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The EU Support to Egypt's National Population Strategy

Year 4 in review

92,413 women reached with reproductive health services through community-based distribution activities

1,663,368 women reached through the Your Right to Plan campaign

147,570 women attended seminars at Women Health Clubs

1,072 physicians trained

1,913 family planning nurses & 1870 Primacy Healthcare nurses trained

2,441 outreach workers trained

1,538 service providers from PHC units trained on youth-friendly services

4,359 religious leaders trained

25,492 community leaders trained

119,854 young people reached through FP-related entertainment education

503 clinics in 21 governorates awarded the logo of excellence "Al-Wessam"

Reaching communities with reproductive health services and counseling

One of the main outcomes of the EU Support to Egypt's National Population Strategy is to scale up family planning services including contraceptive commodities, and make them more accessible.

To facilitate access to and use of family planning services, UNFPA together with the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) rely on community-based distribution to provide all types of family planning methods and services, with the support of the EU.

In the period between April 2021 and March 2022, MOHP conducted 64 rounds of community-based distribution activities in 20 governorates, using mobile clinics.

The mobile clinics reached a total of **92,413 women** with reproductive health and family planning services and counseling - **70,112 of whom** received family planning methods.

The project also continued to focus on training physicians and nurses working in family planning clinics to ensure the provision of quality family planning services. To that end, **97 practical training sessions** were held to train **1,072 physicians** on the insertion and removal of subdermal implants "Implanon," hormonal IUDs and related eligibility criteria.

In order to ensure the sustainability of the trainings, 28 physicians from six governorates were trained as trainers.

Moreover, **76** training sessions were held for **1,913 family planning nurses** on a comprehensive package that includes counseling, main pitfalls, infection control, and management of family planning clinics.





To ensure that family planning services and supply is accessible to women whose mobility is constrained by social norms, the project trained 2441 outreach workers in 18 governorates 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. This is expected to strengthen the skills of outreach workers to conduct effective home visits to women, and enhance referrals to clinics.

The outreach workers took part in four rounds of the “Ayyamna Ahla” outreach campaign, coupled with mobile clinics to provide immediate family planning services, OB-GYN examinations, ultrasound diagnosis, antenatal care and pediatrics/newborn services. The campaigns reached 1,663,368 women with family planning services and messages.

The project also works on building the capacity of service providers at Women Health Clubs. This year, workshops targeted 100 Women Health Clubs in four governorates, where service providers were trained on managing the clubs, referring cases to clinics, as well as activities hosted by the club for women empowerment and awareness raising on the importance of family planning.

The Women Health Clubs hosted 6,263 awareness sessions in 26 governorates to generate demand for family planning and reproductive health services. The sessions were attended by 147,570 women, aligned with the timing of the family planning campaigns to ensure availability of services.

The sessions 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.

Data collection is an important component in sustaining and promoting family planning programs. To that end, UNFPA finalized a rapid assessment to identify changes in women’s reproductive health/family planning health-seeking behaviors during COVID-19 and their underlying reasons.

The findings and recommendations of the assessment were presented to the Ministry of Health and Population’s Family Planning (FP) and Primary Health Care (PHC) Sectors.

Linking family planning to primary healthcare and hospitals



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, 70 orientation sessions were conducted to orient PHC nurses providing antenatal care (ANC) and child immunization, as well as family planning nurses on the importance

of integrating family planning in the immediate and extended postpartum period. The sessions targeted 1,870 nurses from 1,071 service delivery points from six governorates.

Moreover, 456 OBGYNs from 45 hospitals were trained using specific clinical guidelines on the immediate postpartum contraception - including the methods available, their medical eligibility and mode of administration - and services provided to women in the extended postpartum period in nine governorates.

Commodities procured and impacts

During the period between April 2021 and March 2022, the following FP commodities were procured under the project:

- 1,162,400 vials of "Depo-Provera"
- 285,000 sets of "Implanon"
- 29,520 hormonal IUDs

This resulted in the below impact:

Total annual impacts	2021
Demographic impacts	
Unintended pregnancies averted	137,507
Live births averted	45,998
Abortions averted	76,490
Health impacts	
Maternal deaths averted	33
Child deaths averted	339
Unsafe abortions averted	54,180
Couple Years of Protection (CYPs)	
Total CYPs (FP only)	700,000

Training service providers to offer youth-friendly health services



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 1,538 service providers (599 physicians and 939 nurses) from 1,161 PHC 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.

In March 2022, the CEP was launched in Sharqeya governorate.

AI-Wessam award system

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.

During the period between April 2021 and March 2022, 503 clinics in 21 governorates were awarded the AI-Wessam logo of excellence - 425 clinics of which were awarded for the first time.

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the accreditation system, 23 training workshops the system were held in 13 governorates attended by family planning directors, nurse supervisors, and statisticians, from directorate and district level.



The EU Support to Egypt's National Population Strategy project partners with the Ministry of Education



In August 2021, within the context of the project, the Ministry of Education and Technical Education and UNFPA signed a Partnership Strategic Interventions (PSI), to integrate comprehensive population education into the educational system, with the aim of raising awareness around population issues.

Under the agreement, a training on theatre-based techniques was conducted in Luxor for 49 preparatory and secondary school students from Aswan and Luxor. The training raised the awareness of the students on population issues, family planning, and harmful practices, using interactive theater techniques.

Peer to peer education

The project continued to train Y-PEER volunteers to reinforce the peer educators' capacities, including team building, facilitation and communication skills. By the end of the training, peer educators presented their peer education cascading plans of implementation in their respective governorates.

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.



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, after month-long performances in the governorates of Qena, Minya, and Cairo in order to reach a wider segment of audiences.

The festival hosted performances by theatre groups from Luxor, Damietta, Red Sea, Assiut, Minya, Beni

Suef, Cairo, Suez, Giza, Sharqeya, Kafr al-Sheikh, Menufiya and Fayoum – 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 project is being implemented at Population Awareness Clubs in different Youth Centers around the country, which host awareness activities around population issues for young people using innovative tools, including music, interactive theatre and short films. The activities aim to raise awareness around gender-based violence, family planning, and harmful practices.

The theatre performances at the festival were a result of workshops conducted with the help of Zad Art Team, who coached volunteers on developing theatrical scripts and songs to raise the awareness of their communities on various issues including female genital mutilation, family planning and gender-based violence.

The festival was attended by 1412 people, in addition to generating 66,054 reach, 16,644 views, and 9335 engagements online.

This year, training workshops were also conducted for the Nawah theatre teams in Damietta and Sharqeya for young volunteers, who in turn put on two theatre performances in their respective governorates, addressing reproductive health and population topics.

Working with religious and community leaders



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 Bishporic 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.

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.

Overall, 4,359 religious leaders were trained under the project.

IICPSR trained 901 female and male religious leaders, who attended seminars together tackling reproductive health and family planning.

To prepare priests to promote family planning and address population growth, BLESS trained a core group of 185 trainers and empowered them with the necessary knowledge and skills to become advocates and trainers. They in turn reached 3,177 religious leaders as a step-down activity, orienting them with concepts related to population growth: causes, impact and solutions.

The project also solicited the help of Gozour Foundation to raise the awareness of religious and community leaders, with seminars reaching 25,492 community leaders.

An icon representing a group of people, consisting of 15 stylized human figures in white and orange, arranged in three rows: the top row has 6 figures, the middle row has 6 figures, and the bottom row has 3 figures.

Population Taskforces

In 2021, the project continued to establish population task forces reaching a total number of 22 in all governorates except North and South Sinai, Red Sea, Matrouh and New Valley.

The taskforces coordinate and monitor implementation of the national population strategy. The number of taskforce members reached around 4,158 at the different levels (governorate, district, village).

These members were trained through online and on-the-job sessions.



EU NPS in the news

The media was regularly updated with information about the project. Press releases were issued, circulated to the media and posted on the project website for several project activities.

The “EU-support to the National Population Strategy project” was mentioned 678 times in the media in the period between April 1, 2021-March 31, 2022. The coverage reached a potential 1.8 billion readers.