



Funded by the European Union



United Nations Population Fund



EU Support to Egypt's National Population Strategy

Year 3 in review

April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021

Year 3 in numbers



- 1,259,297 women reached with family planning services and messages through campaigns
- 38,574 women reached with family planning methods through mobile clinics
- 16,687 women attended seminars conducted by Women Health Clubs' supervisors.



- 22,737 young people from 26 different governorates attended awareness-raising sessions by peer educators
- PPEs delivered to 58,727 personnel working in family planning clinics
- 178,829 were reached with podcast episodes through Y-PEERCAST
- 3,449 outreach workers trained on promoting family planning services



- 553 physicians trained on counselling, insertion and removal of subdermal implants "Implanon"
- 1,722 family planning nurses trained on counseling, main pitfalls, infection control and management of clinics
- 2,929 nurses from 1,478 service delivery points trained on integrating family planning services in primary healthcare services

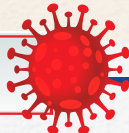


- 73 warehouses refurbished in 11 governorates



- 112 clinics were awarded Al-Wessam
- 30 women health clubs refurbished in 10 governorates

Response to COVID-19



Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNFPA together with the European Union, 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 started by delivering 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.

Facilitating access to family planning services

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.

During its third year of implementation, in the period between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021, the project inched closer towards that goal through several steps.

The project started with the mapping of family planning services in both private and public sector across all governorates. This helps identify gaps in service provision, to suggest means of cooperation between both sectors.

UNFPA also worked with the Ministry of Health and Population's Family Planning Sector to finalize a national Costed Implementation Plan (CIP) for family planning with the support of the EU.

The plan is set to help the government translate its commitments towards family planning and goals into concrete programs and policies and is scheduled to be launched during quarter 3 of 2021, along with action plans developed for all 27 governorates, with the support of the project.

In order to enhance quality of reproductive health care and FP services, the project also worked to strengthen the supply chain management through different activities including building the capacity of Ministry of Health and Population officials on Reproductive Health Commodity Security, as well as the Logistics Management Information System (LMIS) and refurbishing warehouses in 11 governorates.

Training service providers

Besides the revision and updating of medical references including medical standards, guidelines, training manuals and curriculum for service providers in family planning, service providers in family planning clinics were trained to enhance the quality of services offered.

These included training workshops for over **500** physicians on the insertion and removal of subdermal implants "Implanon" and related eligibility criteria as well as training physicians from **7** governorates as trainers.



Over **1700** family planning nurses were also trained on a comprehensive package that includes counseling, main pitfalls, infection control and management of family planning clinics.

Commodities procured and impacts

1,837,600 vials of Depo-Provera and 35,000 sets of Implanon were procured in the period between April 2020 and March 2021, resulting in the below impacts:

Total annual impacts	2020
Demographic impacts	
Unintended pregnancies averted	176,353
Live births averted	58,993
Abortions averted	98,098
Health impacts	
Maternal deaths averted	45
Child deaths averted*	434
Unsafe abortions averted	69,486
Couple Years of Protection (CYPs)	
Total CYPs (FP only)	546,900

Linking family planning to primary healthcare

Integrating family planning counselling in maternal and neonatal service delivery points helps in avoiding unwanted 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, nearly 3000 nurses from 1478 service delivery points were trained on the importance of integrating family planning services in the immediate and extended postpartum period, and the main messages they need to convey. A training package was also developed under the project.

Over 100 OBGYNs from 49 hospitals in five governorates were also trained on the immediate postpartum contraception and services provided to women in the extended postpartum period.

AI-Wessam award system

At the onset of the project, AI-Wessam award system was set in place. 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 2020 and March 2021, 112 clinics from seven governorates were awarded AI-Wessam. Family planning directors, nurse supervisors, and statisticians in 10 governorates were trained on automated registration, effective supervision, and analysis of quality indicators.



Integrating youth-friendly services into primary healthcare centers



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

The project supported the training of over 1200 service providers, including physicians and nurses from 620 primary healthcare units to work in youth-friendly clinics and offer services tailored to the needs of young people.

The Ministry of Health and Population worked on mapping the existing youth-friendly sustainable facilities and assessing their readiness to host youth-friendly health services. The project supported the development of a software to digitize the process of registering the existing and newly established youth-friendly clinics across Egypt, as well as the equipment and supplies of the clinics and the capacity building of the service providers.

Engaging the community around reproductive health is essential for advocating for youth-friendly services, which is why the project is currently supporting the development of a community engagement plan to address challenges Egyptian youth face in accessing reproductive health services and information.

Working with communities



To facilitate access to and use of family planning services, particularly in the rural areas of Upper Egypt, UNFPA together with the Ministry of Health and Population rely on community-based distribution, with the support of the EU.

The Ministry of Health and Population carried out 69 rounds of community-based distribution in 21 governorates through mobile clinics offering family planning methods and services for remote, and underserved communities.

The mobile clinics reached a total of 38574 women with reproductive health services and counseling.

Three rounds of the "Ayyamna Ahla" outreach campaign supported by outreach workers also took place. The campaigns included mobile clinics to provide immediate family planning services, OB-GYN examinations, ultrasound diagnosis, antenatal care and pediatrics/newborn services. Over 1 million women were reached with family planning services and messages.

To ensure that family planning services and supply is accessible to women whose mobility is constrained by social norms, the project trained almost 3500 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.

Service providers and supervisors from 436 Women Health Clubs in 17 governorates were trained to manage the clubs, including referral of cases to clinics, as well as oriented on the activities taking place in the club aimed at women empowerment and awareness raising on importance of family planning. Educational material was also developed for the Women Health Clubs and family planning clinics.

The Women Health Clubs held over 1000 awareness sessions around family planning and harmful practices in 26 governorates, reaching over 16,000 women.

Educating young people

One of the project's main objectives is to educate young people and people in reproductive age and raise their awareness on family planning and the value of smaller family size. This is done through employing entertainment and art tools, among other things.

In the period between April 2020 and March 2021, the project, through its partnership with Etijah, Youth and Development Consultancy Institute, trained staff from youth centers affiliated with the Ministry of Youth and Sports in 10 governorates on peer education techniques in delivering reproductive health and population education. Techniques included sport techniques and participatory approaches.



Under the project, UNFPA's youth leadership network Y-PEER worked closely with the Egyptian Family Planning Association (EFPA) across Egypt to reach more than 23,000 young people nationwide through different interactive virtual and physical peer education activities on population issues.

Y-PEER volunteers were also trained to enhance their skills to manage the edutainment techniques and the network activities at large. Other ToT workshops were also conducted for Y-PEER trainers from 26 governorates. A facilitation training was also conducted by EFPA for Y-PEER performers from different governorates, which enabled them to improve their theatre performances and use more advanced facilitation techniques.

In addition, and in close collaboration with Etijah, 103 volunteers from Population Awareness Clubs from Aswan, Kafr el-Sheikh, Menufiya, New Valley and Qena developed five theatrical scripts through online and offline workshops to raise the awareness around various issues including family planning and the concept of a small family size. These resulted in another five theatre performances at a Community Arts Festival.

Using a pyramid training model which empowers youth to pass on knowledge, skills and practical expertise, Y-PEER trainers reached over 500 young people from 26 governorates along with members from EFPA, with training skills and guidance to be effective peer educators and to utilize edutainment techniques.

As a result, the peer educators conducted 1,266 cascading interactive sessions nationwide reaching 22,737 young people from 26 different governorates. The sessions addressed different reproductive health issues as well as COVID-19 protection measures.

In partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Etijah, UNFPA organized the Nawah Community Art Festival in Cairo in November 2020, showcasing performances shedding light on population issues, including five performances funded by the EU.

The performances were evaluated and awarded by a committee of experts that assessed them based on 3 main criteria which included: how the performance addressed a community issue, interaction with the audience and the artistic aspects of the performances.

Working with faith-based organizations

Under the project, UNFPA partners with faith-based organizations such as Al-Azhar University's International Islamic Center for Population Studies and Research (IICPSR) and the Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical, and Social Services (BLESS) and to engage religious leaders to amplify the project's mandate among their communities.

IICPSR held four ToT workshops covering 120 preachers, while BLESS held 12 online workshops for over 300 trainers, with the aim of empowering religious leaders with the necessary knowledge and skills to become advocates and trainers.

Moreover, four joint sessions held for both Muslim and Christian religious leaders were also held in three governorates, where participants discussed common perspectives on family planning.

Population taskforces



The project partnered with the Ministry of Local Development to establish five new population taskforces.

The taskforces include multiple stakeholders namely, the newly established population units within the governorates directorate, branches of the National Population Council, representatives from multiple directorates (health, youth, education, manpower, etc), youth representatives, population focal points at district and village levels. It also brings together corporate social responsibility focal points, NGOs and academia.

Members of the taskforces were trained through two workshops on population issues, results-based monitoring and reporting, data management, and advocacy. The workshop introduced the project's objectives to accelerate local responses through the establishment of population taskforces at the governorate level. This approach can enhance coordination, monitoring and reporting on the national population strategy.

EU Support to Egypt's National Population Strategy in the news

The National Population Strategy project was mentioned **111** times in the media in the period between April 1, 2020-March 31, 2021, with the coverage reaching a potential **143.5 million** readers, according to media monitoring tool Agility.

Coverage Summary

All

EU year 3

Total Mentions

79

Audience Reach

143M

AVE

\$4M