

# LOCALIZATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS — IN EGYPT —



## Part IV:

Some international and Egyptian practices and initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

A research paper prepared within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Localization Project

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## Introduction

**Egypt is the first country to localize the Sustainable Development Goals in a way that depends on setting quantitative targets for each governorate to achieve, with the aim of accelerating the achievement of SDGs in Egypt.**

In this context, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, in partnership with Baseera Center and the United Nations Population Fund, launched the project of “Localization of Sustainable Development Goals at the Governorate Level”. The first phase of the project focused on setting quantitative targets at the governorate level for indicators to follow up on the achievement of SDGS, which helps the governorate to develop appropriate plans and prioritize them to achieve these goals. During the second phase of the project, workshops were held with planning and follow-up officials from five selected governorates to familiarize them with the sustainable development goals, their indicators, and the quantitative targets for each governorate. During the third phase of the project, the rest of the governorates of the Republic were covered.

During the three phases of the project, many research papers were prepared. This paper is one of the outputs of this project which focuses on presenting a number of distinguished international experiences that aimed to achieve Sustainable Development Goals at the local level taking into account the nature of the different local areas. It is likely important to shed light on such practices to identify and benefit from them before addressing the planning process and the opportunities available in Egypt.

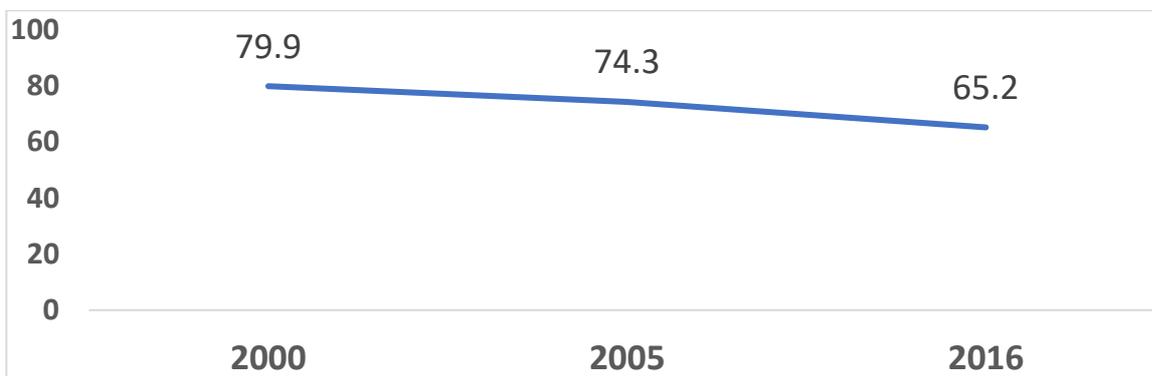
The paper also presents a number of Egyptian experiences implemented by some governorates to achieve improvement in some Sustainable Development Goals and the related objects.

## First: International Experiences:

Many countries, especially the developing ones, have adopted initiatives and practices that help achieve SDGs, taking into account the political, economic and social nature of each country. It is clear that most developing countries have been concerned with achieving certain SDGs by tackling and addressing specific issues at the local level, taking into account the differences between local regions, which contributes to achieving comprehensive social and economic development. These issues include hunger, issues relating to children and family.

### 1. The Ethiopian Experience in Reducing the Rates of Female Genital Mutilation:

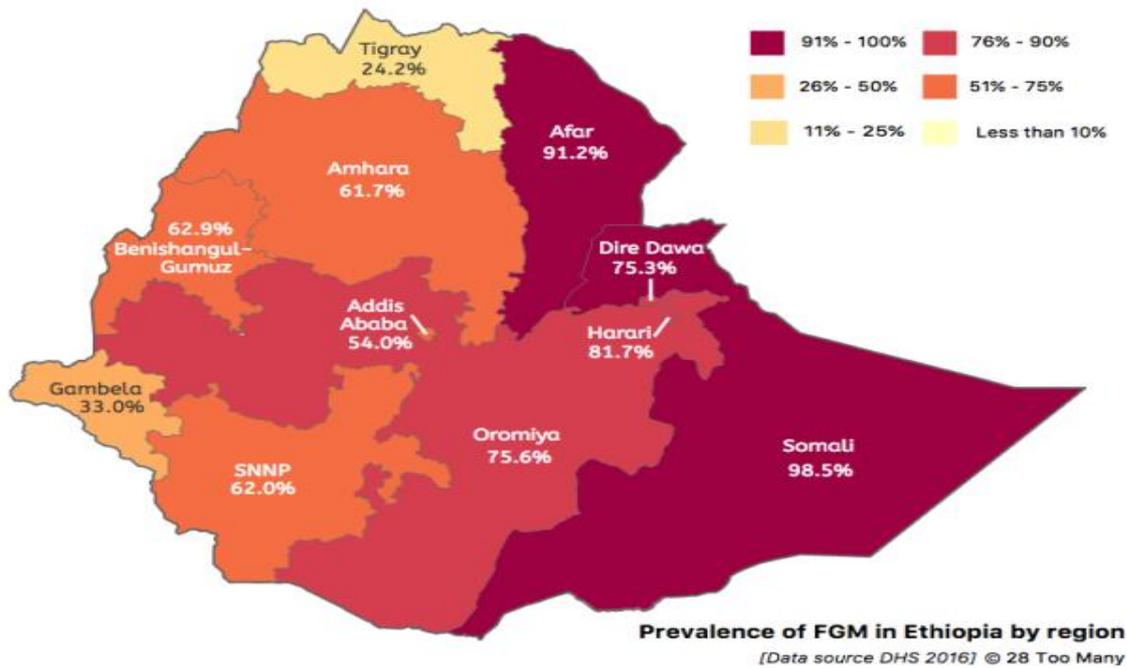
The phenomenon of female genital mutilation in Ethiopia decreased significantly between 2000 and 2016, as it decreased from 80% to 65% approximately.



Ethiopia: “Law and Femal Gentile Mutilation, 2018– Thomas Reuters Agency”

A study of female genital mutilation at the local level shows that the prevalence of female genital mutilation varies from one region to another, where the highest percentage of mutilated women exists in a Somali region in eastern Ethiopia, at about 99%, while it reaches 24.2% in Tigray region.





In this context, an Ethiopian NGO; namely Kembatti Mentti-Gezimma (KMG), has worked to address this phenomenon in local Ethiopian communities through the following:

- Raising awareness of the harmful effects of female genital mutilation.
- Encouraging the members of these communities– especially the youth – to take action against this phenomenon.
- Encouraging influencers in society, who have an influence on youth, to empower girls and change their beliefs about FGM.
- At the media level, information about FGM and its harmful effects was presented in the local media.

A group of activists in Ethiopia have also launched a "Wimta" – or "I am perfect" campaign – to celebrate girls who were brave enough to refuse to be mutilated. Moreover, clubs have also been established for girls who have not undergone this



process to educate and make other girls and their families aware of changing their erroneous inheritances towards this phenomenon

## **2. Uganda's Experience in Raising Awareness of Family Planning Methods**

The population of Uganda in 2018 was about 42.7 million, and its GDP in 2018 amounted to about \$27.5 billion. Being among the top 10 countries with the highest fertility rates in the world, Ugandan government is urged to cooperate with some international institutions to support family planning programs at the local level by expanding access to high-quality family planning services in small communities. Accordingly, a set of family planning programs have been organized in 5 regions (Ajago, Bwindi, Buttalega, Kaijgua and Rupresi). These programs correspond to the main reasons for the low use of family planning methods, and the different beliefs of individuals in these regions.

Each of these region undertakes a range of interventions for family planning, led by multi-sectoral working groups. These interventions include:

- Making community members and religious leaders aware of the importance of family planning.
- Using radio talk shows to exchange information and eliminate false legacies about family planning methods.
- Making each region focus on a set of activities according to its needs; for example, “Kijigua” region focuses on activities related to reducing the number of family members, while “Ajago” region focuses on activities based on cooperation between the media and health workers to ensure the accuracy of the information presented on the importance of family planning means.
- Developing communication strategies between health workers and the community through the media, which help create demand for family planning methods. In the meanwhile, all regions focused on modifying societal concepts that contribute to high reproductive rates.



It is worth noting that Uganda launched a five-year action plan 2015–2020 for family planning, in which the media played a major role in supporting family planning in Uganda through the following:

- Ensure the delivery of objective, accurate, clear and consistent messages about family planning in a multi-sectoral context such as the impact of family planning on development.
- Target different segments of society as per age, regions and education.
- Develop and implement mass media campaigns that include radio programs, television series and mobile phone programs.
- Use the media to encourage other workers to reduce the burden on health workers by incorporating positive messages of family planning into their programs.

### **3. Kenya's Experience in Improving Child Nutrition**

Kenya is considered one of the countries suffering from the problem of malnutrition, for example, Nairobi suffers from a high rate of stunting, underweight, and wasting in children, especially in slum areas. In some regions, 24.5% of children from 4 to 11 years old suffer from stunting, 14.9% suffer from underweight, and 9.7% suffer from wasting.

The World Food Program has developed a school feeding program in Kenya based on encouraging local agricultural production. The program transfers cash to school bank accounts to buy fresh local food from small farmers in villages and cities to prepare the daily food for the children in these schools. The value of cash transfers to schools depends on the enrollment rate and the number of school days.

The model of this program is characterized by flexibility in defining the products to be purchased, the date of purchase and the quantity required through a school committee consisting of teachers, parents and members of the school community to ensure transparency and the appropriate use of the grants transferred to these



schools. Therefore, this program is characterized by encouraging local agricultural production and empowering small farmers in villages and cities, which stimulates the economic growth of these areas and helps to achieve social protection and reduces poverty rates. Moreover, it encourages children to achieve good academic results as a result of proper nutrition and the availability of their meals. It also helps to increase the school attendance rate.

It is worth noting that thanks to these efforts, lunches were delivered to about 1.5 million children in schools every day in the classrooms. In addition, this program led to an increase in the enrollment rate and the number of school days and encouraged participatory approach through the School Committee.



#### 4. India's Experience in Reducing Child Mortality Rate

In 2018, India's population reached about 1.4 billion. About 750,000 babies died in India annually; 43% of them die due to preterm birth. The main problem is the scarcity of simple, effective and accurate tools to monitor the birth process, especially in about 150,000 small centers under the supervision of nurse assistants.

One of the Indian companies designed the "Fotosense" feature that monitors the status of the heart along with the "U-Act feature" that monitors uterine contractions so that they can be identified early. Upon using this feature within "CareMother program" –which contains home prenatal tests using portable diagnostic tools – a birth monitoring service is provided to reduce complications before delivery, which contributes to reducing continued reliance on direct follow-up with doctors in medical centers and activating the use of the remote follow-up system by doctors.

#### Second: Distinguished Egyptian Experiences

In this section, we will tackle experiences that depend on the partnership between the government, the private sector and non-governmental organizations in some governorates for the purpose of developing programs and interventions that would achieve SDGs at the local level. They are experiences that can be repeated in other governorates. So, we believe that it is necessary to present them in order to allow the exchange of these experiences between the governorates.

## 1. Employment of Information Technology to Fight Hunger

Food losses and wastes along food value chains in the Near East and North Africa are estimated at around 250 kilograms per person, which equates to around US\$60 billion annually. The social, economic and environmental impacts of this are grave for a region that has limited potential to increase food production, faces scarcity of water and arable land and relies heavily on global food imports. Approximately two-thirds of food is lost in food production, handling, processing and distribution, while the other third is lost at the consumer level.

In Egypt, a number of individual initiatives have been launched to reduce food waste and help the vulnerable benefit from this food surplus. Some of these initiatives have relied on the use of information technology.

One of these initiatives is “Tekeya” application, which was launched in January 2019. The main objective of this application is to fight hunger, reduce food waste and provide high quality food to those in need by creating an online platform that facilitates the process of distributing surplus food from service providers and making it accessible to consumers. As a first phase, food providers will include grocery stores and restaurants in Cairo and Giza.

Through the application, food providers upload information about their surplus food products for sale at a discounted price. It also helps various consumers to enjoy a meal at a reasonable price. Charities will also benefit from the application, which will give food providers the opportunity to donate food for free.



## **2. Developing Public Schools in Giza Governorate**

The Directorate of Education in Giza Governorate has agreed with the owners of some private schools to undertake the development of some public schools in Giza Governorate. This development is represented in upgrading buildings or providing computers for computer labs in the school; hence, the governorate will not incur the cost of developing these schools.

## **3. Providing Meals to Schools in Red Sea Governorate**

A partnership was concluded with the Food Bank, in addition to some investors, to provide a hot meal for children in about 7 or 8 schools in the Red Sea Governorate (Hurghada, Ras Ghareb and El Quseir). The mothers of the children participate in this initiative by providing daily hot meals to children during the school day, under the supervision of the Health Directorate to ensure food safety. This initiative improves the nutrition of the beneficiary children and raises attendance rate at school. In addition, it makes the families, who prepare the meals, more closer to the school.

## **4. Linking Education to the Labor Market**

Within the attempt to link graduates to the labor market and provide employment opportunities for technical education graduates, the Education Directorate in Alexandria created a department whose function is to coordinate with factories to employ technical education graduates. It collects information from factories about the type of required workers on annual basis in order to use such information as guide in the distribution of students to different specializations.

In the city of Hurghada, which is one of the most important tourist cities in Egypt, a number of investors, working in the field of tourism and hotels, have established and equipped a number of technical schools in the field of tourism and hotels to employ the graduates in their hotels. The students received training in these hotels during their study to be employed in these hotels after their graduation.