



# EU Support to Egypt's National Population Strategy

— 4 Years in Review  
2018 - 2022



More about  
the project



# Outcome 1

## Family planning services including contraceptive commodities scaled-up and more accessible

To facilitate access to and use of family planning services, UNFPA works with the Ministry of Health and Population to provide family planning methods and quality services with the support of the EU.

- In the period between April 2018 and March 2022, mobile clinics reached a total of **207,823** women with reproductive health and family planning services and counseling – **134,857** of whom received family planning methods.



- Quarterly rounds of the Your Right to Plan campaign, which aims to provide access to family planning and reproductive health services and raise community awareness, **4,253,856** women were reached with reproductive health and family planning services and counseling in 26 governorates – **3,527,525** of whom received family planning methods.



- The project also focused on training physicians and nurses working in family planning clinics to ensure the provision of quality family planning services. To that end, service providers from **5,435** family planning clinics were trained. **4,127** physicians were trained on the insertion and removal of subdermal implants “Implanon,” hormonal IUDs and related eligibility criteria. And **4,785** family planning nurses were trained on a comprehensive package that includes counseling, main pitfalls, infection control, and management of family planning clinics.



## Outcome 1


### Number of trained Physicians


Baseline	Target	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
631	4500	1135	763	526	1072	4127

- To ensure that family planning services and supply is accessible to women whose mobility is constrained by social norms, the project trained 11,731 outreach workers to promote family planning services, risks associated consecutive pregnancies, appropriate family planning methods for the postpartum period, addressing misconceptions around family planning, and relevant communication skills.
- The project also works on revitalization of women health clubs affiliated to family planning clinics, where the project supported building the capacity of service providers, refurbishment, and provision of IEC materials for the **2500** Women Health Clubs.

Awareness sessions at the clubs reached **177,234** women, and tackled issues such as the effect of family planning on the health of the mother and child, the involvement of men, and harmful practices mainly early marriage and FGM.

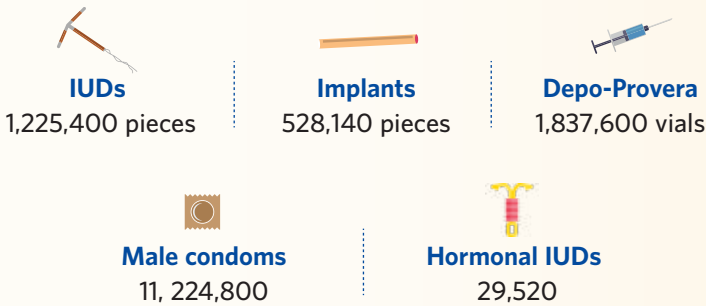


- Integrating family planning counseling in maternal and neonatal service delivery points helps in avoiding unintended pregnancies, where women are informed during their last trimester of pregnancy and during newborn immunization about the importance of seeking immediate postpartum contraception and importance of sufficient birth spacing both for the physical and mental health of the mother and her newborn.
- To that end, **5,498** female primary healthcare nurses were trained on the introduction of family planning methods during the antenatal care (ANC) visits, postpartum visits, and during immunizations. 

Moreover, **100** hospitals have been staffed with trained OBGYNs to implement postpartum contraception. 

## Outcome 1

Since the project's inception, the following family planning commodities were procured:



Providing young people with necessary information and encouraging them to seek youth-friendly health services is essential in enabling them to make responsible and informed reproductive health decisions.

The project supported the training of **3,288** service providers from **1,951** primary healthcare units to enhance their capacity in providing services tailored for and appealing to young people.

In addition, a community engagement plan (CEP) was developed to address and resolve the challenges young people in Egypt face in accessing reproductive health services and information. The CEP took into consideration challenges such as the lack of coordination among key stakeholders concerned with the health of youth, limited knowledge of youth on reproductive health and available services, in addition to lack of community support for young people to seek and access services due to existing social norms.

The CEP framework engages community members including parents, community leaders, religious leaders and service providers and community-based organizations in a common action towards promoting reproductive health-seeking behaviors among young people.

## Outcome 1



AI-Wessam is an accreditation system where family planning units across Egypt are assessed based on a set of indicators and criteria set by the Ministry of Health and Population, and awarded based on their score.

Under the project, **559** clinics around Egypt were awarded the AI-Wessam logo of excellence.

- A costing implementation plan was developed, offering a five-year strategic plan to implement a series of interventions to ensure commodity security for family planning programs, in addition to estimating required funds to implement identified interventions, to ensure allocating required funds through government or donor agencies.

Moreover, **27** implementation plans were developed for each governorate.



Since the project start date, **300** warehouses in **27** governorates were refurbished and equipped for the storage of family planning contraceptives.

The capacity of Ministry of Health contraceptives commodity security officials was also built in **27** governorates, using the established SOPs for contraceptive security.

### Youth and population in reproductive age educated on family planning, public awareness on the value of smaller family size raised

- In August 2021, UNFPA and the Ministry of Education and Technical Education signed a Partnership Strategic Interventions (PSI), to integrate comprehensive population education into the educational system, with the aim of raising awareness around age-appropriate population issues. The Ministry of Education requested the implementation through a civil society organization, accordingly, UNFPA partnered with the Gozour Foundation for Development.



The partnership includes both curricular and extracurricular interventions including the development of comprehensive framework for integrating reproductive health and population issues into the educational system for the preparatory and secondary schools, which was launched in December 2022.



Under the project, Y-PEER volunteers are trained to reinforce the peer educators' capacities, including team building, facilitation and communication skills.

As a result of this intervention, the peer educators conducted **2,895** cascading interactive sessions nationwide, reaching **46,924** young people from 26 different governorates.

The sessions addressed different reproductive health issues.

The project supported the development of an online toolkit on the use of interactive digital tools in light of the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 which limited physical meetings.

## Outcome 2



The project employs edutainment tools, which include music and interactive theater, to raise the awareness of young people on population issues such as gender-based violence, family planning, and harmful practices against girls. The Community Arts Festival “Nawah for Change,” concluded its fourth round

in December 2021 with Zad Art Team.

The festival hosts performances by theatre groups from different governorates, tackling different population issues such as family planning, FGM and child marriage – as well as musical performances by the Shamandoura group.

The Nawah and Shamandoura teams are part of UNFPA's population awareness project, in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Etijah.

The festival reached **102,121** people over the past two years.



Five rounds of Destination Egypt reaching 6,524 young people were held in Luxor, Minya, Fayoum, Ismailia and Beni Suef, bringing together young people for three-day activities, providing them with messages on population issues including reproductive health and gender-based violence and harmful

practices.

The project also supported 20 sports festivals in 20 governorates, including a 3-day training aiming at providing young people with sports techniques and skills on how to organize sports days and build their capacity in disseminating messages on reproductive health and family planning. The participants then successfully organized another 77 sports days in 20 governorates.

- Engaging with faith-based organizations is vital in achieving the project's outcomes. To that end, UNFPA partnered with Al-Azhar University's International Islamic Center for Population Studies and Research (IICPSR) and the Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical, and Social Services (BLESS) to engage religious leaders under the project.
- In April 2021, Pope Tawadros II, Pope of Alexandria, and Patriarch of the See of St Mark signed three declarations to support family planning and combat FGM as well as confirm a zero tolerance approach to all forms of violence against women in an event under the project.



## Outcome 2

The declarations were printed and distributed in **70** churches where activities were implemented and priests were trained reaching out to almost **80,000** community members.

The following June, IICPSR and UNFPA launched the Population Education Curriculum and the Family Planning and the Opinions of Contemporary Imams of Jurisprudence manual, with the support of the EU.

The Population Education Curriculum tackles population and reproductive health and family planning as well as religious perspective on population issues including violence against women and harmful practices.

The manual on the other hand brings to light the Islamic perspective on family planning from the most prestigious religious leaders in Egypt. It will also be used by religious leaders from the Ministry of Endowments and students from al-Azhar University.

Since the project's start date, 8,641 religious leaders and **25,492** community leaders were reached by campaigns with messages on family planning and population issues.

In turn, **3,561,363** community members reached with messages on family planning and reproductive health.



- To expand delivery through civil society organizations, the project supported the Ministry of Social Solidarity to operationalize **65** family planning clinics in different villages around Egypt, providing family planning and reproductive health services as well as conduct door-to-door visits to generate demand for family planning. The visits targeted around **959,000** women in the age bracket (15-49), who were visited by social workers more than once.

The project upgraded services providers' skills and knowledge and supported the production of the required forms. The project used data collected through its monitoring system to generate **64** indicators that include health and demographic indicators of 2kefaya beneficiaries to support monitoring progress. These services reached **167, 24** family planning new adopters, **218,573** family planning users and around 6.4 million door-to-door visits were conducted by social workers in 2020 and 2021.



### Institutional capacities for monitoring and coordination of the implementation of the National Population Strategy strengthened

The project worked to establish population taskforces to reach **22** governorates to strengthen the population governance to coordinate, monitor and report on implementation of National Population Strategy. The established task forces include different segments of stakeholders at different administrative levels within the governorates. Taskforce members in **22** governorates reached 4,158 members. Also, **12** population coordination committees at the district level have been established in some governorates to support disaggregation and make the invisible visible.

The project used different modes of engagement to strengthen capacities of taskforces such as orientation workshops, online sessions, and on-the-job-sessions. Key deliverables by taskforces include generation of Population Reports at the governorate level, and the generation of 16 indicators at the district level data.

### Covid-19 Response

- When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, UNFPA together with the EU, have worked to ensure the EU Support to Egypt's National Population Strategy Project is not deterred by the pandemic by adopting new measures and adjustments in order to ensure the continuity of family planning services in Egypt.

The EU and UNFPA delivered personal protective equipment to the Ministry of Health and Population's Family Planning Sector, including surgical masks and alcohol bottles worth **€70,000**. The PPEs were distributed to family planning clinics across the country.

As soon as the pandemic hit, an assessment was carried out to identify changes in women's reproductive health-seeking behaviors and their underlying reasons. The assessment covered **400** women in five governorates in the reproductive health age, including refugees, and service providers.

- UNFPA also collaborated with Etijah and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, with the support of the EU, to hold weekly mental health webinars, tackling different topics to help young people cope with the stress brought on by the pandemic. Online monodrama workshops were also conducted in partnership with Etijah, providing participants with knowledge and skills to hold a monodrama performance video filmed at home with the least available resources. Y-PEER also launched a podcast titled Peer Cast, raising awareness among young people on COVID-19, ways of infection and precautionary measures against the virus. Each episode features an expert from the World Health Organization (WHO) or the Ministry of Health and Population, answering the most pressing questions on the pandemic. The Peer Cast episodes have reached almost **180,000** listeners.