

The European Union Support to Egypt's National Population Strategy

Year 5 achievements



670,176

Women reached with reproductive health messages and services through the Your Right to Plan campaign



1,177

PHC nurses oriented on the reproductive health and family planning integrated package



17,515

Young people reached through peer education activities



4120

Female and male Muslim religious leaders trained



2382

Coptic religious leaders trained through ToTs



710

Service providers from PHC units trained on youth-friendly services



42,136

Women attended seminars at Women Health Clubs



2,228

Outreach workers trained

Facilitating access to reproductive health services and counseling



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

During the period between April 2022 – March 2023, UNFPA together with the Ministry of Health and Population worked on training physicians and nurses working in family planning clinics to ensure the provision of quality family planning services. To that end, **the project trained 331 physicians from 20 governorates on the insertion and removal of sub-dermal implants "Implanon," and the hormonal IUDs**



Moreover, 256 nurses from 256 family planning clinics from 16 governorates were trained to provide effective counseling, infection control, and clinics' overall management.

To ensure that family planning services and supply is accessible to women whose mobility is constrained by social norms, **the project trained 2,228 outreach workers in 21 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.



The outreach workers took part in four rounds of the “Ayyamna Ahla” outreach campaign, through which they **reached 670,176 women with family planning services, 604,070 among whom received family planning methods and messages.**



The project also works on building the capacity of service providers at Women Health Clubs. During the same period, **1,723 awareness sessions were held in Women Health Clubs in 11 governorates. These sessions were attended by 42,136 women.** These sessions tackled different topics including family planning, particularly in the immediate post-partum period, and the available contraceptive methods, effect of family planning on the health of the mother and child, male involvement, harmful practices mainly related to early marriage and FGM, and influence of parents.



Linking family planning to primary healthcare

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, **45 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 **1,177 nurses from 1,016 service delivery points in seven governorates.**

Training service providers to offer youth-friendly services



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 **34** training workshops where **710** service providers from 607 PHC units in 13 governorates were trained.

In addition, following the development and launch of a community engagement plan (CEP) the previous year to address and resolve the challenges young people in Egypt face in accessing reproductive health services and information, the CEP was launched in a second governorate (Fayoum). The launch took place under the patronage of the Governor and health directorate who were briefed on the CEP, and the collaboration mechanisms among key stakeholders at governorate and district level to implement proposed interventions to

enhance demand on youth-friendly services.

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Peer to peer education

Under the partnership with the Ministry of Education and Technical Education, UNFPA supported for the first time the school theatre in public schools through conducting theatre competitions in **7** governorates. The school theatre competitions were attended by **591** students.

In the lead up to these school theatre competitions, five capacity-building workshops were conducted for a total of **233** teachers from eight governorates on utilizing theatre-based techniques and sports techniques to lead the theatre activities and sports activities in their respective schools and enhance their students' knowledge on reproductive health and interactive skills.

The teachers were trained to support the students through developing theatre pieces to use as the core of a peer education session. By the end of these workshops, the teachers gained the skills and knowledge to train their students to be peer educators through theatre and peer/health education.

In addition, and in support of the youth networks, the project continued to train Y-PEER volunteers to reinforce the peer educators' capacities, including team building, facilitation and communication skills, through online platforms as well as on-ground activities with Haya Karima volunteers.

Sixty-three Haya Karima volunteers were capacitated to deliver interactive awareness sessions in their respective communities. In total, **1,114** events were conducted and a total of **17,515** young people were reached.



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 fifth round in October 2022. The performances conducted this year tackled reproductive health as well as harmful practices and integrated Climate Change

awareness messages to enhance youth engagement in the wake of the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27).

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.

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 Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical, and Social Services (BLESS) to engage religious leaders.

During the reporting year, IICPSR held **12** seminars at AL-Azhar University, attended by **1443** religious leaders from **27** governorates.

The seminars were guided by "the Family planning and the opinions of contemporary imams of jurisprudence manual" and "the Population Education Curriculum" developed under the project.

With BLESS, **six** TOT workshops were attended by **217** religious leaders from three governorates, who were empowered with knowledge and skills to become successful advocates among their communities on various population issues.

Consequently, BLESS conducted **56** awareness-raising sessions by the participants of the TOTs as a step down activity that reached **2382** religious leaders.

In partnership with Gozour Foundation, **85,649** community leaders in six governorates were engaged with messages focusing on the role of men in family planning, the importance and benefit of family planning. The trained community leaders supported the implementation of community campaigns to disseminate and convey the above messages to the community based on the awareness sessions they attended.

The National Council for Women worked closely with the Ministry of Endowment to train 94 religious leaders with TOT workshop in **14** governorates followed by implementing a step down training for 2583 religious leaders from **13** governorates.

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 National Population Strategy project was mentioned 396 times in the media in the period between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023.

