



Funded by the European Union



United Nations Population Fund

EU Support to Egypt's National Population Strategy 2018 - 2023



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The EU Support to Egypt's National Population Strategy Project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population, other line ministries and civil society organizations.

Between the period of April 2018 to December 2023, the project aimed at increasing the use of voluntary, rights-based family planning through improved supply of family planning services and commodities, increased demand for family planning, and enhancing population governance in relation to the national priorities.

The project has three outcomes:

Outcome (1): Family Planning services including contraceptive commodities are scaled-up and more accessible (*supply-side*)

Outcome (2): Youth and population in reproductive age educated on family planning, public awareness on the value of smaller family size raised (*demand-side*)

Outcome (3): Institutional capacities for monitoring and coordination of the implementation of the National Population Strategy and for implementing the National Project for the Development of the Egyptian Family are strengthened (*population governance*)



Project achievements

Outcome (1): Family planning services including contraceptive commodities scaled-up and more accessible

For facilitating access to family planning services, the project supported the training of the following healthcare providers on family planning between April 2018 and December 2023 through the Ministry of Health and Population to ensure the delivery of family planning methods and quality services.

- **6,804** physicians from **5,435** family planning clinics on the insertion and removal of subdermal implants “Implanon,” hormonal IUDs and related eligibility criteria.

- **6,009** family planning nurses were trained on a comprehensive package that includes counseling, main pitfalls, infection control, and management of family planning clinics.

For women whose access to family planning and reproductive health services are constrained, the project supported these services through mobile clinics.

- **207,823** women were reached with reproductive health and family planning services and counseling via mobile clinics.



Your Right to Plan:

A quarterly campaign providing access to family planning and reproductive health counseling and services reached **7,081,800** women in 26 governorates.





The project engaged outreach workers to ensure that family planning services and supply is accessible to women whose mobility is constrained by social norms, and promote family planning services, risks associated with consecutive pregnancies, appropriate family planning methods for the postpartum period, addressing misconceptions around family planning, and relevant communication skills.

14,009 outreach workers trained.

The project also worked on revitalization of women health clubs affiliated to family planning clinics, and the capacity building of service providers, refurbishment, and provision of materials.

2500 Women Health Clubs revitalized.

273,905 women attended awareness sessions at the Women Health Clubs.



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 the project supported the training of:

8,016 female primary healthcare nurses

100 hospitals were staffed with staffed with trained OBGYNs to implement postpartum contraception.

The project procured the following contraceptives and provided them to the Ministry of Health and Population for increasing the availability of contraceptives.



Item	Quantity
Copper IUDs	2,725,400
Hormonal IUDs	29,520
Implants	798,140
Depo-Provera injectable contraceptives	1,837,600
Male condoms	11,224,800

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.

To that end the project supported the training of:

5,368 service providers from **3,352** primary healthcare units to provide services tailored for young people.



The project supported the development of:

A community engagement plan (CEP) to address and resolve the challenges young people in Egypt face in accessing reproductive health services and information.



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 the logo of excellence based on their scores.

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

A costed 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 governorate level implementation plans were developed.



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

The capacity of the Ministry of Health contraceptives commodity security officials from the Ministry of Health and Population was also built in **27** governorates, using the established Standard Operating Procedures for contraceptive security.



Outcome 2: 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.

The comprehensive framework has reached:

Over **520** students and more than **500** parents

160 teachers to integrate reproductive health and population issues into the educational system.

To integrate population education into extracurricular activities, the project supported the roll out of peer education techniques including the theater-based peer education and sports techniques inside public schools.

305 preparatory and secondary students trained.

532 teachers from **20** governorates trained.

To strengthen the youth and adolescents skills and population education, the project supported:

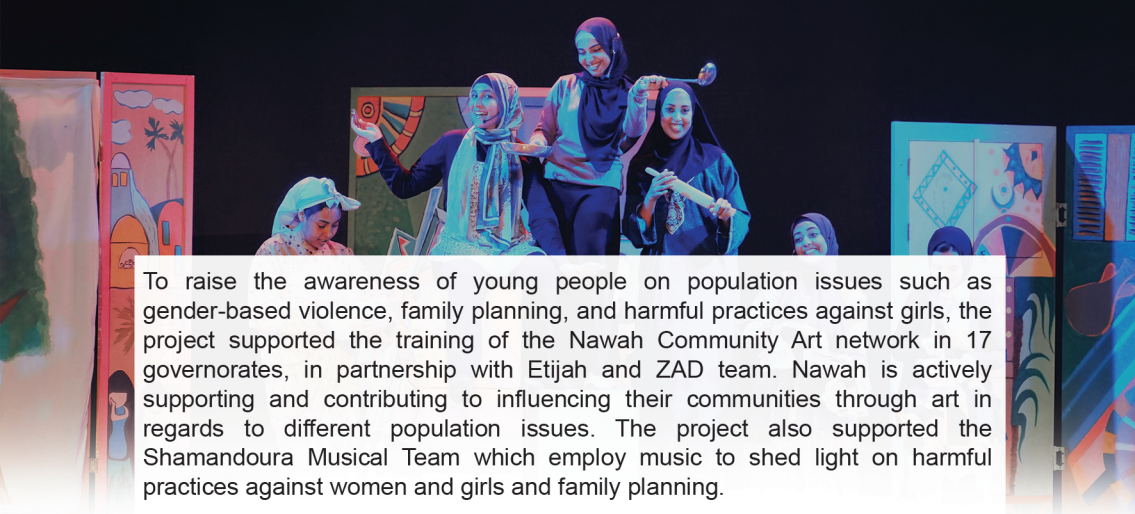
212 Population Awareness Clubs established acting as hubs for raising awareness on reproductive health issues.

1,329 young volunteers and peer educators trained on utilizing different interactive edutainment techniques include sports, theater and music techniques.

49,813 young people reached through different edutainment techniques.

5,291 interactive sessions by peer educators, reaching **87,477** young people from 26 different governorates.

A comprehensive 360 media campaign on digital, electronic, print, and audio platforms and community mobilization activities, centered around a TV series titled “Berry Leaves” was conducted to educate the public on population issues. A comprehensive 360 media campaign on digital, electronic, print, and audio platforms and community mobilization activities, centered around a TV series titled “Berry Leaves” was conducted to educate the public on population issues.



To raise the awareness of young people on population issues such as gender-based violence, family planning, and harmful practices against girls, the project supported the training of the Nawah Community Art network in 17 governorates, in partnership with Etijah and ZAD team. Nawah is actively supporting and contributing to influencing their communities through art in regards to different population issues. The project also supported the Shamandoura Musical Team which employ music to shed light on harmful practices against women and girls and family planning.

The project supported:

4 rounds of an annual Community Art Festival, showing Nawah theater performances and Shamandoura music performances.

103,018 people reached through the festival over the past two years.



Destination Egypt 2030, a sports for development initiative aimed at mobilizing young people to address developmental challenges. The project supported:

Five rounds of Destination Egypt in five governorates.

6,524 young people participated in the three-day activities, providing them with messages on population issues.

20 sports festivals in **20** governorates, including a training for young people on how to organize sports days and build their capacity in disseminating messages on reproductive health and family planning.

77 cascading sports days were organized 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) and the National Council for Women 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.



The declarations were printed and distributed in **215** churches

107,681 community members reached with messages

The **Population Education Curriculum** and the **Family Planning and the Opinions of Contemporary Imams of Jurisprudence manual**, were launched in 2021.

12,000 religious leaders and **219,000** community leaders reached with messages

3,562,395 community members reached in turn with messages on family planning and reproductive health

To expand delivery of family planning counseling and services through civil society organizations, the project partnered with the Ministry of Social Solidarity: **65** family planning clinics operationalized in different villages.

40 new clinics were provided with equipments and training.

8.4 million door-to-door visits by social workers to generate demand for family planning.

959,000 women reached.

176,372 family planning new adopters.

218,573 family planning users.

Outcome 3: Institutional capacities for monitoring and coordination of the implementation of the National Population Strategy strengthened



The project supported the updating of the National Population and Development Strategy for the period of 2023-2030 under the leadership of National Population Council and developed a costed implementation plan for the implementation of the strategic directions provided in the updated strategy.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Health and Population, the project supported the developed of Egypt's first National Midwifery Strategy 2023-2030 for strengthening midwifery education and practice in Egypt.

The project contributed to strengthening **the monitoring and evaluation pillar** of the National Project for the Development of the Egyptian Family through collaboration with Cairo Demographic Center (CDC). The project built the capacities of 26 government officials from CDC and the other implementing entities of the National Project on Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, learning (MEAL course) and Results-Based Management.

The project worked to establish population task forces to reach 22 governorates to strengthen the population governance to coordinate, monitor and report on implementation of National Population Strategy.

The project supported the development of a policy paper on promoting demographic resilience for reaping the demographic dividends in Egypt. The paper shed light on the demographic trends in Egypt, identified key challenges and gaps that deter harnessing the dividend.

The project supported the development of the Egypt Investment Case on Unmet need for Family planning in partnership with the Institute of National Planning (INP). The case is to determine the cost of ending the unmet need for family planning by 2030 and serve as catalysts for increased public investment and the promotion of private financing partnerships.



Humanitarian Response

- When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, UNFPA together with the EU, 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 project 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.
- 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.
- The project, UNFPA procured and distributed **20,000** Dignity Kits to women and girls arriving from Sudan, fleeing fighting that had started in April 2023.

Status of key indicators on fertility and family planning

As per the Egypt Demographic Health Survey 2014 and Egyptian Family Health Survey 2021, the status of key indicators on fertility and family planning in Egypt in 2014 and 2021, the project complemented government efforts for achieving the increase in the use of contraceptives and in reduction of the total fertility rate:

Indicators	Status	
	2014 (DHS)	2021 (EFHS)
Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	3.5	2.85
Current use of any family planning methods by currently married women aged 15-49 years	58.5%	66.4%
Current use of modern family planning methods by currently married women aged 15-49 years	56.9%	64.7%

Key partners for the project included



وزارة التعاون الدولي
Ministry of International
Cooperation



وزارة الصحة والسكان
Ministry of Health & Population



جمهورية مصر العربية
وزارة الخزانة والإقتصاد
Ministry of Finance and Economic
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National Population Council
National Program for
Empowering the Family
and Combating Female
Genital Mutilation



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