>Target 4.1 Ensure by 2030 that every girl and boy has freedom, equity and quality in completing primary and secondary education that leads to appropriate and concrete learning outcomes.</p> <p>Target 4.4 Increase substantially by 2030 the number of youth and adults with specific skills-including technical and vocational skills-for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>SDG 8 Foster sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.</p> <p>Target 8.6 Reduce the proportion of young people unemployed and out of education or training by 2030.</p> <p>Target 8.7 Take immediate and effective steps to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and ensure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and end child labor in all its forms by 2025.</p> <p>SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among nations.</p> <p>Target 10.2 By 2030, enhance and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic or other status.</p> <p>SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions.</p> <p>Target 16.2 End the abuse, exploitation, and trafficking of children and all forms of violence and torture against them.</p>
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Gender equality policy marker (Significant)</p> <p>Aid to environment (Not targeted)</p> <p>Participatory development / good governance (Principal)</p> <p>Trade development marker (Not targeted)</p>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Biodiversity (Not targeted)</p> <p>Climate change (Not targeted)</p> <p>Desertification (Not targeted)</p> <p>Adaptation (Not targeted)</p>
Health and social markers	Disability (0)

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

#### 4. Strengthening the alternative care system for children without family care in Egypt - AID 12518

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 1.500.000,00 – 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 1.500.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Whole Egypt
OCSE-DAC sectors	16010 Social Protection
Implementing partner	UNICEF
Local partner	Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS)
Type of aid	C01 – Project-type intervention
Description	<p>The overall goal of the project is to improve access to and quality of child protection services for children at risk and children who have experienced violence, particularly those without parental care.</p> <p>Project interventions are designed on 3 main levels:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Legal/policy framework: high-level legal reform and advocacy processes are undertaken in order to include community and family-based care options in the Children's Law and incorporate implementation costs into the MoSS statutory budget.</li> <li>2. Institutional capacity: child protection case management services, information management, social service workforce accreditation, gate keeping mechanisms to prevent and respond to family separation at the national level are strengthened and improved.</li> <li>3. Service infrastructure: fully functional alternative care services are established, including specialized rehabilitation and reintegration services for children without parental care, with a special focus on victims of violence, abuse and exploitation.</li> </ol>

Duration	36 months - agreement signed on 05 October 2023
SDGs	<p>SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among nations. Target 10.2 By 2030, enhance and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic or other status.</p> <p>SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions. Target 16.2 End the abuse, exploitation, and trafficking of children and all forms of violence and torture against them. Target 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels. Target 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration. Target 16.a Consolidate key national institutions, including through international cooperation, to build capacity at every level, particularly in developing countries, to prevent violence and to combat terrorism and crime. Target 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and sustainable development policies.</p> <p>SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.</p>
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Gender equality policy marker (Significant) Aid to environment (Significant) Participatory development / good governance (Principal) Trade development marker (Not targeted)</p>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Biodiversity (Not targeted) Climate change (Not targeted) Desertification (Not targeted) Adaptation (Not targeted)</p>
Health and social markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	<p>Disability (0) Maternal Health (0) Minors (4)</p>
Programme-based approach	No
Tied/untied project	Untied

## 5. Surrounded and Engaging Platforms Campaign: Approccio di sensibilizzazione innovativo per affrontare la crescita demografica in Egitto – AID 11624

Type of funding	Multilateral
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Total funding	€ 2.000.000,00 – 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 2.000.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Whole Egypt
OCSE-DAC sectors	13030 Family planning
Implementing partner	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Local partner	Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), National Population Council (NPC)
Type of aid	B03: Contributions to specific-purpose programs and funds managed by international organizations (multilateral, INGO).
Description	The overall objective of the initiative is to address the sensitive issues related to Egypt's rapid and unsustainable population growth in order to ensure demographic containment and, consequently, a better quality of life and socio-economic conditions in the country. It aims, in this regard, to support the Egyptian government to implement the "National Strategy for Population and Development 2015-2030," which has as its main objective the improvement of quality of life and economic growth through population containment.
Duration	24 months + extensions. Project completed in June 2023.
SDGs	SDG 3 Promote the health and well-being of all at all ages. Target 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including family planning, information, education, and integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs.  SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Target 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as agreed in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and documents produced at subsequent conferences.
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Gender equality policy marker (Significant) Aid to environment (Significant) 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)
Health and social markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	Disability (1) Maternal Health (4) Minors (0)
Programme-based approach	Yes
Tied/untied project	Untied

## 6. A holistic approach to population growth: improving population quality of life and strengthening reproductive health information and service delivery channels

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 3.000.000,00 - 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 3.000.000,00 - 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 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 Sports (MoYS).
Type of aid	B03: Contributions to specific-purpose programs and funds managed by international organizations (multilateral, INGO)
Description	The 'initiative aims to improve the quality of life of the population through the empowerment of young people and the strengthening of reproductive health services to meet the growing demand by taking a holistic approach.
Duration	36 months
SDGs	SDG 3 Promote the health and well-being of all at all ages. Target 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including family planning, information, education, and integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs.  SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Target 4.4 Substantially increase the number of youth and adults who



possess the necessary skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship.

Target 4.7 Ensure that all learners acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development, including through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and nonviolence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and culture's contribution to sustainable development.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Target 5.3 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as agreed in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and documents produced at subsequent conferences.

Target 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid domestic and care work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and family, as nationally appropriate.

Target 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Target 8.6 Substantially reduce the proportion of young people who are neither employed nor educated or trained.

SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Target 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

SDG 17 Strengthen implementation instruments and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Target 17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to

	developing countries on favorable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed.
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Gender equality policy marker (Significant) Aid to environment (Not targeted) 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)
Health and social markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	Disability (0) Maternal Health (4) Minors (0)
Programme-based approach	Yes
Tied/untied project	Untied



## GENDER

The gender approach cross-cuttingly characterizes the programs funded or directly implemented by AICS Cairo. The main objective is to support Egypt in its journey towards building a more inclusive and gender-sensitive society. This commitment is realized through projects aimed at empowering women and combating gender-based violence, in accordance with the goals outlined in the Egyptian National Strategy for Women's Empowerment 2030.

The year 2023 saw the signing of the Financial Agreement of the "Enhancing the Role of Women in Southern Egypt" initiative, implemented by the United Nations Agency for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women) in collaboration with the Egyptian National Council of Women (NCW). The initiative aims to promote the social and economic empowerment of women in the target areas of Assiut and Sohag, focusing particularly on women residing in rural and marginalized areas. The project will be characterized by the integration of economic and social dimensions, and will involve a wide range of actors, including both community and government ones. Women's rights bodies and community leaders will be involved and will act as agents of change. The social empowerment component aims to ensure that women in the focus areas have better access to services that meet their specific gender needs and promote their active participation in public life. At the same time, the economic empowerment component will focus on promoting women's financial inclusion by supporting the national initiative of NCW and the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE). It will also aim to strengthen existing women-owned enterprises in the area by promoting greater participation in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as productive clusters.

Jointly with UN Women, the Agreement for the "Protection, Services, Empowerment: for a zero-tolerance environment against all forms of gender-based violence" initiative, entrusted to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), was also signed. The intervention aims to combat gender-based violence through the promotion and support of women's social and economic empowerment by improving the quality and accessibility of specialized services. Advocacy actions on gender policies and an active involvement of affected communities are also planned. The main focus will be on the long-term change processes of social norms, characterized by a strong participation at both local and national levels. The intervention emphasizes the importance of men's involvement, both as decision



makers within families, and as allies in the fight against gender-based violence at the community level. The program includes the first research on domestic violence trends in Egypt, the establishment of the first One-Stop Shop dedicated to survivors of gender-based violence, and the implementation of UNFPA's global Girls Assets Framework (GAF) model. The latter specifically emphasizes the empowerment of adolescent girls, highlighting a holistic approach for addressing challenges and promoting the well-being of young women.

Included among the agreements signed in 2023, there is also the Delegation Agreement with the European Union Delegation for the project "Enhancing Women's Empowerment in Egypt through DESITA: Egyptian Italian Fashion Design School for Women and Girls. EU-Egypt TAMKEEN Project." The proposed action aims to contribute to women's empowerment by addressing one of the most pressing needs emerging from women's economic empowerment initiatives across the country: the need to develop advanced skills in Design and Marketing, through the establishment of a women's institute for Design Training.

Finally, the project "KHADRA: Women's Empowerment for a Sustainable Transition," that will be directly managed by AICS Cairo, is also being planned, and will aim to support the socio-economic inclusion of women, with a specific focus on promoting women's entrepreneurship in eco-sustainable activities through training and access to microcredits. At the same time, it also aims to improve women's access to health services by supporting newly established and local women's associations working on behalf of women.

Among the projects of the Italian Egyptian Debt Swap Program, the proposed economic development project "Upper Egyptian Women of Gold," implemented by the local NGO Key of Life Association in Upper Egypt, is being formulated. The initiative aims to help empower rural women in Luxor governorate by improving their social and economic conditions, and consequently, the living standards of their families. The project will provide targeted trainings, including both personal development courses and others focused on specific skills, as well as a microcredit program targeting start-ups in the handicraft, agriculture and animal products sectors.

## 1. Enhancing the role of women in southern Egypt - AID 12206

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 1.000.000,00 – 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 1.000.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Upper Egypt (Assiut and Sohag)
OCSE-DAC sectors	15170 Women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions 15180 Ending violence against women and girls

Implementing partner	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women)
Local partner	National Council for Women (NCW)
Type of aid	C01: Project-type interventions
Description	<p>The project aims to socially and economically empower women in the target areas of Assiut and Sohag, particularly rural and marginalized women, and will adopt an integrated approach that incorporates economic and social dimensions to facilitate women's empowerment and will bring together different actors, both at the community and government levels, involving women's rights organizations and community leaders as agents of change.</p> <p>The envisioned goals are (a) Women in the focus areas have better access to gender-responsive services and actively participate in public life; (b) Women in Assiut and Sohag are economically empowered through increased participation in micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and production clusters.</p>
Duration	24 months - agreement signed on 05 October 2023
SDGs	<p>SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empowerment (greater strength, self-esteem and awareness) of all women and girls.</p> <p>Target 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal leadership opportunities at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.</p> <p>Target 5.c Adopt and strengthen concrete policies and enforceable laws for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment, i.e., strength, self-esteem, awareness, of all women, girls and children at all levels.</p> <p>SDG 1 End all forms of poverty in the world.</p> <p>Target 1.b Create strong policy frameworks at national, regional, and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investments in anti-poverty actions.</p> <p>SDG 8 Fostering sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.</p> <p>Target 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for youth and people with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.</p>
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Gender equality policy marker (Principal)</p> <p>Aid to environment (Not targeted)</p> <p>Participatory development / good governance (Significant)</p>

	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)
Health and social 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. Protection, services, empowerment: for a zero-tolerance environment against all forms of gender-based violence - AID 12717

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 4.000.000,00 – 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 4.000.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Cairo, Giza, Qena, Aswan, Dakahlia, Bani Suef, Alexandria
OCSE-DAC sectors	15170 Women’s rights organisations and movements, and government institutions 15180 Ending violence against women and girls
Implementing partner	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women)
Local partner	National Council for Women (NCW)
Type of aid	C01: Project-type interventions
Description	The programme aims at addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG) by fostering and supporting increased agency and economic empowerment of women, adolescent and young girls, enhanced quality of and accessibility to specialized services that are survivor-centred as well as active community engagement and policy advocacy around VAWG priorities. The intervention is focused on the long-term, locally-led and nationally owned social norm change processes to address VAWG and ensures male engagement both as active decision-makers in the household and as partners in combating VAWG at the community level. The programme includes the

	implementation of the Girls Assets Framework (GAF), led by UNFPA.
Duration	36 months - agreement signed on 05 October 2023
SDGs	<p>SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms, everywhere.</p> <p>Target 1.1 Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.</p> <p>Target 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including plans, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable.</p> <p>SDG 3 Ensure healthy living and promote well-being for all, at all ages.</p> <p>Target 3.7 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs.</p> <p>Target 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including protection from financial risks, access to quality essential health services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.</p> <p>SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empowerment (greater strength, self-esteem and awareness) of all women and girls.</p> <p>Target 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.</p> <p>Target 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal leadership opportunities at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.</p> <p>Target 5.c Adopt and strengthen concrete policies and enforceable laws for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment, i.e., strength, self-esteem, awareness, of all women, girls and children at all levels.</p> <p>SDG 8 Foster sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.</p> <p>Target 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for youth and people with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.</p> <p>SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and between countries.</p>

	Target 10.2 Empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status.
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Gender equality policy marker (Principal) Aid to environment (Not targeted) 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)
Health and social markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	Disability (1) Maternal Health (1) Minors (0)
Programme-based approach	Yes
Tied/untied project	Untied

### 3. KHADRA: Women's Empowerment for a Sustainable Transition

Type of funding	Bilateral
Total funding	€ 800.000,00 – 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 800.000,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary country	142 – Egitto
Place of intervention	Siwa
OCSE-DAC sectors	12261 Health education 15170 Women's equality organisations and institutions 24040 Informal/semi-formal financial intermediaries 16061 Culture and recreation
Implementing partner	Direct management
Local partner	Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS); Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP); National Council for Women (NCW); Micro, small and medium enterprise development agency (MSMEDA); Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA)
Type of aid	C01: Project-type interventions
Description	The project aims to support the socio-economic inclusion and gender equality of women and girls in the Siwa community in

	<p>Matrouh Governorate by increasing their economic participation and leadership. The focus of the intervention will be on promoting women's entrepreneurship through training and access to microcredit, while improving women's access to health services and supporting newly established women's associations and local associations working to support women.</p>
Duration	24 months
SDGs	<p>SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages.</p> <p>Target 3.7 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs.</p> <p>SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.</p> <p>Target 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.</p> <p>Target 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal leadership opportunities at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.</p> <p>SDG 8 Promuovere una crescita economica sostenuta, inclusiva e sostenibile, un'occupazione piena e produttiva e un lavoro dignitoso per tutti.</p> <p>Target 8.5 Ottenere un'occupazione piena e produttiva e un lavoro dignitoso per tutte le donne e gli uomini, compresi i giovani e le persone con disabilità, e la parità di retribuzione per un lavoro di pari valore.</p> <p>SDG 9 Costruire infrastrutture resilienti, promuovere un'industrializzazione inclusiva e sostenibile e favorire l'innovazione.</p> <p>Target 9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and market.</p>
Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Gender equality policy marker (Principal)</p> <p>Aid to environment (Not targeted)</p> <p>Participatory development / good governance (Not targeted)</p> <p>Trade development marker (Not targeted)</p>
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	<p>Biodiversity (Not targeted)</p> <p>Climate change (Not targeted)</p> <p>Desertification (Not targeted)</p> <p>Adaptation (Not targeted)</p>
Health and social markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i>	<p>Disability (1)</p> <p>Maternal Health (1)</p> <p>Minors (0)</p>

Programme-based approach	Yes
Tied/untied project	Untied

# MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Egypt's geographical location at the crossroads of North Africa, the Middle East, East Africa and Europe makes the country a destination for many mixed migration movements. Egypt is therefore becoming an increasingly important partner in the field, both regionally and globally, as evidenced by its recent appointment as a Global Compact for Migration Champion and its participation in various regional platforms, such as the Khartoum Process and the Pan-African Forum on Migration.

Historically a country of emigration, Egypt has a diaspora of between 10 and 12 million expatriates. However, in recent times, the country is undergoing a transformation, increasingly becoming a transit point and destination for a growing number of migrants. According to the latest UNHCR estimates in Egypt, about 460,000 regularly registered refugees and asylum seekers come from 59 different nationalities. As of October 2023, Sudanese nationality surpassed all others, followed by Syrians. Relevant nationalities also include South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Yemen, Somalia and Iraq.

The Italian Cooperation in Egypt is actively engaged in various migration and development initiatives focused on the protection and socioeconomic empowerment of migrants, as well as in combating the root and structural causes of irregular migration. According to the Italian Ministry of Interior, Egypt represents the fifth largest nationality in Italy in terms of irregular entries. During 2023, Italy recorded 11,066 irregular arrivals from Egypt, of which 2,273 were unaccompanied minors. The main driver behind irregular migration is related to poverty, caused by the lack of decent job opportunities in Egypt's remote areas.

2023 saw the signing of the Financial Agreement of the initiative "SAWA: Towards equitable access to quality education and health services in Egypt for women, children, and other members of migrant and host communities in vulnerable situations" implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The intervention aims to integrate migration into national systems by influencing government policies and promoting the inclusion of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in government health and education plans. At the same time, the intervention will respond to the

immediate needs of these groups by promoting greater access to education and improved health, with a focus on basic education and women's health, and by including services for the Egyptian host community in its outreach.

Among the Agreements signed in 2023 is the Delegation Agreement with DG Near for the project "DEMO: enhancing Decent Employment and Mobility Opportunities for Egyptians." The project involves the creation of an Italian-Egyptian center to promote decent employment and mobility opportunities, jointly coordinated by Italian and Egyptian authorities. The proposed intervention responds to the increasingly pressing needs for employability and employment of Egyptians through strengthening the network of labor market-oriented training opportunities, skills enhancement programs and job placement services in the Egyptian and Italian markets. Increased regular migration and mobility schemes will, therefore, be a valuable channel for enhancing Egypt's human capital and meeting the needs of both markets.

In this regard, under EU delegated cooperation funding, the program called "MEPEP - Multi Educational Program for Employment Promotion in Areas Affected by Irregular Migration," supported by the Trust Fund for Africa, addresses the trend of irregular migration by improving the quality of the vocational education and training (TVET) system in Egypt. The project provides advanced TVET training courses to better meet the needs of the labor market and, thus, increase youth employability and the Egyptian economy in general.

Furthermore, in 2023 also the project documents of the program "PLAY - Positive Life Alternatives for Egyptian Youth" entrusted to IOM, were finalized, and its activities will begin in 2024. The program aims to promote job opportunities in the tourism sector for Egyptian youth, raise awareness regarding the risks of irregular migration, and promote youth mobility through regular migration opportunities. Specifically, the intervention will strengthen the capacities of national authorities in terms of human development, policymaking in the tourism sector and, in parallel, pursue actions to maximize the potential of existing vocational education and training institutions in this sector. The project aims to work in the hotel school in Fayoum, a Governorate where young Egyptians are at high risk of irregular migration to Italy, in order to improve, on the one hand, their skills for integration into the Egyptian labour market, and on the other hand, to fill the labor shortages in the Italian tourism sector during the high seasons through already existing regular migration channels.

## **1. SAWA: Towards equitable access to quality education and health services in Egypt for women, children, and other members of migrant and host communities in vulnerable situations - AID 12725**

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 1.500.000,00 – 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 1.500.000,00 – 100%

Financial allocation as grant	€ 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	15190 Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility
Implementing partner	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Local partner	Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) Save the Children (SC)
Type of aid	C01: Project-type interventions
Description	The project aims to integrate migration into national systems by influencing government policies and promoting the inclusion of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in government health and education plans. At the same time, the intervention will address the immediate needs of these groups through increased access to education and improved health, with a focus on basic education and women's health.
Duration	24 months - agreement signed on 05 October 2023
SDGs	<p>SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages.</p> <p>Target 3.7 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs.</p> <p>Target 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including protection from financial risks, access to quality essential health services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.</p> <p>SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.</p> <p>Target 4.1 Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.</p> <p>Target 4.2 Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality development, care and pre-primary education leading to readiness for primary education.</p> <p>Target 4.5 Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for vulnerable people, including people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations.</p> <p>Target 4.a Build and improve educational facilities that are sensitive to children, disabilities, and gender and provide safe,</p>

	<p>nonviolent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all.</p> <p>SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.</p> <p>Target 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.</p> <p>Target 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.</p> <p>Target 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences</p> <p>SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among nations.</p> <p>Target 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.</p> <p>SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, durable and sustainable.</p> <p>SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and renew the global partnership for sustainable development.</p>
<p>Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i></p>	<p>Gender equality policy marker (Significant)</p> <p>Aid to environment (Not targeted)</p> <p>Participatory development / good governance (Significant)</p> <p>Trade development marker (Not targeted)</p>
<p>Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i></p>	<p>Biodiversity (Not targeted)</p> <p>Climate change (Not targeted)</p> <p>Desertification (Not targeted)</p> <p>Adaptation (Not targeted)</p>
<p>Health and social markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i></p>	<p>Disability (1)</p> <p>Maternal Health (1)</p> <p>Minors (0)</p>
<p>Programme-based approach</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Tied/untied project</p>	<p>Untied</p>

## 2. Positive life alternatives for Egyptian youth (PLAY) II - AID 11963

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 1.490.388,00 – 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 1.490.388,00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary country	142 – Egypt
Place of intervention	Governorates of 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 Egyptian Emigration and Expatriate Affairs (MoSEEEA), Ministry of Tourism, Egyptian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (MSMEDA)
Type of aid	C01: Project-type interventions
Description	The overall objective of the project is to help prevent the illegal migration of young Egyptians by providing them with viable livelihood alternatives. It is intended to achieve this goal through the implementation of a series of activities divided among three components: i) raising awareness and empowerment of youth and other vulnerable groups regarding the risks of irregular migration; ii) improving training and increasing job opportunities in the tourism sector; and iii) promoting youth mobility through regular migration.
Duration	24 months
SDGs	SDG 1 End all forms of poverty in the world. SDG 8 Encourage sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among nations. 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, durable 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>	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)
Health and social 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	Legato



# ENVIRONMENT

In Egypt, environmental and biodiversity protection face several challenges: the effects of the climate crisis, mass tourism, degradation of natural habitats, and poaching have a direct effect on both marine and terrestrial ecosystems. To address these threats, Egypt adopted Law 102/1983, establishing a national system of Protected Areas, initiated a national strategy, and participated in numerous international environmental protection protocols and conventions.

Italian Cooperation has supported several activities for the sustainable development of Egypt's protected areas. Since the 1990s, Egypt's Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation Program (EIECP) has enabled, in different phases, the adoption of management plans for the enjoyment of the natural heritage and the enhancement of local communities for land protection.

The EIECP, in its early stages, promoted (i) strengthening the legal framework and (ii) initiated capacity-building activities and institutional support; (iii) implementation of activities to improve tourism offerings in the Siwa Oasis; (iv) sustainable development of the Gebel Elba National Park and interventions in the Wadi Rayan and Wadi Hitan Protected Area, which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site; and (v) improvement of natural resource governance and strengthening of local communities.

The Egyptian Ministry of Environment is currently benefiting from the interventions of the third phase of the EIECP, which aims at sustainable use of protected areas through community-based eco-sustainable natural resource management. Through stakeholder involvement, in each area of intervention and in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the initiative promotes sustainable eco-tourism activities with the direct involvement of local communities. As part of these activities, the Program promotes income enhancement for families living around the protected areas through the promotion of local handicrafts, and beekeeping activities for the young women of the Ababda tribe in partnership with the private tourism sector, while also encouraging participation in the management choices of the same areas. In addition, the Wadi El Rayan Protected



Area Concession Plan was introduced, which regulates the activities of tourism offerings within the area, ensuring its financial sustainability.

As a result of the increasing anthropogenic pressure on natural resources and the production of municipal and agricultural solid waste in 2023, the "Inclusive Green Growth in Egypt" initiative was launched together with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), which aims to stimulate growth, productivity and job creation in Egypt in the green economy sector and in particular in the management and utilization of agricultural solid waste.

Finally, during 2023, the "Addressing Climate Change through Sustainable Livestock Management" initiative was launched in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale." The initiative aims to reduce the livestock system's contribution to the climate crisis and increase its resilience to the increasingly emerging antimicrobial resistance (AMR), through the adoption of climate-friendly livestock practices and AMR mitigation measures and through the promotion of the One Health Approach. In addition, the project aims to integrate the sustainability of the livestock value chain by converting animal waste to energy through biogas production.

## 1. Italian-Egyptian Environmental Cooperation Program - Phase III - AID 5299

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 3.100.000, 00 – 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 3.100.000, 00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary country	142 - Egypt
Place of intervention	Governorates of Fayoum and Red Sea
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 I Agreement signed: 17.06.2015 II Agreement signed: 9.02.2021
Type of aid	Grant B03
Description	The initiative aims to support the Nature Conservation Sector, the Egyptian Ministry of Environment's protected area management agency, in promoting community-based income generation mechanisms for protected area management. The

	program will support eco-tourism activities to strengthen local communities living next to protected areas while implementing plans for sustainable natural resource management.
Duration	I Agreement 36 months II Agreement 36 months + extensions
SDGs	SDG 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of the Earth's ecosystem, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt the loss of biological diversity. Target 15.a Mobilize and significantly increase economic resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.  SDG 13. Promote actions, at all levels, to combat climate change. Target 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptation to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.  SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development . Target 14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce all forms of marine pollution, especially that resulting from land-based activities, including pollution of marine debris and nutrients.
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 (Significant)
Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i>	Biodiversity (Principal) Climate change (Not targeted) Desertification (Not targeted) Adaptation (Significant)
Health and social 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

## 2. Inclusive Green Growth in Egypt - AID 12587

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 800.000, 00 – 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 800.000, 00 – 100%

Financial allocation as grant	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary country	142 - Egypt
Place of intervention	Governorate of Beni Sweif
OCSE-DAC sectors	23270 Biofuel-fired power plants – 25% 23360 Non-renewable waste-fired electric power plants 25% 25030 Business development services 50%
Implementing partner	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Local partner	Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Environment
Type of aid	Grant B03
Description	<p>The project contributes to the efforts of the Egyptian government, and in particular the Ministry of Trade and Industry, to stimulate growth, productivity and job creation in Egypt, and the Ministry of Environment to safeguard the environment through the valorization of municipal and agricultural solid waste. The project implements concrete actions that will contribute to the development of a green economy in the country. The initiative expands opportunities for inclusive green growth in Egypt. Through the project's interventions in waste management, the project's green economy sectors, funded through a multi-donor approach by the Swiss government, will be extended to an additional governorate in Upper Egypt: the Governorate of Beni Sweif. The initiative involves the implementation of a pilot plant to convert waste to energy (waste-to-energy) through the use of innovative technology.</p>
Duration	24 months - Agreement signed on 5.10.2023
SDGs	<p>SDG 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy systems for all.</p> <p>Target 7.a Increase international cooperation by 2030 to facilitate access to clean energy-related research and technologies-including renewable resources, energy efficiency, and cleaner, more advanced fossil fuel technologies-and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies.</p> <p>SDG 8. Foster sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.</p> <p>Target 8.2 Achieve higher standards of economic productivity through diversification, technological progress and innovation, including with a focus on high value-added and labor-intensive sectors.</p>

	<p>SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure and promote innovation and equitable, responsible and sustainable industrialization.</p> <p>Target 9.3 Increase access of industrial and non-industrial small businesses, particularly in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable loans, and their integration into supply chains and markets.</p> <p>SDG 13. Promote actions, at all levels, to combat climate change.</p> <p>Target 13.3 Improve education, awareness, and human and institutional capacity for climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning.</p>
<p>Policy objectives OCSE-DAC</p> <p><i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i></p>	<p>Gender equality policy marker (Significant)</p> <p>Aid to environment (Principal)</p> <p>Participatory development / good governance (Significant)</p> <p>Trade development marker (Significant)</p>
<p>Rio markers</p> <p><i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i></p>	<p>Biodiversity (Not targeted)</p> <p>Climate change (Principal)</p> <p>Desertification (Significant)</p> <p>Adaptation (Significant)</p>
<p>Health and social markers</p> <p><i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i></p>	<p>Disability (0)</p> <p>Maternal Health (0)</p> <p>Minors (0)</p>
Programme-based approach	No
Tied/untied project	Untied

### 3. Tackling Climate Change Through Sustainable Livestock Management - 12778

Type of funding	Multilateral
Total funding	€ 4.000.000, 00 – 100%
Partecipazione finanziaria a dono	€ 4.000.000, 00 – 100%
Financial allocation as grant	€ 0,00 – 0%
Counterpart funding	€ 0,00 – 0%
Contribution implementing partner	€ 0,00 – 0%
Beneficiary country	142 - Egypt
Place of intervention	Governorates of Beheira and Assiut

OCSE-DAC sectors	<p>31110 Agricultural policy and administrative management (25%)</p> <p>31195 Livestock/veterinary service (30%)</p> <p>31163 Livestock (25%)</p> <p>23270 Biofuel-fired power plants (20%)</p>
Implementing partner	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Local partner	Ministry of Agriculture and Reclamation
Type of aid	Grant B03
Description	<p>The project aims to reduce the livestock system's contribution to climate change by strengthening the resilience of livestock farms to the emergence of antimicrobial resistance through the adoption of animal health and environmentally friendly livestock practices. The action also aims to increase energy production from animal waste through the establishment of biogas plants and thereby reduce the contribution of greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>It aims to achieve these results through the following main interventions: i) promotion of climate-friendly livestock production practices, ii) promotion of awareness and surveillance programs on antimicrobial resistance, iii) improvement of animal health protection and disease control measures, and iv) establishment of biogas units for green energy production from animal waste</p>
Duration	36 months - Agreement signed on 06/26/2023
SDGs	<p>SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms, everywhere.</p> <p>Target 1.5: Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.</p> <p>SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.</p> <p>Target 2.3: Double agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists, and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets, and opportunities for value addition and off-farm employment.</p> <p>Target 2.4: Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, help maintain ecosystems, strengthen adaptive capacity to climate change, extreme weather, drought, floods, and other disasters, and progressively improve soil and land quality.</p>

	<p>SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages. Target 3.d: Reduce premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases by one-third through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.</p> <p>SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Target 7.b: Substantially increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.</p> <p>SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.</p>
<p>Policy objectives OCSE-DAC <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i></p>	<p>Gender equality policy marker (Not targeted) Aid to environment (Principal) Participatory development / good governance (Significant) Trade development marker (Not targeted)</p>
<p>Rio markers <i>Principal, Significant, Not targeted</i></p>	<p>Biodiversity (Not targeted) Climate change (Principal) Desertification (Significant) Adaptation (Significant)</p>
<p>Health and social markers <i>Primary – 4, Most of funding – 3, Half of funding – 2, A quarter of funding – 1; Negligible – 0</i></p>	<p>Disability (0) Maternal Health (0) Minors (0)</p>
<p>Programme-based approach</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Tied/untied project</p>	<p>United</p>



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

Under the Italian-Egyptian Debt Swap Program, two interventions are currently being developed. The first aims to support the sustainable development of the Abu Sir and Abu Ghorab sites, which are part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Necropolis of Memphis, by strengthening the accessibility and usability of the archaeological area and promoting its opening to the public through the integration of the site into the Saqqara tourist circuit. The second intervention would contribute to the installation of a gallery of Fayyum Portraits at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.





# ITALIAN EGYPTIAN DEBT SWAP PROGRAMME PHASE III

The Italian-Egyptian Debt Conversion Program is one of the most important instruments of cooperation between Italy and Egypt, not only because of the amount of resources mobilized, but also because of the strong local ownership in development processes.

The Program was established in 2001, when the first Debt Conversion Agreement was signed between the Governments of Italy and of the Arab Republic of Egypt, amounting to 149 million U.S. dollars (USD) worth of debt generated from aid credits, converted into resources to finance fifty-three initiatives, operating in sectors such as environmental protection, cultural heritage, rural development, small and medium enterprise development, education, social protection, etc.

In light of the success of the first phase, a second intergovernmental agreement, signed in 2007, provided for the conversion of an additional debt tranche of 100 million USD. These resources enabled the implementation of thirty-one projects that in continuity with the initiatives implemented under the first agreement, worked on issues such as human resources development, technology transfer, primary production development, environmental protection and social development.

L'attuale fase del Programma si basa invece sul terzo accordo, firmato il 10 maggio 2012 per una durata prevista di 11 anni, che ha previsto la conversione di una quota di debito di un valore complessivo pari a \$USA 100 milioni (valore dato dalla somma di debiti in \$USA per 82.755.369 e in EUR per 13.087.911<sup>4</sup>).

As of 31 December 2023, the entirety of the installments covered by the Agreement is already converted, and deposited in the Counterpart Fund (CPF) established with the Central Bank of Egypt for actual countervalue of Egyptian Pounds (LE) 926,017,366.07.

These resources are earmarked for the implementation of development initiatives jointly identified by the Parties within five priority areas defined in the Agreement, namely:

1. Nutrition and food security, particularly to strengthen food security in the country and improve the management of national grain reserves.

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<sup>4</sup> The exchange rate adopted as a reference is the one used at the time of the signing of the Agreement, equal to 1 euro = 1.31760 USD



2. **Education and vocational training**, particularly to support national school feeding programs, as well as to improve the quality of technical education through the establishment of technical schools through partnerships with the private sector, with the aim of providing Egyptian students with the appropriate preparation to enter the labor market.

3. **Agribusiness sector**, particularly to consolidate the marine aquaculture sector in Egypt, as well as to support the production of commercial quantities of hybrid vegetable seeds with higher productivity, better quality, and greater disease resistance.

4. **Environmental and cultural heritage**, to preserve biodiversity in the country's Protected Areas, reduce the impact of climate change, and introduce new technologies for the treatment of unsorted municipal waste, and support the sustainable development of the country's archaeological sites.

5. **Civil society**, to contribute to women's empowerment, child protection, job creation, and preservation of natural and cultural heritage.

A total of twenty-three initiatives have been formalized under the Program so far: seven of them are promoted by Egyptian ministries and government agencies, one by the World Food Program (WFP), and fourteen by Italian (5) and Egyptian (9) civil society organizations (CSOs), for a total expenditure commitment of LE 887.371,964.07, including funds allocated for operational costs and for technical assistance, entrusted to the Program's Technical Support Unit (TSU), or about 96 percent of the resources generated by the Agreement.

Against this allocation, to date, resources have been disbursed from the CPF to the projects totaling 770,757,270.61 EGP<sup>5</sup>, which translates into the cancellation of approximately 90% of the 100 million USD debt stipulated in the Agreement, specifically corresponding to the sum of 75,513,783.56 USD and 11,017,410.94 euros.

Of the approved initiatives, as of December 31, 2023, fifteen had already been completed, five were in progress, and three were in a state of suspension due to technical-economic difficulties and/or delays in implementation

In addition to the funds already committed, other resources have been preliminarily set aside for the financing of six additional initiatives (four promoted by Ministries and two by Egyptian CSOs), already identified and/or approved by the Management Committee, which will involve the commitment of the entirety of the remaining resources.

The Parties are working to ensure that the procedures for the formal allocation of residual funds to initiatives under formulation and the possible reallocation of frozen resources to suspended projects can be completed as soon as possible, in order to ensure that the entirety of the funds generated by the Agreement will be formally committed by 31 December 2024, the date of the conclusion of the Agreement.

Below is a summary description of the resource allocation of the various areas of intervention, also outlining the initiatives that have being launched and/or being formulated.

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<sup>5</sup> This figure also takes into account disbursements of December 2023, but settled in the first weeks of January 2024.

## **Nutrition and food safety**

The Conversion Agreement stipulated that 45 percent of the resources generated by the conversion process, amounting to an actual countervalue of LE 416,708,000, is allocated to the "Nutrition and Food Security" sector and specifically to the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade. This amount was allocated in full to the implementation of an initiative aimed at improving the management of the country's grain reserves.

- (concluded) Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade: "Construction of vertical silos and implementation of an information system for grain management in three governorates (Sharqiyya, Minya and Monufiyya)." Contribution of LE 416,708,000. The project involves the construction, testing and commissioning of six grain storage silo complexes, each consisting of four silos with a capacity of 1250 tons each, with a total storage capacity of about 30 thousand tons of grain. The project also includes the development and implementation of a pilot information system capable of ensuring the real-time nationwide management of grain flows between the various collection, storage and distribution points.

## **Vocational education and training**

The Conversion Agreement stipulated to allocate 13 percent of the resources generated by the Agreement, corresponding to LE 120,383,000, to the "Education and Technical Education" sector. Within this sector, it was specifically intended to intervene to promote the improvement of the technical and vocational education and training system in the country, to meet the needs of the Egyptian labor market and increase the competitiveness of Egyptian technicians in the regional and global market. To the sector's original allocation, LE 42,000,000 were also added with the first amendment to the Agreement, which was transferred from the Environment and Cultural Heritage sector's allocation, and allocated to the World Food Program for an initiative to support schooling and social development in Luxor Governorate. Within the sector, as of 31 December 2023, resources of LE 158,966,254 were formally committed, and distributed among the following initiatives:

- (Outstanding) Education Development Fund: "Establishment of an Integrated Italian-Egyptian Technical Education Cluster (ITEC) in the Governorate of Giza" - Contribution of LE 63,206,254. The initiative, designed in partnership with the Emilia-Romagna Region, aims to establish a new ITEC in the city of Abu Ghaleb, replicating the model successfully tested under Phase II of the Conversion Program through the creation of the ITEC Cluster in Demo in the Governorate of Fayyum. The new ITEC Pole will offer three-year basic courses and two-year specialized courses in two areas of specialization (electrical/photovoltaic plant engineering and clothing). At the expected closing date of 31 July 2023, the project failed to complete the implementation of the planned activities (especially the civil works and the equipping of the teaching spaces), revealing a rather low performance: in fact, the last tranche of funding worth LE 34,361,516.54 still remained to be transferred. As of 01 August 2023, the project was suspended although a request for extension and disbursement of the last tranche of funding was being formulated. The suspension of the project, however, did not affect the educational activities, which, not burdening the budget of the initiative, proceed regularly. Moreover, as of 2020, the partnership with the Emilia-Romagna Region is effectively frozen.

- (Ongoing) Education Development Fund: "New Vocational Secondary School pathway at the Integrated Italian-Egyptian Technical Education Cluster, in the Governorate of Fayyum" - Contribution of LE 12,960,000. The initiative aims to establish within the aforementioned ITEC Pole in Demo, established as part of Phase II, a new Vocational Secondary School (VSS) educational pathway that will



offer three-year courses in four areas of specialization (electrical/photovoltaic systems; automobile repair and maintenance; air conditioner manufacturing and maintenance). Like the initiative described above and managed by the same entity (EDF), also this project is severely delayed, especially in the delivery of the planned civil works and set-up of teaching spaces. In fact, as of 30 June 2023, the planned project closing date, the project activities had not been completed and the last tranche of funding (LE 3,111,700.00) still remained to be transferred. Only recently the executing entity requested and obtained a non-burdensome extension (an additional 12 months), at the same time as the disbursement of the last tranche of funding.

- (Ongoing) Ministry of Education: "AT-STEP Improvement of Technical Schools and Teacher Capacity" - LE 40,800,000 grant. The project aims to contribute to improving the quality of technical education in the country, through the establishment of forty of the more than one hundred applied technology schools (ATS) planned to be established in the country, and managed by a specific Management Unit (MU), based in the Ministry of Education. The initiative aims to train students with certified skills that are recognized by employers nationally, regionally and internationally, as well as to improve the skills of trainers and teachers in order to replicate the educational model in each ATS. Although all activities are progressing smoothly (just with some deviation from the initial strategy, especially in the areas of audit visits, certification of skills, teachers and accreditation) the performance is low and the spending capacity is limited.

- (Concluded) World Food Program: "Social protection and human capital development in Luxor Governorate" - LE 42,000,000 grant. The initiative offers support to first grade community school students and their families through an innovative multi-disciplinary approach that, acting in a complementarity with national social protection programs, includes: distribution of meals within schools, provision of monthly financial contributions to families of students who regularly attend classes, support for economic empowerment particularly of women and youth (through strengthening practical life skills), vocational training courses, access to micro-credit funds for starting micro-enterprises, etc. The initiative ended on 30 June 2022.

### **Agribusiness sector**

The Conversion Agreement allocates 15 percent of the total resources generated by the Agreement to the agribusiness sector, which, at actual value corresponds to LE 138,903,000. Within this sector, as of 31 December 2023, resources amounting to LE 138,900,000 had already been committed, broken down as follows:

- (Concluded) Ministry of Agriculture: "Development of marine aquaculture in Egypt - Phase 2 (MADE 2)." - Contribution of LE 105,824,000. The initiative is an expansion of the MADE project (implemented during Phase 2 of the Conversion Program) and aims to further consolidate the marine aquaculture sector in Egypt. This is through the establishment of a new marine aquaculture district in Port Said that can support companies operating in the sector to achieve an increase in overall fish production in accordance with international standards. Through an amendment to the executive agreement, which provided for the release of additional funds to address the devaluation of the Egyptian Pound, the unfinished activities of the previous phase, namely the construction of the hatchery at KM 21 in Alexandria, were also incorporated into the current initiative. These districts, in addition to state-of-the-art technology for fish production, such as fry hatcheries, veterinary laboratories, and multitrophic rearing facilities, also include facilities for training and technical assistance to the private sector.



- (Outstanding) Ministry of Agriculture and Reclamation: "Establishment of a Red Tilapia Fish Hatchery in North Sinai" - Grant of LE 14,176,000. Building on the experience gained through the two phases of the MADE project, the initiative aims to promote sustainable aquaculture development in the North Sinai area (Lake Bardawil) through the establishment of a fish nursery for the production of fry of the local Red Tilapia species. Although the entire funding was disbursed in May 2022, to date, project activities have never begun. At the Steering Committee meeting held in July 2023, the executing agency reported the inability to implement the plant with the funds made available for the project, was due to the significant increases in the market costs. Taking note of the unavailability of additional funds within the Program, the executing entity initially redefined the intervention strategy to allow, within the resources available for the project, the construction of a pilot plant with reduced production capacities. To date, however, despite several reminders, no request has yet been received.

- (Ongoing) Ministry of Agriculture and Reclamation: "Support for the National Program for the Production of Hybrid Seeds and Varieties of Vegetable Plants" - Grant of LE 18,900,000. This initiative, which is part of a national hybrid seed production plan for eleven types of vegetables, provides support for the production, registration and marketing of hybrid seeds of eight crops, namely bell pepper, eggplant, squash, cucumber, watermelon, melon, cowpea and potato, while the Ministry has already allocated funds for seed production of the remaining three crops (tomatoes, green beans and peas).

### **Environmental and cultural heritage**

The Conversion Agreement planned to allocate 15% of the resources, LE 138,903,000, to the Cultural and Environmental Heritage Protection sector. In light of the first amendment to the Agreement, which sanctioned the transfer of LE 42,000,000 that were reallocated to the Education sector in support of the World Food Program initiative, the sector allocation was reduced to LE 98,903,000.

This decision followed the cancellation of the project titled "Renovation of the Greek-Roman Museum in Alexandria and enhancement of the archaeological sites of Saqqara and Medinet Madi," sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. With the cancellation of the aforementioned project, which envisaged a contribution of LE 53.1 million, the Management Committee decided to make available to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities the amount of LE 10,727,000, which had already been disbursed as the first installment of funding for the original project, to be allocated in favor of a new initiative - currently being formulated - and aimed at rehabilitating the archaeological site of Abu Sir and improving it as tourist destination for tourists.

Within this sector, as of 31 December 2023 a total of LE 70,487,019 had been formally committed, as well as preliminarily allocated resources amounting to LE 26,415,981, for a total amount of LE 96,903,000, corresponding to the entire allocation of the sector. These funds were allocated to finance the following initiatives:

- (Outstanding) Ministry of Environment: "Solid Waste Management in Minya Governorate - Third Phase" - LE 70,487,019 grant. Following up on the initiatives implemented during the previous two phases of the Conversion Program, this initiative aims to improve the solid waste collection and management system in Minya Governorate. In order to achieve this objective, the main components of the project are the transfer of technical expertise for the execution 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 plant in the city of Minya for the biomechanical treatment of municipal waste, modeled after the one built in Al-Edwa with the use of Italian



technology in the sector. As of 31 March 2022, the project was suspended, since the executing agency indicated that there was an inability to build the plant with the funds made available for the project, due to the significant increases in market costs in recent years. Taking note of the unavailability of additional funds within the Program, a dialogue with the Ministry of Environment and the Solid Waste Management Regulatory Authority was initiated to redefine the intervention strategy in order to allow the construction of a functioning plant within the limits of the resources made available by the project.

- (Pending approval) Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities: "Support for the development of the Abusir archaeological area in Giza Governorate" - contribution of LE 10,727,000. This initiative, aims to strengthen the accessibility and usability of the Abusir archaeological area by promoting its opening to the public through the integration of the site into the Sakkara tourist circuit.

- (In formulation) Ministry of Environment: "Monitoring and Protection of Biodiversity in the Protected Areas of the Fayyum and the Red Sea" - estimated contribution of LE 15,680,000. This initiative, working synergistically with the Italian-Egyptian Environmental Cooperation Program funded by the bilateral channel, will promote biodiversity conservation in the country's Protected Areas.

- (In formulation) Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities: "Creation of a Fayyum Portraits Gallery at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo" - estimated contribution of LE 10,000,000 from residual funds of Phase II.

- (In formulation) Ministry of Environment: "Support to the Water-Food-Energy Nexus Program (NWFE)" - estimated contribution of LE 12,174,065.29 from the residual funds of the Second Phase.

### **Civil society**

The Conversion Agreement planned to allocate 10% of the resources generated by the conversion process to civil society organizations (CSOs). Therefore, the total sector allocation at the end of the conversion period is LE 92,602,000.

Through a comparative procedure carried out in 2014, with a total endowment of LE 60,000,000, determined on the basis of a conservative estimate of the exchange rate, twelve CSOs had initially been selected for funding, including six Italian ones (of which one - CIERA - was subsequently no longer funded following the cancellation of the proposed initiative) and six Egyptian ones. A seventh Egyptian CSO (SCDECA) had been added in 2018, following a Management Committee's recommendation.

The remaining resources amounting to about LE 32 million (that became available thanks to a more favorable exchange rate than the one estimated on the date of the comparative procedure), were subsequently distributed, among the same CSOs, on the basis of a positive technical assessment of the TSU, in order to strengthen some of the ongoing initiatives (COSPE, CISS, MAIS, AWSC) or to finance second phases of already concluded initiatives (NHSD, HVS, MMBA).

During the IX meeting, the Management Committee also agreed to allocate to the Egyptian Key of Life (KOL) CSO, already involved as a partner in the WFP initiative, the remaining available sector allocation of LE 1,309,675, that will be added to the unused and returned residuals from already concluded projects, which amounted to LE 3,288,444.04 as of 31 December 2023. Thus, the entirety of the resources allocated by the Agreement to the Civil Society sector is allocated or set aside to finance the initiatives detailed below:

1. (Ongoing) HVS - Hope Village Society: "Community support for family and aftercare system for sheltered children and youth." Grant of LE 7,500,000.

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2. (Ongoing) NHASD - New Horizon Association for Social Development: "Employ some to feed many - Employment creation for sustainable development in New Valley Governorate - Phase II." Grant of LE 7,500,000.
  3. (In formulation) MMBA - Masr El Mahrousa Baladi Association: "Care" project for the protection of at-risk children." Contribution of LE 7,500,000.
  4. (In formulation) KOL - Key of Life: "Action to support women's empowerment in Luxor Governorate". Contribution of LE 1,309,675 and unused residue from the completed OSC projects, as of 31 December 2023 amounting to LE 3,288,444.04.
  5. (Concluded) Save the Children Italy - "A safer environment for children - Phase II". Contribution of LE 5,000,000.
  6. (Concluded) Research and Cooperation - "Actions for marginalized groups in the Cairo metropolitan area." Contribution of LE 5,000,000.
  7. (Concluded) ADEW - Association of the Development and Enhancement of Women: "Tamkeen: Women's Empowerment with a focus on female heads of households and youth in Fayyum Governorate." Contribution of LE 5,000,000.
  8. (Concluded) HVS - Hope Village Society: "Reintegration and protection of the rights of young women and street children." Contribution of LE 4,610,155.
  9. (Concluded) FAODA - Fayyum Agro Organic Development Association: "Women's empowerment in rural Fayyum." Contribution of LE 5,000,000.
  10. (Concluded) NHASD - New Horizon Association for Social Development: "Employ some to feed many - Phase I." Contribution of LE 5,000,000.
  11. (Concluded) MMBA - Masr El Mahrousa Baladi Association: "Protection and socio-economic development of at-risk minors in reception centers in Greater Cairo." Contribution of LE 3,400,000.
  12. (Concluded) SCDECA - Siwa Community Development Environmental Conservation Association: "Rehabilitation and conservation of the historic center of Siwa." Contribution of LE 700,000.
  13. (Concluded) AWSC - Alex Workshop Center: "HARMONY - Healthy arts recovery for mental disabilities and other needs." Contribution of LE 7,500,000.
  14. (Concluded) M.A.I.S. - Movement for Self-Development, Interchange and Solidarity: "Becoming Leaders: creating job opportunities and sustainable economic development for women in Upper Egypt." Contribution of LE 8,108,950.
  15. (Concluded) CISS - International South-South Cooperation: "Strengthening the business environment for ecotourism development in New Valley Governorate." Contribution of LE 9,842,150.
  16. (Concluded) COSPE - Cooperation for the Development of Emerging Countries: "HOPE - Empowerment of artisanal and organic farmers." Contribution of LE 9,631,070.



# EU DELEGATED COOPERATION

The European Union and its member countries represent the largest source of Official Development Assistance 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 efforts through the "New European Consensus on Development," which is a strategic framework for both EU institutions and member countries.

In addition, the European Union has also developed its priorities for the EU-Egypt Partnerships 2017-2027, which pay particular attention to strengthening cooperation, guided by Egypt's "Vision 2030" sustainable development strategy, and intent on promoting common interests, ensuring long-term stability, and sustainable development on both sides of the Mediterranean.

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 European Union's budget and funds and harmonizes its own guidelines and programming lines with those of the European Union, encouraging the implementation of joint projects," and 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 process of accreditation as a qualified organization for indirect management of European funding, passing the pillar-assessment verification. Since that time, AICS



has taken full ownership of delegated cooperation initiatives. The term "delegated cooperation" is used in the framework of the "EU Code of Conduct on Division of Labour in Development Policy" to refer to a management mode that allows the European Commission to delegate funds to a Member State for the implementation of cooperation programs following the signing of appropriate Delegation or Contribution Agreements and, in turn, to member states to transfer resources to the Commission itself through the signing of Transfer Agreements, all with the aim of fostering greater concentration and effectiveness of aid in those partner countries and sectors where the added value of a specific donor is most evident, with a view to reciprocity and maximization of aid effectiveness.

From 2012 to the present, delegated cooperation has consolidated to the point of being an indispensable element of Italian cooperation. Italy has been among the top four executing member states of EU cooperation, with clear positive returns for the Italian development cooperation system as a whole, both in terms of volumes of resources available for cooperation interventions and in terms of political visibility: within the EU itself, with partner countries and with other donors.

Within the framework of Joint Programming, following up on what was positively achieved through the Delegated Cooperation Program "EU-Joint Rural Development Program (EU JRDP)", managed by the Embassy of Italy Cairo for a total of 21.9 million with the technical support of AICS, and concluded in an extremely positive way during 2021, the AICS Cairo Headquarters has progressively expanded, also thanks to the Delegated Cooperation Initiatives Support Program fully financed by AICS, its package of programs financed for the channel of European funds under indirect management.

As of today, in fact, the AICS Cairo Headquarters manages seven delegated cooperation programs with a total value of €82 million, and actively works with the European Delegation in Egypt, the main partners in the area, and the Italian system to define new interventions.

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

The €6 million Multi-Educational Programme for Employment Promotion in Migration-affected Areas (MEPEP), now in its third year of implementation, aims to improve socio-economic conditions in the target areas to counter the root causes of irregular migration through the strengthening of the national technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system.

MEPEP, since June 2023, has started work in the Tenth of Ramadan Vocational Training Center, renovating the three existing buildings. As of October 2023, the first building is fully operational. The second one reached almost full operation in November 2023. The third building will be fully functional in March 2024. In December 2023, with a delay of about 4 months due to the failure of the Egyptian government to issue construction permits, work began on the creation of the completely new fourth eco-friendly building (SERENA - Sharkeya's Eco-friendly and Resilient Educational Area). Work on the new building, which will name the entire center, will be completed between June and July 2024 allowing AICS, thus, to complete the renovation of an area consisting of 3 completely renovated buildings and a new eco-friendly building furnished with new and modern equipment and tools capable of providing new curricula (green energy, first aid, and secretarial).



The Vocational Training Center, which is part of the existing network of 44 PVTD-owned Vocational Training Centers, will offer technical and vocational training in 12 different fields: welding, electronics, assisted drafting, PLC, mechatronics, automotive, tailoring, mechanics, refrigeration, secretarial, safety and first aid, and green energy.

In addition, also during 2023, MEPEP also identified the TVET service provider in Don Bosco Salesian Institute, which has started to do training and capacity building to 270 Egyptian trainers, including PVTD staff working in the VTC in Tenth of Ramadan. This activity aims to improve the standard of courses in the VTC (through training of trainers) and to support the Job Placement Office (JPO) in job matching activities. On the sidelines of these activities, AICS is supporting the PVTD to improve its ability to correctly identify stakeholders locally and internationally who wish to start new production lines in Egypt and, therefore, request vocational training and training services at the VTC in Tenth of Ramadan.

### **Climate Smart WATER Management and Sustainable DEVELOPMENT for Food and Agriculture in East Africa - WATDEV**

The regional project "Climate Smart WATER Management and Sustainable DEVELOPMENT for Food and Agriculture in East Africa - WATDEV," funded by the European Union's DeSIRA initiative for a total of €7.5 million, is being implemented in Egypt, Kenya, and Ethiopia, and aims to develop an in-depth understanding of the dynamics and management of small- and large-scale water and agricultural resources, while increasing the resilience of populations to climate, through innovative research, modeling, and "capacity building" approaches. AICS Cairo is the lead partner of the WATDEV regional project and is using CIHEAM-Bari as a partner and scientific coordinator of a European research network, which includes CNR (Italy), SYKE (Finland), ISRIC (Netherlands), ASARECA (African Sub-Regional Body), KALRO (Kenya), WLRI (Ethiopia), WRC (Sudan), Heliopolis University (Egypt).

### **EU-Zira3a – EU Integrated Rural Development Programme for Egypt**

The "EU-Zira3a - EU Integrated Rural Development Programme for Egypt" initiative, with a total amount of EUR 24 million, fully funded by the EU, aims at improving and enhancing the socio-economic conditions of communities located in the rural areas of the governorates of Sohag, Asyut and Beni Suef, located in Upper Egypt, along the course of the Nile River. Throughout the country, in a general context of strong population growth, but especially in the targeted governorates, agriculture faces challenges related to the increasing scarcity of resources, particularly water resources and availability of arable land. Existing water infrastructure and irrigation methods are increasingly suffering from the effects of climate change, and need improvements in terms of efficiency and containment of operating costs.

The complexity of the land regime, over the years, has resulted in insufficient conditions with respect to the food needs of the population. Small farmers, who own most of the arable land, are owners of micro-lots (on average one hectare each) leading to a strong fragmentation with a gradual increase trend, also due to the property transmission system, which is mainly based on inheritance. Despite encouraging the formation of agricultural cooperatives, access to technical services, agricultural machinery and especially land credit are still insufficient. The Egyptian government, as part of the 2030



Agenda for Sustainable Development, introduced the Sustainable Agriculture Development Strategy (SADS) with the aim of modernizing the sector to achieve goals related to food security and efficient and sustainable use of available resources. The EU - ZIRA3A program fits within this strategy.

The contribution agreement ENI/2021/427-389 was signed by the AICS Deputy Technical Director on 10 December 2021 for a total duration of 48 months. In the same document, on an entirely provisional basis, it already provided for the possibility of extending the Program for a period initially estimated at 12 months, however to be defined during the implementation.

On 31 October 2022, at the conclusion of the preliminary stages (acceptance of financing by the Egyptian government and issuance of VAT exemption) AICS notified the start of the implementation period and the first pre-financing installment of EUR 3,812,303 was paid.

During the first year, consistent with the established timeline, activities were carried out to establish the Project Management Unit (PMU) and Field Support Units (FSUs, in the three governorates) with the finalization of expatriate staff (Team Leader and Admin. Financial Coordinator) and local staff selections. Numerous meetings were held with representatives of the European Delegation (EUD), beneficiary line ministries (MALR - Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, MoWRI - Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation) for preliminary definitions, both at the central level and at the level of the three governorates.

In June 2023, in order to identify lines of action for activities, a consulting contract for a baseline assessment study of the agriculture component was awarded. The results of the study were presented during the workshop held in Cairo in October, which was attended by representatives of institutions, both at the central and local levels, academia and research centers, the private sector, as well as of local associations of agricultural stakeholders. The event made possible to initiate a shared path of decisional support with a participatory approach, for properly planning the activities.

For the irrigation component, an agreement was signed with the National Water Research Center (NWRC), which, under the auspices of MoWRI, will conduct the preliminary study of irrigation works at the primary and secondary canal level, final and executive engineering designs, support and assistance during the procurement phases, and construction management and testing.

In December 2023, the annual report and a request for a no-cost extension was submitted. Following thorough and careful evaluation, in agreement with EUD representatives, the extension request covers a period of 18 months. With the signing of the Contract Addendum, the total duration of the initiative will be 66 months.

### **EU-Egypt TAMKEEN Project - Enhancing Women's Empowerment in Egypt through DESITA: Egyptian Italian Fashion Design School for Women and Girls**

Among the Delegated Cooperation Agreements signed in 2023 is the one for the project "Enhancing Women's Empowerment in Egypt through DESITA: Egyptian Italian Fashion Design School for Women and Girls. EU-Egypt TAMKEEN Project." The proposed action aims to contribute to women's empowerment by addressing one of the most pressing needs emerging from women's economic





empowerment initiatives across the country and in particular the need to develop advanced skills in Design and Marketing. The intervention is designed to promote a sustainable transfer of skills between Italy and Egypt through the establishment of a Training Institute in Design. This will ensure a constant presence of qualified experts, with a widespread impact on the quality and marketing of the country's production, with a focus on products for women.

### **DEMO: enhancing Decent Employment and Mobility Opportunities for Egyptians**

Included among the Agreements signed in 2023 is the Delegation Agreement with DG Near for the "DEMO: enhancing Decent Employment and Mobility Opportunities for Egyptians" project. The proposed intervention addresses the increasingly pressing needs for employability and employment of Egyptians through strengthening the network of labor market-oriented training opportunities, skills upgrading programs, and job placement services in the Egyptian and Italian markets. Increased regular migration and mobility schemes will, therefore, be a valuable channel for enhancing Egypt's human capital and meeting the needs of both markets. The project envisions that these actions will be facilitated through the establishment of an Italian-Egyptian center to promote decent employment and mobility opportunities, jointly coordinated by Italian and Egyptian authorities. The center will manage these operations and take advantage of the extensive network of technical and vocational training institutions supported by Italian projects over the years.

### **Strengthening the human and institutional capacities of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities - NCPD**

Also signed between the European Union and AICS at the end of 2023 is the project "Strengthening Human and Institutional Capacity of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities - CNPD" to promote better inclusion of people with disabilities in Egypt, which will be directly managed by AICS Cairo.

The project is funded through a European contribution of €1 million, and specifically aims to increase the capacity of the CNPD with respect to its mandate to promote, develop and protect the rights and dignity of people with disabilities.





 ITALIAN AGENCY  
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# CAIRO



**ITALIAN AGENCY  
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## CAIRO



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