



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT *THROUGH* ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

Egypt's Economic Diplomacy Fostering
Multilateralism & International Cooperation

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	3
List of abbreviations	4
THE PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY	6
Multi-Stakeholder Platforms	8
Mapping Official Development Assistance to UN Sustainable Development Goals	9
Global Partnerships Narrative	10
PRINCIPLE I: MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORMS	11
Global Partnerships for Effective Development Cooperation: Global Perspective & Egypt's Progress	13
Country-Led Platforms	15
Launching Egypt's Multi-Stakeholder Platforms for International Cooperation	17
Private Sector Engagement in Development	29
Looking Ahead	33
PRINCIPLE II: MAPPING OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	35
Objective and Scope of Work	40
Methodology and Approach	42
Comparative Analysis by SDG	54
ODA-SDG Mapping to Promote Good Governance	153
Mapping Egypt-IFC Private Sector Financing to SDGs	156
Key Findings	157
PRINCIPLE III: GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS NARRATIVE	160
Models of Communication	163
Communications Framework for Effective Development	165
Agile Communication Model for Development Cooperation	167
CONCLUSION	186
About the Author	190
Bibliography	191

Acknowledgements

This book was prepared through the collective collaboration and efforts of all involved stakeholders. It is the outcome of more than twelve months of consultations and interactions between the Ministry of International Cooperation in Egypt and the technical teams of bilateral and multilateral development partners who dedicated time and effort to meet physically and virtually amidst the stringent circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I acknowledge the efforts of the Ministry's staff who organized and executed the Multi-Stakeholder Platforms, operationalizing the first principle of economic diplomacy. Inclusive dialogue between the government, development partners and other stakeholders was only made possible through collaboration with my colleagues, Ministers of the Egyptian Cabinet.

I also thank all development partners who assigned technical teams to coordinate with the Ministry on the ODA-SDG Mapping, discuss methodology, review results and exchange knowledge transparently and constructively. Appreciation is extended to our multilateral partners and international financial institutions, including but not limited to; the African Development Bank, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development the Islamic Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, the European Union, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the OPEC Fund for International Development, the United Nations Organizations and the World Bank Group. Equally, I appreciate the efforts of all bilateral development partners and their corresponding institutions including; Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, South-Korea, Kuwait, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Special thanks go to Ms. Marwa Abduo, the Minister's Advisor for private sector engagement, for her invaluable research assistance and significant contributions, particularly providing literature reviews in the different chapters as well as editorial support. She saved no effort in seeing this through.

I salute the hard work of the department of Strategic Planning and Monitoring at the Ministry, for collecting, verifying, consolidating and regularly updating data on all ODA projects in Egypt. This data has been the basis of our interaction with development partners during the platforms, the ODA-SDG mapping exercise and also in the third principle of economic diplomacy, the Global Partnerships Narrative.

Equally, I recognize the efforts of the communications team who collaborated with various development partners to highlight ODA successful initiatives and promoting them among constituencies nationally and internationally.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADFD	Abu Dhabi Fund for Development
AFD	French Development Agency
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFESD	Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
CBE	Central Bank of Egypt
CBNRM	Community-Based Natural Resources Management
CE	Circular Economy
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
EASE	Equal Access and Simplified Environment for Investment
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EEAA	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
EPG	G20 Eminent Persons Group
EIB	European Investment Bank
EPASP	Egypt's Protected Areas Self-Financing Project
HCWW	Egypt's Holding Company for Water and Wastewater
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IFI	International Financial Institutions
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
KFAED	Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development
MENA	Middle East & North Africa
MDBs	Multilateral Development Banks
Mol	Means of Implementation
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MSMEs	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
NCCCC	National Coordinating Committee for Combating Corruption
NCCPIM	National Coordinating Committee on Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration
NCW	National Council for Women
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFID	OPEC Fund for International Development
PSE	Private Sector Engagement
SCP	Sustainable Consumption & Production
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SDS	Sustainable Development Strategy

SFD	Saudi Fund for Development
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank
WBG	World Bank Group
WHO	World Health Organisation
ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
FDI	Foundation for Development Cooperation
GDI	Global Development Incubator
GPEDC	Global Partnerships for Effective Development Cooperation
MSPs	Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships
NGO	Non-government organization
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNGC	United Nations Global Compact
UNOP	United Nations Office for Partnerships

The Principles of Economic Diplomacy

The global economy is currently at an unprecedented juncture. Within the development context, the year 2020 ushered in the Decade of Action for achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The world has embarked on this ambitious declaration while combatting the perils and far-reaching implications of the Covid-19 global pandemic, which threatens progress across all 17 of the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), whilst simultaneously placing greater urgency upon their realization. Furthermore, the pandemic has underscored the disproportionate distribution of inequities and vulnerabilities where the poorest and the most vulnerable populations, and the least developed, in-crisis and land-locked developing nations have been affected the most. Fragilities and constraints of resources – both monetary and non-monetary – have in turn highlighted the indisputable role of development cooperation for collective action. To attain this collective action, a process of creating, interpreting, and negotiating meaning to sustainable development is not merely necessary but imperative.

International cooperation has long been one of the main sources of financing for development. It is a mechanism of global economic integration and solidarity where international and national policymakers, economists and reformers join efforts to deliver sustainable results by identifying development needs, financing gaps and required actions.

The functions of economic diplomacy emphasize the interconnection among economic, social and political interests and the active roles of different stakeholders, including: governments, development partners, civil society, and the private sector, all of which in turn demand innovative diplomatic tools and arrangements to activate these interests (Lee & Hocking , 2010). Economic diplomacy is the process through which countries tackle the outside world to maximize their national gain in all fields of activity, including trade, investments and other forms of economically beneficial exchanges where they enjoy comparative advantage.

Economic diplomacy can strengthen governance in the context of international cooperation. Globalization's heavy demands on economic diplomacy have challenged political and governance bodies to expand the playing field for decision making and negotiation. Effective and impactful economic diplomacy functions at three levels: bilateral, regional and multilateral (Bergeijk, Okano-Heijmans, & Melissen, 2011), each of which is important (Rana, 2007). The proliferation of different actors in the international arena has introduced another vital component to economic diplomacy: the role of multiple stakeholders (Bayne & Woolcock, 2017). In turn, engaging these actors in characteristic diplomatic practices particularly on *“issues of mutual interest or concern and articulation and advocacy of their side's respective interests”* (Pigman, 2005) is requisite to a country's ability to navigate the more porous boundaries of today's modern

world. Bringing these dynamic groups to the table enables viable, innovative public-private partnerships (PPP) while also ensuring the harmonization of relevant structures. It allows these actors to play a participatory role in the diplomacy process and its potential outcomes.

A tenet of economic diplomacy is that it protects national interests while simultaneously securing international cooperation. It then follows that development cooperation is a crucial tool for a country's economic diplomacy. The intersection of development cooperation with economic diplomacy occurs in a multitude of ways. Conventionally, development financing aims to service national domestic interests, however, the *"changing political economy of development cooperation set against a backdrop of emerging market growth and influence has reinvigorated calls to anchor development cooperation within diplomatic objectives and instruments"* (Gulrajani, Mawdsley, & Roychoudhury, 2020).

Moreover, one important question at the core of economic diplomacy is how a country can increase its visibility on the global stage and amass political and economic influence. This is what academia terms "country branding" because it relates directly to how a specific nation or state shapes and leverages its narrative – i.e., culture, traditions, mandates, and circumstance -- to connect and build credibility, presence and attract the outside world through different modes and mediums of investment.¹

Egypt's Principles of Economic Diplomacy

In Egypt, the Ministry of International Cooperation (the Ministry) is the designated national entity that develops, strengthens and manages economic cooperation with other countries as well as international and regional organizations, including financial institutions and specialized UN agencies. The Ministry plays a critical role in facilitating cooperation between national entities as well as international bilateral and multilateral development partners to channel needed financial and technical resources to support the country's economic, social and environmental development.

The Ministry realizes that sustainable development is only attainable through the collective integrated efforts of various national and international stakeholders. Indeed, the Ministry's very mission is to work closely with bilateral and multilateral development partners to address complex and multi-dimensional development challenges. By crafting comprehensive strategies

¹ Theorist Joseph Nye explained soft power as the "ability to obtain preferred outcomes by attraction rather than coercion or payment" or "a means of educating the general public and present and future decision-makers to think favorably about the country whose country offerings they are enjoying" (Hurn & Tomalin, 2013) (Nye Jr., 2004). Still, soft power can have a "hard edge" creating a foundational groundwork that energizes diplomacy and activates interest "in such areas as human rights, disaster relief and other humanitarian issues, the protection of the environment and the potential dangers of climate change" (Hurn & Tomalin, 2013). Conversely, smart power is defined as the ability to "combine hard and soft power into an effective strategy" (Nye Jr., 2008).

that seek the mobilization and optimal allocation of development resources, the Ministry supports the central pledge of the 2030 Agenda of “leaving no one behind”. To meet this inclusive mandate, the Ministry embraces a set of principles within its Economic Diplomacy Framework to govern its operations. Through this framework, the Ministry aims to push the frontiers of multilateralism and cooperation by strengthening inclusive multilateral and bilateral engagement with development partners, governments, global policymakers, the private sector and civil society to achieve a circular economy and advance the SDGs².

Egypt’s Economic Diplomacy Framework aims to maximize socio-economic returns from international development financing; ensure the alignment of development interventions with national objectives as well as with the SDGs; and enhance the management of development cooperation for better implementation of development projects within Egypt. The framework consists of three principles.

The first principle is to institutionalize multi-stakeholder partnerships through platforms. Chapter 1 delves into how these platforms are leveraged such that all projects among development partners are streamlined and effectively coordinated to accelerate the pace of development for the achievement of the SDGs. The second principle entails mapping Official Development Assistance (ODA) to UN-SDGs for all projects with multilateral and bilateral development partners in order to identify Agenda 2030 alignments. Chapter 2 details the methodology and results from the Ministry’s first of its kind mapping exercise. The third and final principle is the Global Partnerships Narrative. Chapter 3 distills the narrative into People at the Core, Projects in Action and Purpose as the Driver (P&P&P). The Global Partnerships Narrative advances future collaboration efforts based on up-to-date, consistent and complete accounts between the government of Egypt and its multilateral and bilateral development partners. Cooperation connections and engagements are fostered through a communication framework that ensures coordination, builds consensus among divergent opinions and interests, and exchanges information and knowledge.

1. Multi-Stakeholder Platforms

The main objective of multi-stakeholder platforms is to strengthen partnerships for achieving value-centric results through regular interactive and participatory consultations with all development partners. The platforms ensure harmony and complementarity of development collaboration to maximize impact and achieve sustainability and provide an opportunity to capitalize on successes, learn from pitfalls, and harness the power of group interaction.

² The vision of the Ministry is to [“Strengthen Egypt’s inclusive multilateral engagement with development partners, governments, global policy makers, private sector and the civil society to effectively deliver the 2030 National Agenda, consistent with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, aimed at achieving a circular economy.”](#)

Moreover, they create a sustainable, transparent and inclusive country-led dialogue to facilitate constructive interaction among many development stakeholders including: government representatives, development partners, the private sector and civil society as well as research and think-tank participants. This scale of collaboration and discussions around particular thematic and sector strategies guides development efforts to align with national development objectives as well as the international overarching 2030 Development Agenda and SDGs.

The institutionalization of the platforms ensures systematic engagement and harmonization among development stakeholders, and guides future interventions towards more effective implementation and coordinated results. It mobilizes resources and aligns efforts towards a common goal, consistent with both the national and international development agendas. It emphasizes the country's ownership of development objectives and allows non-traditional actors in the development field, such as the private sector, to support efforts to achieve the development agenda through bringing in innovative ideas and business tools. A key factor for the successful operation of the platforms is the ability to create necessary synergies that promote collaboration and avoid conflict among different participants.

2. Mapping Official Development Assistance to UN Sustainable Development Goals

The mapping of ODA projects to SDGs aims to support decision making by highlighting opportunities and gaps in development cooperation, financial and technical assistance to Egypt. Given that less than 10 years remain to achieve all SDGs globally, and that progress to date has been insufficient, there is a growing need to increase effectiveness and efficiency by targeting multiple SDGs. A distinguishing feature of ODA as a contributor to SDG delivery is how it stands out as a measure of reaffirming commitments. Measuring the contribution of development cooperation by means of ODA to SDGs provides results that push the frontiers on accountability, communication, direction and learning.

Against this background, the Ministry was keen to establish a mechanism for analyzing the contribution of development cooperation to the SDGs in order to provide greater transparency on the impact created and measurable change achieved. Thus, it embarked on an extensive, first-of-a-kind, comprehensive mapping exercise of all current effective projects in its portfolio to identify their alignment with relevant SDGs, ensuring optimal contribution of development cooperation projects to the SDGs. The mapped cooperation portfolio includes both financing to sovereign projects as well as financing to the private sector, and also accounts for projects implemented by the UN and its agencies.

Two main approaches to mapping were implemented in order to link ODA projects to the relevant SDGs: (1) a broad Sectoral Mapping Methodology, and (2) a more detailed Project-Based

Mapping Methodology. Within project mapping, two distinct but related approaches were used: (a) single SDG mapping, which identified the primary SDG towards which each project contributed, and (b) multiple SDG mapping, which accounted for the multidimensional linkages projects may have to different SDGs.

Mapping ODA to SDGs identifies the alignment of current and effective ODA projects with the UN SDG Agenda at a granular level so that decisions on future allocations of development assistance finances are better informed. The completion of the mapping exercise clearly displays the current situation and gives insight to the direction of future partnerships. Prior to COVID 19, the world designated the path towards the 2030 Agenda as the “Decade of Action”, whereby all development stakeholders need to be cognizant of what has been achieved, take stock of successful experiences and highlight pitfalls to make evidence-based choices that help maximize the benefits of available resources, and channel future cooperation towards realizing the SDGs.

3. Global Partnerships Narrative

The third principle of the Ministry’s economic diplomacy is the Global Partnerships Narrative, aimed at mobilizing national and international efforts towards the achievement of development goals through sharing a common language of communication to push the agenda forward. Successful communication of development results and values of humanity and solidarity entice people’s support to development cooperation. Given the modern modes of communication, a real opportunity presents itself to inform and engage all stakeholders involved in the development cooperation process. Of particular importance is its impact on people as a compelling message to help influence public opinion in the field of development cooperation.

Strategic communication has emerged as a unifying paradigm for studying purposeful communications for at least four reasons: (1) the differentiation between traditional communications and impacts is rapidly disappearing; (2) the role of technology is redirecting the trajectory of public communications; (3) the variety of modes and channels of communication has expanded and thus behaviors of constituencies have evolved; and (4) influence has become a fundamental goal of communication.

Against this background, and as the world is currently facing unprecedented crises that threaten humanity as a whole -- from food insecurity to climate change -- more concerted efforts are needed for development cooperation. The Global Partnerships Narrative focuses on three elements that contribute to the success of development interventions: People and Projects and Purpose. The new narrative aims to contribute to ensuring that the promotion of future collaborations is based on an up-to-date and consistent narrative between the government of Egypt and its multilateral and bilateral development partners generated through strong connections and engagement.

Principle I: Multi-Stakeholder Platforms

The landmark 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda explicitly identified partnerships as a mechanism to help deliver the SDGs and established respective targets:

17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries;

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships. (United Nations, 2015)

The 2030 Agenda goes a step further by introducing ‘partnerships’ as one of five critical dimensions of sustainable development, underscoring partnerships as a ‘means of implementation’ that are multi-dimensional in scope and span the Agenda’s goals; local, national and global economies’ industries and sectors; and the public and private sectors, civil society and academia.

Given the importance of global solidarity and cooperation under Goal 17, multi-stakeholder partnerships emerge both as important outcomes and as vehicles to mobilize, galvanize and collectively share tangible and intangible resources to realize the 2030 SDGs. Goal 17 also stresses the role of multi-stakeholder platforms – first, as critical institutional spaces for envisaging how traditional and nontraditional stakeholders can be convened, engaged and aligned; and secondly, as facilitators for development interventions and maximizing sustainable impact at scale “*by opening up new opportunities for collaboration, linking action across multiple scales from global to local and local to global and facilitating rapid learning and efficient knowledge transfer, both horizontally and vertically*” (Hazlewood, 2015).

Furthermore, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres emphasized the role that multi-stakeholder platforms could play in delivering on the 2030 Agenda:

The ambition and breadth of the Sustainable Development Goals make them simply unattainable without robust partnerships. The United Nations development system will need to draw on its unique convening power to help countries broker the diverse partnerships needed at the global, regional and country levels and to bring together the actors with the appropriate mix of resources — knowledge, science and technology, finance — to find innovative solutions to pressing challenges that can be taken to the required scale. (Report of the Secretary-General, 2017)

Guterres' statement echoes earlier efforts which recognized that the path towards the achievement of development goals requires the collaboration of all development actors and the alignment of different sources of development financing. For example, the 2015 Addis Ababa Agenda for Action stated:

The enhanced and revitalized global partnership for sustainable development, led by Governments, will be a vehicle for strengthening international cooperation for implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. (United Nations, 2015)

Signatories of the 2030 Agenda acknowledge the shared responsibility of all stakeholders for economic, social and environmental development. Leveraging financing resources requires the coordination of governments, international development and financial organizations, business sector, civil society as well as philanthropies.

Similarly, the G20 Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on Global Financial Governance Report, *"Making the Global Financial System Work for All"*, called upon global multilateral systems to align and organize their funds and experiences to address global challenges and realize impactful and sustainable development. The power of collective action has thus become essential to discover, unlock and augment available and potential resources.

Engaging transition economies and developing countries as key players in the decision-making process in the development arena has become essential to ensure alignment of financial flows and consistency with national needs. The growing development challenges of today's world and the ambitious 2030 SDG Agenda require novel, inclusive and dynamic partnerships that include traditional and non-traditional stakeholders to accelerate and enhance development impact. *"Bold and defined steps"* are thus needed *"to ensure that today's institutions – global, regional and bilateral – work together as a system [to] build trust and transparency among these different institutions and leverage on their combined strengths.* (G20 Eminent Persons Group on Global Financial Governance, 2018)

Several multilateral tools identify variables that could further strengthen global partnerships and help fulfill the 2030 Agenda. One prominent tool, Global Partnerships for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), is a survey carried out every 2 years for countries keen on pushing their development cooperation agenda. As the next section will highlight, extracting information from survey results therefore becomes a pivotal exercise. Likewise, discussions around designing country platforms, particularly as advocated by the G20 Eminent Persons' Group is another case in point, as will be seen below.

Global Partnerships for Effective Development Cooperation: Global Perspective

Within the context of development cooperation, the Global Partnerships for Effective Development Cooperation is a multi-stakeholder platform to advance the effectiveness of development efforts by all actors, to deliver results that are long-lasting and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. Four main principles guide GPEDC's work and interaction: country ownership, a focus on results, inclusive partnerships, transparency, and mutual accountability. At the Fourth High-Level Forum on Effective Development Cooperation, held in Busan, South Korea in 2011, more than 160 countries and over 50 organizations adopted these principles, known as the Busan Partnership Agreement.

The GPEDC supports achieving the 2030 Agenda by promoting knowledge sharing and peer-learning on effective approaches, learning from all types of development cooperation, and supporting engagement of all development actors including the private sector and civil society and strengthening political momentum for effective development cooperation.

The GPEDC helps track the progress of SDGs, which by definition, fulfills the 17th SDG "Partnerships for the Goals", namely to enhance multi-stakeholder partnerships for development in support of goals and to respect country policies and leadership to actually implement these goals. Both the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the UN Development Program (UNDP) use the GPEDC as a tool to monitor progress on how countries are driving development efforts and working together on effective development cooperation.

Since 2011, Global Partnership Monitoring has been a vehicle for mutual accountability to examine development cooperation commitments at the country, regional and global levels along with development partners. The nucleus underpinning the global partnership monitoring process is behavioral change on *how* stakeholders partner at the country level, rather than on the specific outcomes of such cooperation. Thus far, there have been three Global Partnership Monitoring rounds (2014, 2016 and 2018). The latest round was launched in June 2018 and involved data from 86 partner countries and territories, in collaboration with more than 100 development partners. The 2019 Global Monitoring Report, which highlighted the 2018 results, examined "*how partner countries are putting in place the building blocks for an effective, whole-of-society development effort (Part I) and how effectively development partners support such country-led efforts (Part II)*". (GPEDC, 2019)

General findings of the 2019 report indicated that since 2011, the proportion of partner countries with high quality national development strategies has almost doubled from 36 percent to 64 percent. The report also indicated that whilst country governments are generally consulting a robust range of national stakeholders, such as civil society, the private sector, parliamentarians and subnational governments in designing national development strategies, engagement with development partners is much lower. The report also found that not only have nearly all national

development strategies approved since 2015 referenced the 2030 Agenda, but also that partner countries have worked to embed the SDGs into their planning, thereby increasing the use of SDGs as a common results framework, in line with their development partners. The report also indicated that slight progress has been made in making development cooperation more transparent. Information provided by development partners is comprehensive and nearly all partner countries have an information management system in place for development cooperation. Additionally, mutual accountability mechanisms are becoming more inclusive, and the vast majority of development partners reported that mutual accountability assessments were effective in informing the ways of working in a country. (GPEDC, 2019)

Egypt's Progress in Effective Development Cooperation

Since endorsing the Busan Principles in 2011, Egypt has been committed to monitoring its ongoing progress. Results of the latest 2018 monitoring round suggest significant improvement in Egypt's overall performance compared to 2016 results.

In the realm of **country ownership**, Egypt notably improved in the annual predictability of development cooperation as development funding was disbursed within the scheduled fiscal year; however, further improvements were needed on the medium-term predictability of financial disbursements of development cooperation activities. The use of Egypt's own public financial management and procurement systems in development cooperation increased by approximately 35 percent in 2018 compared to 2016. Moreover, the proportion of aid that has been untied increased by approximately 22 percent in 2018 compared to 2016.

Regarding **focus on results**, Egypt, at 93 percent, is well ahead in the quality of its national development planning compared to other Low Middle Income Countries (LMICs), whose development planning was estimated to be 80 percent on average. Additionally, the report found that Egypt's development cooperation activities were completely aligned with the country's priorities and its use of country-led results frameworks by development partners has increased significantly.

For **inclusive partnerships** (as measured by the extent to which civil society and the private sector are engaged in development activities through ODA projects), Egypt made measurable improvements in 2018 compared to 2016, though further room for development remains.

As for **transparency and mutual accountability**, both were strengthened through inclusive reviews and monitoring practices, and information on development cooperation was made publicly available. Also, the report showed that Egypt's share of development cooperation recorded on budgets subject to and supervised by Parliament was high. In addition, Egypt has

implemented transparent systems to track allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment.

The Ministry has been keen to utilize the findings of the report and employ efficient tools to improve interaction with all relevant stakeholders with the objective of building a sustainable system for inclusive partnerships. To enhance transparency and accountability, the Ministry published results of the GPEDC monitoring report in its Annual Report, in December 2020, and also on the website <https://www.moic.gov.eg>. The achievements represented commitment to the effectiveness of development activities, and highlighted areas for further improvement. Indeed, the Ministry was able to build on the report's findings to enhance engagement of all development stakeholders through regular dialogues and interactive discussions and workshops that focus the key word "effectiveness" through all the principles, and promote concrete and actionable agenda to enhance impact and sustainability.

1. Country-Led Platforms

Ownership, the first principle in the GPEDC, emphasizes the role of governments and societies in directing development cooperation activities. Every country has its distinctive characteristics and opportunities for development. A clear diagnosis of the challenges it faces, its objectives, and how they can be accomplished defines a nation's vision for development, which is the cornerstone for successful development interventions by national governments, development partners, societal actors or the private sector. Through coordinated efforts and complementarity of all stakeholders, the impact and magnitude of development activities can be multiplied. Therefore, the national government has a vital role in creating conducive and interactive modalities to facilitate dialogue amongst various stakeholders, and ensure efficient collaboration in order to improve results. One very successful way of encouraging this interaction is through country platforms.

"Effective country platforms will maximize the contributions of development partners as a group and scale up private investments, including by convergence around core standards." (G20 Eminent Persons Group on Global Financial Governance, 2018)

In development cooperation, a country platform that is owned and managed by the government strengthens its ability to promote country-led development initiatives and leverage targeted financial and technical support by the international community. It further allows non-traditional actors in the development field, such as the private sector, to support efforts to achieve the development agenda through bringing in innovative ideas and business tools. The key to success, however, is the ability to align and synchronize the contributions of different stakeholders in the platform and to create necessary synergies that promote collaboration and avoid conflict. This creates conducive and advantageous opportunity for the private sector that is built on mutual

trust and benefit, and enables the development agenda to move “*from billions to trillions*” in the manner articulated by the multilateral development banks (MDBs) in 2015, who said that the billions provided through ODA every year need to be a catalyst to mobilize and unlock trillions in public and private investments on the national and international levels (MDBs & the International Monetary Fund (IMF), 2015). The G20 also emphasizes the value of complementary roles among stakeholders.

“Coherent and complementary operations between development partners will help scale up private sector investment. The adoption of core standards can also lower the private sector’s costs in working with a range of partners.” (G20 Eminent Persons Group on Global Financial Governance, 2018)

Country platforms thus work as enablers of interactive dialogue that can generate efficient policies and partnerships amongst development stakeholders and yield effective and impactful results. The value behind country platforms is twofold: mobilizing and securing more available finances to implement and realize the sustainable development goals; and creating innovative means of cooperation that build on the comparative advantage of each stakeholder. Governments and development partners have long worked collaboratively to implement projects and programs aimed at enhancing people’s livelihoods. Country platforms improve transparency of these operations and provide a channel for all operating development partners and international financial institutions within a country to align and harmonize their efforts and initiatives, and to build on successful experiences and learn from pitfalls. Bringing civil society onboard platforms gives voice to the needs and aspirations of local communities and provides a channel for beneficiaries to influence the direction of development initiatives. The private sector is also a key stakeholder that can support the implementation and expansion of successful practices to a much wider magnitude through its financial and creative business models for better sustainability and inclusion.

The G20 Eminent Persons Group proposed several determinants for country platforms to effectively deliver their intended purpose and be able to encourage the engagement and participation of the private sector as financier and implementer of development projects through International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and MDBs. The main ideas centered around the government’s institutional framework for engagement, the investment risks involved, the role of MDBs and IFIs, alignment with international initiatives as well as sectoral focus for private sector interventions. With regard to the institutional framework, the capacity of government entities, together with conducive legislative and regulatory systems, is essential in promoting and sustaining interest by the private sector in multi-stakeholder country platforms. IFIs’ and MDBs’ roles are indispensable in providing solutions to mitigate investment risks that may be encountered by business actors. The EPG also recommends the engagement of country-level platforms with relevant regional and international initiatives and with institutions to mobilize

needed support. The focus on the advancement of infrastructure is also considered an entry point and a cornerstone for the private sector to contribute to the development agenda and realize tangible and sustainable impact.

These system-wide shifts will enable the international community to meet the vastly larger development needs of the future. They will help mobilize private capital, which is a potential game-changer in development finance. However, private capital is unlikely to engage on the scale required without the involvement of the IFIs – in project origination, risk participation, and staying engaged with governments on reforms. (G20 Eminent Persons Group on Global Financial Governance, 2018)

What is clear from a review of the literature is that no comprehensive science exists about how these partnerships are segmented across these levels. However, one sure determinant is the potential objective(s) that partnerships serve. As such, the engagement processes of multiple stakeholders certainly depend on the issues that need to be addressed, the culture of participatory decision making in which these stakeholders are brought together, and the available resources -- financial, human capital, technological and knowledge -- to be employed.

Launching Egypt's Multi-Stakeholder Platforms for International Cooperation

Analyzing the GPEDC Monitoring Report, and the G20 Report on Making Global Financial Systems Work for All, engaging development stakeholders is vital to enhancing the effectiveness of cooperation activities. The Ministry thus inaugurated Egypt's first national multi-stakeholder platform for development in April 2020. To better understand how the Ministry mirrors core global values of multi-stakeholder platforms and partnerships, it is first crucial to examine the global context within which multi-stakeholder platforms were bred, particularly in recent times. Next, it is valuable to understand how that milieu has further necessitated the impact and importance of partnerships and platforms as well as influenced the very ingredients, components and structures they require to deliver their means.

The complex and inherently interconnected nature of the 17 SDGs with their 169 targets under the 2030 Agenda demands the inclusion and participation of all societal actors to jointly tackle them. Moreover, the growing significance of multiple stakeholder partnerships and platforms over the past three decades in realizing the SDG 2030 Agenda parallels this discourse.

In 2020, the world found itself at critical juncture -- the final Decade of Action for achieving the 2030 Agenda for SDGs began amidst the throes of the COVID-19 global pandemic with its attendant threats, disruptions and vulnerabilities. The pandemic has inadvertently underscored the importance and consequence of all stakeholders' cooperation as a fundamental tool in mounting effective response, recovery and rebuilding efforts.

The UN Secretary General's Report "Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity: Responding to the Socio-Economic Impacts of Covid-19" was published in March 2020. A special chapter devoted to "Partnerships to Accelerate the Global Response to Covid-19" emphasized the role of local and national authorities, civil society and community-based organizations as well as the private sector. Each of these actors has specific capacity to respond to the crisis from a unique vantage point.

Local governments are at the frontline of the pandemic. The capacity of local governments to respond rapidly with the needed health and socioeconomic measures depends heavily on the governance context of the country and the financial health of the local government and its budgetary authority). Effective dialogue and coordination between local and national authorities are critical for implementing effective measures. Women and youth will be key to these dialogues at local levels. (United Nations , 2020)

These words stress that the sheer size, scope and pace of the pandemic and its multidimensional effects have manifested an urgency of response that requires an 'all hands-on deck' approach and actions. Yet, there is a significant risk that response efforts will absorb resources. This risk is particularly salient as systematic inequalities worsen and widen in developing countries across vulnerable populations. In turn, the pandemic diverts resources that are dedicated (or would/could be) to the implementation of the SDGs. Even more, as the pandemic threatens the progress made over the past five years and what remains to be done in the 'Decade of Action', it accentuates the urgency of advancing sustainable development through partnerships. Explicitly, assembling diverse and complementary assets through partnerships involves competencies, skills and finite resources around a shared purpose that guides focus and hones attention to delivery of the 2030 Agenda. In turn, they could insulate the impact of the pandemic.

The term "Build Back Better" (BBB) has recently been used by a number of multilateral organizations to encapsulate sustainable recovery efforts from the impacts of COVID-19. While the term is not new -- dating back to 2006 when it was introduced as an approach to disaster recuperation by the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, (Clinton, 2006) -- it is certainly appropriate. More accurately, building back better captures how post-crisis reconstruction and recovery initiatives work to improve the "*physical, psycho- social and economic aspects of affected communities in an effective and efficient manner*" (Kennedy, Ashmore, Babister, & Kelman, 2008). As such, a critical component of BBB is the creation of functional multi-stakeholder partnerships that overhaul current systemic responses towards resilient development assistance, social justice and a renewed cooperation model.

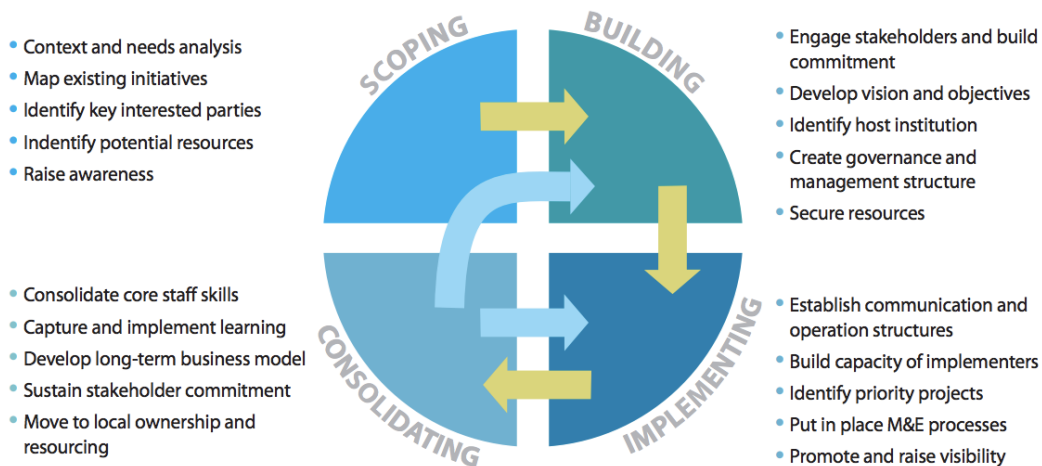
1.1 The Enabling Ecosystem

It is not possible to talk about multi-stakeholder partnerships without exploring how inextricably linked and dependent effective and enabling multi-stakeholder platforms are. Important questions include: (1) what are the purpose and objectives of multi-stakeholder platforms? and (2) how do platforms facilitate and formalize multi-stakeholder partnerships and engagement?

While there is no agreed upon definition of the role and scope of platforms, one consistent element is that they are core mechanisms for convening stakeholders around policy issues to catalyze and elevate innovative partnership engagement and action. In other words, platforms provide a common space – a supportive infrastructure and ecosystem – where the intrinsic alignment of interests among the aforementioned actors can be revealed in order to pave the way for collaboration, alliance and partnership. (Reid, Hayes, & Stibbe, 2014)

Figure 1: The Partnering Initiative's Platform Life-Cycle Model

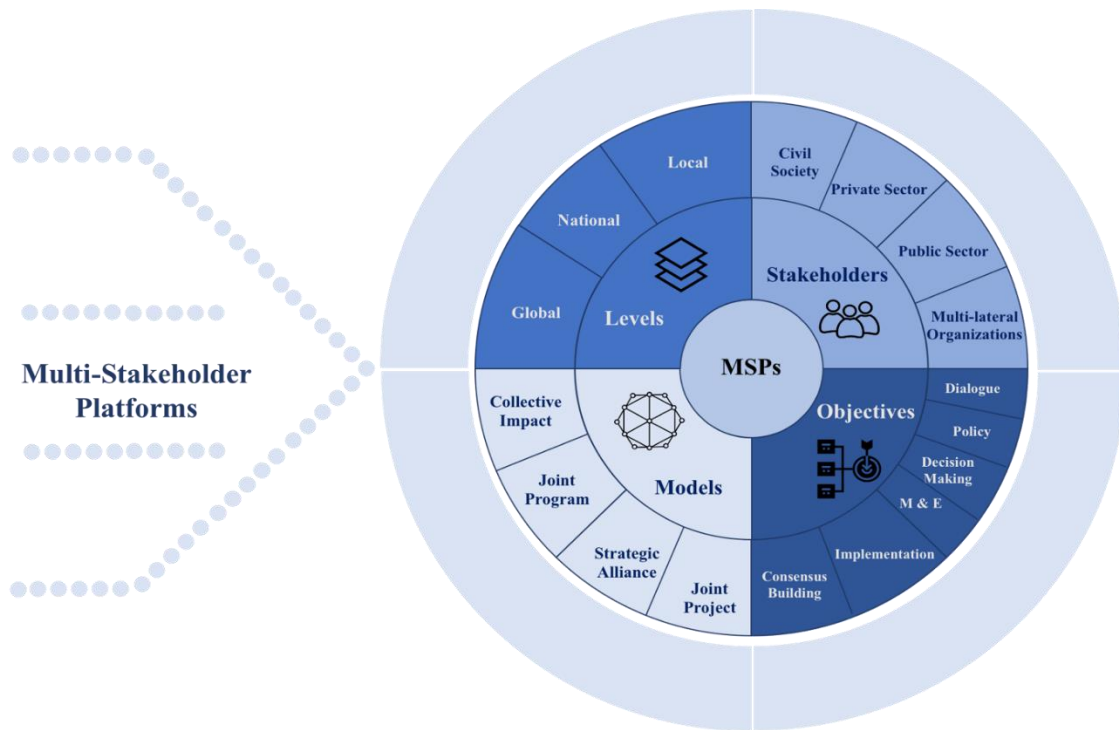
THE PLATFORM LIFE-CYCLE SHOWING TYPICAL ACTIVITIES AT EACH STAGE



Note: Depending on context, certain activities may take place across multiple phases of the lifecycle

Source: Reid, Hayes, & Stibbe, 2014

Figure 2: Platforms - An Ecosystem for Partnerships



Source: Illustration of the Ministry of International Cooperation's Multi-Stakeholder Platform Ecosystem

- a. **Stakeholders** spanned the public sector, development partners, private sector and civil society. To ensure a comprehensive perspective, stakeholders included the following sectors of society: women, children and youth, workers and trade unions, business and industry, scientific and technological experts, and rural communities. Additionally, other relevant stakeholders could include educational and academic entities, foundations and private philanthropic organizations, parliamentary networks and associations, persons with disabilities as well as volunteer groups.
- b. **Objectives** drove the aims of specific partnerships and were summarized from the Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Processes UNDP 2006 document.
- c. **Models** determined the framework within which the platform would operate to meet its objectives. These were taken from the Peterson *et al* multi-stakeholder typology.
- d. **Levels** of partnership denoted the scope and magnitude of partnerships' operation to serve the determined objectives. While at a bird's eye view these can be stratified into global, national and local, there are certainly alternative and further vertical and horizontal possibilities to dissect the levels of partnership. For instance, one could also define levels of partnership according to the five levels of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) to engage stakeholders: 1) inform, 2) consult, 3) involve, 4)

collaborate, and 5) empower. (International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), 2014)

During the first quarter of 2020, the Ministry launched the first multi-stakeholder platform to advance the effectiveness of development efforts by all actors, contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, and deliver long-term results. More than 120 representatives from 45 international institutions and foreign courts attended the first meeting. The platform assembled interagency stakeholders from several multilateral and bilateral development partners, as well as the UN and its agencies. The multi-stakeholder platform exemplifies how the Ministry is maximizing the engagement and commitment of governments, development partners, and the private sector in the development process. Bringing these dynamic groups to the table enabled viable, innovative public-private partnerships while also ensuring the harmonization of relevant structures. It allowed these actors to play a participatory role in the economic diplomacy process and its target outcomes.

Existing literature varies in identifying the phases of developing effective multi-stakeholder platforms. The Ministry generally adopted a five-step process: (1) Inception and Initiation, (2) Design, (3) Actualization of partnerships through the platforms, (4) Review and Refinement, and (5) Scaling, Transformation and Sustainability. Each of the stages will be explained further in the following section and in the context of the 2020 multi-stakeholder platforms.

The **Inception and Initiation** phase begins the process where key stakeholders, relevant decision makers and target groups are rallied towards a specific purpose, sector or theme. The framework within which these partnerships are expected to evolve would be decided through a number of central questions, namely: Are partnerships necessary to address the specific policy issues and challenges at hand? If so, who are the relevant actors? What is the context in which these actors will operate? What are the resources required, and how will the collaboration of these actors ensure the availability of these resources? At this stage, no formal structures are explored but rather relationships are ignited and dialogue is established around a common and shared agenda. It is indeed a planning stage where common grounds and mutual benefits will be the driving force of attraction for stakeholders and participants. Through this interaction, complementarity and coherence about shared objectives, operational framework, means of cooperation and sustainable engagement are set. Having this as a starting point encourages stakeholders to expand areas of cooperation, set norms for engagement and highlight common implementation modalities.

The **Design** phase of multi-stakeholder platforms identifies a shared agenda, and recognizes the mechanism of interaction among all stakeholders to catalyze constructive and engaging dialogue that builds towards effective partnerships. It is therefore essential at this stage to onboard all

relevant traditional and non-traditional stakeholders, and to bring in innovative ideas and tools to address the platforms' objectives. For each sector or theme under discussion, the current macro-economic context within which the partnership would take place is transparently projected highlighting the main gaps and bottlenecks that need collective action in order to advance the development agenda. Similarly, ongoing and prospective partnerships are explained to promote integration, complementarity and up-scaling. Partners thus collaborate through proposing common strategies, formulating structures and designing the roadmaps to push forward their partnerships collectively. This stage is a manifestation of country ownership and is particularly seminal for the mobilization of resources that stakeholders intend to devote to particular objectives.

The **Actualization** phase is where the real integrated partnerships occur based on strategies and roadmaps devised. While the design phase opens ways to unlock cooperation potential among stakeholders, the actualization phase translates these opportunities into real partnerships. It is a realization of the main objective and value of multi-stakeholder platforms in creating collaborative and effective partnerships. That is, collaborative in the sense that stakeholders move from acting on an individual basis to integrating their efforts for generating greater value; and effective, as it leads to more positive and sustainable results. In this phase, partnerships come to fruition and are implemented. In other words, it is the stage at which partnerships ensure aligned and harmonized efforts in advancing the objectives pertaining to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The **Review and Refinement** Phase is the fourth and penultimate stage. This is where the architecture of partnerships is examined and evaluated by predetermined metrics of whether the mechanism is actually working to achieve goals and objectives. This is critical particularly in terms of confirming that stakeholders hold up to their commitments in an inclusive, transparent, accountable and consistent manner. Key performance indicators are developed for the institutional platform to scientifically assess its operation and regularly provide evidence-based policy recommendations on needed improvements. The indicators may include, but are not limited to, measurements of the diversity and number of partners involved in the platforms, the scale of cooperation resulting from this engagement, policy and strategy adjustments adopted by different stakeholders, the resulting volume of blended finance to name a few. Continuous engagement with stakeholders is thus essential to collectively gauge the progress and/or challenges of multi-stakeholder partnerships, and to draw necessary policy directions to improve cooperation frameworks and resolve potential constraints.

Finally, the **Scaling, Transformation and Sustainability** phase of the platforms is tied in large part to the results of the review phase in assessing how successful the partnerships were/are in meeting the set objectives, lessons learned, future potential of addressing gaps (if they exist) and whether there is pronounced commitment from stakeholders to expand and adapt in order to

increase impact. Furthermore, time horizons of partnerships are examined for scaling up or modifying.

Since Egypt's country-led multi-stakeholder platforms were institutionalized in 2020, they have only been through the first three phases in the aforementioned process. Engagement with stakeholders for the review and refinement is planned to take place towards the end of year 2021, and will draw meaningful results from experiences encountered through different platforms. Although it is too early to evaluate this experience, the Ministry is quite aware of the need to collect feedback, monitor the process, assess responses and highlight potential areas for improvements to prepare for the fourth and fifth phases that will need wide consultations with stakeholders.

The following section will present an overview of the country-led multi-stakeholder platforms that were organized during 2020, and will reflect on the five-step process to explore how they were addressed under each sector/theme. The platforms that occurred as well as those planned will serve as a national model for multilateralism to be assessed, modified and scaled-up.

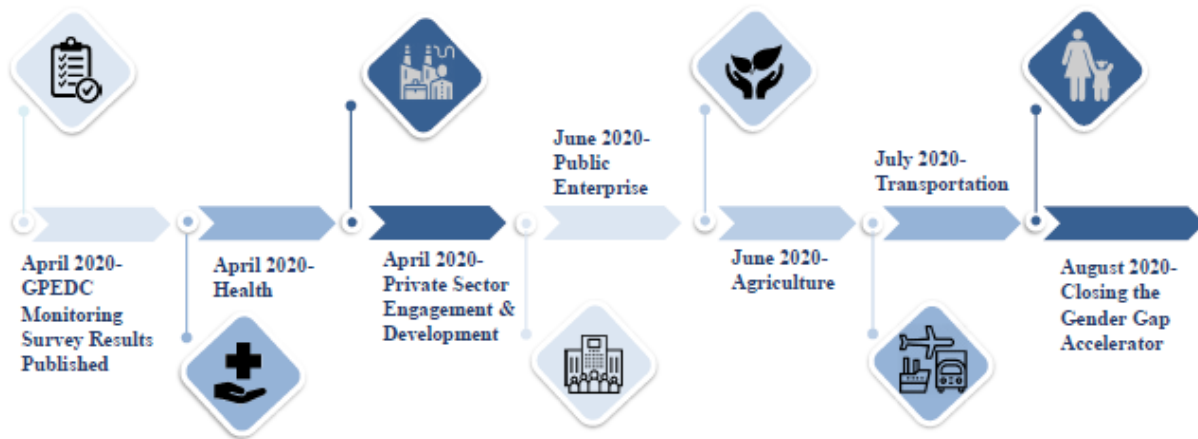
1.2 Egypt's Multi-Stakeholder Platforms During 2020

Throughout 2020, the Ministry organized a number of participatory multi-stakeholder platforms in various sectors, focusing on different areas impacted by the COVID-19 crisis such as the health sector, public enterprises, transportation, rural and agricultural development and gender quality, and monitoring progress in the implementation of projects.

These multi-stakeholder platforms contributed to promoting knowledge-sharing and peer-learning on effective approaches; learning from all types of development cooperation; contributing to increased effectiveness at the country level; supporting engagement of the private sector through development cooperation; and strengthening political momentum for effective development cooperation. The following section will shed light on some of the platforms, depicting their objectives, level of participation and effectiveness at the national, regional and international levels.

COVID-19 had its silver lining in that it somewhat pushed policymakers, development partners, civil society and the private sector to think outside the box in innovative and original ways to communicate and cooperate. The pandemic forced a need for global collaboration as no country could act effectively in isolation. The idea of a country-led platform materialized as a result of the challenge of physical communication imposed by the pandemic, making virtual communication a new reality, which has proven capable to overcome boundaries and enable a wider scale of inclusive engagement.

Figure 3: Egypt's Multi-Stakeholder Platforms in 2020



Source: Illustration of the Ministry's Multi-Stakeholder Sector Platforms in 2020

Multi-Stakeholder Platform on the Health Sector

In light of the pandemic, health has become the center of the government and international community's policies. The Ministry adopted agile, innovative and collaborative means to leverage international partnerships in order to support government efforts to mitigate the adverse effects of COVID-19. Immediately, the Ministry organized an inclusive virtual multi-stakeholder platform that included the participation of the Ministry of Health, as the main government stakeholder which will highlight the needs for collective action, as well as multilateral and bilateral development partners to decide on courses of immediate action to address COVID-19, to fulfill the priorities set out by the government, ranging from hospital equipment to technical assistance and medical staff training. This was a clear manifestation of the Inception and Initiation phase, where relevant stakeholders showed solidarity and unity around a common goal. COVID-19 created a universal call for collective cooperation that emphasized the value of multilateralism. The first multi-stakeholder platform received positive responses from several development partners and governments on the requests issued by the Ministry of Health and Population to combat the immediate effect of COVID-19.

The multi-stakeholder platform on health addressed the pressing issues of the pandemic and contributed as well to areas of direct influence on the UN SDGs including Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3), Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), and Climate Action (SDG 13). All of these were main themes for collaborating with partners to push forward sustainable and inclusive development.

The scope and magnitude of responses to the multi-stakeholder platform on health exemplified the accomplishments that country platforms can realize. The clear message transparently

communicated by the government on urgent health sector needs, and the level of engagement of development partners, ensured the alignment and harmonization of their efforts in times of emergency. The platform, which was organized by virtue of crisis, presented a successful and agile governance structure for development cooperation that promotes transparency and accountability among stakeholders, and opened the way for more actors to be engaged, and more platforms to take place.

Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Public-Private Partnerships

The reform program endorsed by the government of Egypt since 2016 identified the private sector as a main stakeholder in contributing to national development. The scope of its contributions is limitless through ongoing and new business activities, expansions, innovations as well as partnerships with the government. The Ministry of Public Enterprise (the government entity responsible for restructuring public sector companies, improving their efficiency, and boosting profitability) developed a plan where change management and new business models would improve operations of a number of public companies. These changes were focused on partnership opportunities with the private sector.

To support this agenda, the Ministry organized an interactive multi-stakeholder platform, where the Ministry of Public Enterprise presented its strategy and plans for reforms of public companies, and identified opportunities for public-private partnerships. The participants of the platform included bilateral and multilateral development partners, IFIs, private sector companies as well as national and international banks. Bringing in private sector practices, fresh ideas and investments to public-owned enterprises through different avenues of partnerships helped revamp their operations and position nationally and internationally. It strengthened the competitiveness of these enterprises, connected them with local and global value chains, supported economic integration and improved employees' skills.

The Design phase became prominent in this event as further collaboration among participants was motivated. The moderated discussion during the meeting highlighted the needs of the Ministry of Public Enterprise and underscored available opportunities for cooperation and partnerships through technical support of development partners, financial instruments by international financial institutions and engagement and partnerships with the private sector. Development partners and IFIs expressed their appreciation for the multi-stakeholder platforms organized by the Ministry and showed interest in this modality, especially under the circumstances imposed by COVID-19. Heike Harmgart, Managing Director for the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEMED) at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) articulated how the platform facilitated development cooperation and interactive partnerships:

“We are very happy with the Ministry’s initiative to create a Multi-Stakeholder Platform which is helping increasing coordinated efforts and work among international institutions. The second meeting..., showed already an increased dialogue to set up the country’s priorities and is key for the development of various sectors based on the expertise of each institution, putting the impact on people’s lives at the heart of our efforts. This will help avoiding work duplication and achieving quicker results and impact in developing the Egyptian economy”. (Ministry of International Cooperation Annual Report, 2020)

Multi-Stakeholder Platform on the Transportation Sector

The Egyptian transport sector contributes 4.6 percent to GDP and provides approximately 6.2 percent of jobs -- the railway subsector alone caters to approximately 500 million passengers annually, at the rate of 1.4 million daily. Reforming and modernizing the transportation sector is one of the leading priorities for the government of Egypt, which has emphasized clean and inclusive transportation going forward, for its direct impact on the community through the inter-connectivity of people and goods.

In July 2020, Egypt’s Minister of International Cooperation and Minister of Transportation convened a virtual multi-stakeholder platform for the Transportation Sector with development partners. The platform aimed to discuss financing priorities for a Sustainable Transport Sector. The meeting, which was attended by multilateral and bilateral development partners including several international financial institutions, brought to the forefront priorities in sustainable transportation for the period ahead, with a focus on the Ministry of Transportation’s plan to accelerate network development in line with the SDGs and Egypt’s Vision 2030.

The significance of projects carried out in cooperative spheres underscored the private sector’s pivotal role. As stressed by the Minister of Transport during the meeting, Egypt has a promising investment environment and the development of its transport sector offers substantial investment opportunities, which could further expand cooperation with development partners. Certainly, the ongoing development projects in place have also proven fruitful in Egypt’s enhanced ranking according to global competitive indicators in various reports. And, as noted by the IFC during the inaugural meeting, Egypt has the potential to penetrate major markets through bilateral and multilateral trade agreements that would in turn render Egypt as a main import / export hub by mobilizing more investments to the transportation sector through public-private partnership projects.

Thus, the role of this sector-specific multi-stakeholder platform is to ensure that relevant stakeholders are well equipped with the necessary knowledge and resources to meet these targets. Specifically, the platform enables stakeholders as they continue to look into immediate and future strategic opportunities in the sector, capitalize on successes, learn from pitfalls and

harness the power of group interaction and engagement to put together constructive proposals and mechanisms through cooperation with development partners.

By the end of 2020, the transport sector was able to secure funding worth around US\$ 1.8 billion towards the projects and goals presented during the multi-stakeholder platform, illustrating realization of the Actualization phase. When the strategies and objectives of the transport sector were transparently communicated, and the financing gaps were clearly highlighted by the government, it was easy for development partners to align to national goals. These collaborations also prompted regulatory changes during 2020 that enabled the engagement of private sector stakeholders as investors in the development of transportation sector in Egypt for the first time.

Multi-Stakeholder Platform on the Agriculture Sector

Rural and agricultural development is a core priority for the Egyptian government and a key component of the economy. More than 57 percent of the Egyptian people dwell in rural areas agriculture contributes 14 percent to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and directly employs about 28 percent of the labor force. Furthermore, farming remains a vital source of exports and foreign exchange, accounting for 20 percent of export revenue.

Investments in the Agricultural sector go beyond immediate gains as they have a multiplier effect on the overall economy in increasing productivity, providing job opportunities, reducing inequality, improving livelihoods and promoting sustainability. Agriculture investments also contribute to achieving several SDGs: No Poverty (SDG 1), Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3), Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8), Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12) and Climate Action (SDG 13), all of which were main themes for collaboration with partners to push forward sustainable and inclusive development.

To strengthen Egypt's inclusive multilateral engagement with development partners, in July 2020, the Ministry launched the agriculture multi-stakeholder platform. The platform discussed the implications of the coronavirus pandemic on the agricultural sector and food security. The virtual meeting was held with the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation as well as a number of IFIs and development partners with projects in the agricultural sector within the framework of the SDGs and Egypt's National Development Agenda.

Building upon the coordination of efforts between the Ministry of International Cooperation and the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation to monitor ODA progress in the sector and address priority fields and required support, the platform highlighted the priority to coordinate with international institutions, development partners, private sector and active civil society organizations in rural areas to support the agricultural sector, due to its role in providing food security amid the Covid-19 pandemic. More specifically, the convening of partners to build

dialogue on mobilizing support for Egypt's main development priorities was crucial to ensure stakeholders could align and adapt their strategies and procedures to meet common targets and goals.

Multi-Stakeholder Platform to Launch the Gender Accelerator

The Ministry of International Cooperation and the National Council for Women (NCW), together with the World Economic Forum, launched the “Closing the Gender Gap Accelerator” in July 2020. Egypt is the first country in Africa and the Middle East to launch this public-private collaboration model built to take proactive action to advance women’s economic empowerment. The model supports public and private leaders in shaping innovative pathways to promote gender equality, diversity, inclusion and economic mobility through a three-year action plan, which is central to Egypt’s reform agenda.

The Accelerator aims to engage up to 100 private sector companies in various economic sectors, in addition to civil society experts targeting the endorsement of policies and plans to advance women’s economic empowerment in different fields and on all levels. This should bring together multi-stakeholder actors across the public and private sectors as well as civil society to generate in-depth local assessments, and develop needs-based policies and action plans to address all deficiencies hindering complete and equal female economic participation. Of course, this all goes back to SDG 5, gender equality.

The virtual platform saw the participation of over 80 participants from the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the French Development Agency (AFD), the USAID, and the UN and its agencies. Additionally, foreign courts including the Embassy of UK, Canada, China, South Korea, USA, Germany, and France, among others attended. To ensure better results, the Accelerator created a structure for all stakeholders to engage in three stages: initiate projects, facilitate discussions to prioritize actions according to key objectives, and measure impact according to defined targets and metrics before final approval.

The platform presented reports on women’s issues and issued a tracker concerning the policies and programs taken by the Egyptian government amidst COVID-19. These policies were responsive to the needs of women and managed to mitigate the adverse effects of the pandemic. Egypt is the first country to provide a women-specific response and tracker to COVID-19. The Accelerator’s objective is to push towards gender parity as GDP would increase by 34 percent. (Ministry of International Cooperation Annual Report, 2020). Put simply, when women are empowered, society as a whole does better. A key element is to support the private sector’s prominent role in formulating initiatives that can help increase women’s inclusion in the sector.

The ongoing international cooperation projects between Egypt and its multilateral and bilateral development partners include 34 projects, worth US \$3.3 billion, that address gender equality as

a cross-cutting theme. The top targeted sectors include Health (20 percent), Education (14 percent), and Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) (15 percent). The Ministry's current portfolio of projects that exclusively target SDG 5 include 13 projects amounting to \$82 million.

“Addressing gender equality and women economic empowerment is at the heart of Egypt’s program to ‘build back better’, as we see its quantifiable impact on GDP, productivity and as a catalyst to push the UN SDGs forward.” (Ministry of International Cooperation Annual Report, 2020)

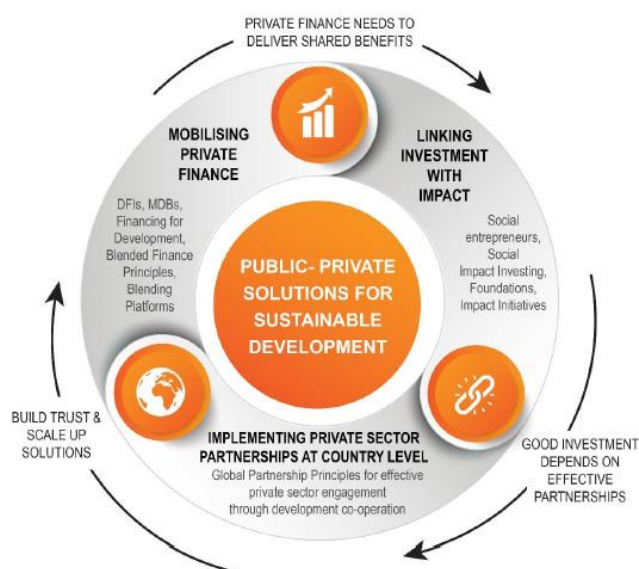
2. Private Sector Engagement in Development

Promoting the participation of the private sector as a primary stakeholder in the development process is critical to realizing the SDGs. However, as outlined in the OECD 2020 report, private sector engagement on the 2030 Agenda remains a challenge. The UN Secretary General has made this a priority in the SDG Financing Strategy and Roadmap, including creation of the Global Investment for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance. Perception of risk in many developing countries still impedes sustainable development opportunities, and market failures need to be addressed. Better leveraging official development finance to mobilize more SDG-aligned financing will be the key to success.

The GPEDC Monitoring Report includes indicators that assess the level of the private sector's engagement in development through the interventions of development partners and international financial institutions. The results of the monitoring round in 2018 prompted the OECD to further examine existing opportunities and challenges to enhance this engagement by conducting case studies of four countries, including Egypt, from different regions.

The case studies served as the *“starting point and basis for ongoing discussions on how to improve the effectiveness of PSE through development co-operation”* (GPEDC, 2018). Building on this meaningful work, a technical note on policy recommendations for private sector participation through effective development cooperation was presented on the sidelines of the UN High-Level Political Forum 2019, and the Kampala Principles. The GPEDC thus created an ecosystem of public-private solutions. Figure 4 describes the ecosystem through which effective private sector engagement can exist. The key area in this process is to create the link between private investments and development impact without ignoring the fact that the main driver of business activities is profit making. Creating a common understanding and a shared acceptance that both are not mutually exclusive can strengthen trust and confidence that relations between public and private stakeholders can contribute to distinguishing and scaling up successful experiences (OECD, 2019).

Figure 4: Public Private Solutions for Sustainable Development



Source: *Private Sector Engagement Through Development Co-Operation* (OECD, 2019)

2.1 “Private Sector Engagement in Development Cooperation in Egypt” Case Study

A report of the case study on Egypt, “Private Sector Engagement through Development Co-operation in Egypt” was published in October 2018, and presented policy suggestions and action areas where development cooperation can prompt effective private sector engagement. It included a mapping of 277 PSE projects and partnerships that were mobilized through development cooperation and interviews with local stakeholders. This exercise revealed results that reflected an *“alignment with Government of Egypt priorities from a sectoral perspective”* and recognition that the government of Egypt currently perceives *“the private sector as a partner that can contribute to public goods and job creation”*. The exercise also revealed still untapped opportunity for development partners to further support the government through PSE with most of it *“largely occurring in economic and hard infrastructure”* rather than *“social sectors including health, education and water and sanitation”*. And, *“given the high proportion of ODA flows going to social sectors overall and the limited PSE projects in this area, there is an opportunity for the government and development partners to make greater use of PSE through development co-operation to address social challenges”*. The study also noted that it was *“outside the scope of the research project to assess individual projects against specific sectoral plans and policies”* (GPEDC, 2018).

The Ministry organized a multi-stakeholder workshop to present the main findings of the case study and to promote a dialogue on practical action areas to support PSE in development. The workshop was organized around three main themes: promoting public-private partnerships, transforming corporate social responsibility from charitable contributions to sustainable development, and attracting private sector investment in lagging regions through incentives by the government and development partners.

Acting upon the findings of the case study, the Kampala Principles, and the national workshop, the Ministry put private sector engagement through international cooperation at the forefront of its agenda. The launch of the multi-stakeholder platforms set a sustainable structure to support this theme. In all sectoral multi-stakeholder platforms, the private sector was a main participant and contributor. Moreover, the Ministry dedicated stand-alone multi-stakeholder platforms to the private sector to discuss how development partners and international financial institutions can support business actors during the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.2 Multi-Stakeholder Platforms on Private Sector in 2020

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the severe repercussions it imposed on global business activities, private sector survival and resilience were at stake. Therefore, after the Ministry's launch of multi-stakeholder platforms in April 2020, two special MSPs were organized with the business sector, including participation by government representatives, international financial institutions, multi-lateral development banks and development partners to open new prospects for private sector activities through public-private partnerships, and to discuss opportunities through which development partners can support the business community through the pandemic.

On April 26, 2020, the Ministry organized the first MSP for the private sector in collaboration with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and with the participation of European Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, African Development as well as the World Bank. Private sector representatives of key sectors in the economy, such as: food, agribusiness, manufacturing, energy, logistics and others partook in a constructive dialogue on the main challenges encountered by their businesses as a result of the pandemic. The discussion covered areas including disruption of supply chains, strained production capacities, prospective changes in demand, and the evolving workplace dynamics related to labor safety and working hours under curfew rules at the time. The platform provided an interactive mechanism where the government and development finance institutions (DFIs) engaged with private sector representatives to design sector-targeted tools to address concerns and discuss measures needed in the short- and medium-terms to mitigate negative implications of the pandemic.

3. Stakeholder Capitalism

Meanwhile, the Ministry played an active role in pushing private sector engagement on the regional and international levels. In September 2020, ahead of the World Economic Forum's Sustainable Development Impact Summit, which aims to scale up sustainable solutions to address current economic, social and environmental challenges, a roadmap titled, *Principles of Stakeholder Capitalism for the Middle East and North Africa* was released. Signatories are members of the World Economic Forum's Regional Action Group for the Middle East and North Africa – a platform for public-private cooperation established to reveal how to scale up, replicate projects and initiatives inspired by seven principles that focus on sustainable and resilient recovery from the pandemic. Egypt was amongst 29 signatories of the pioneering roadmap, which advocates the importance of public-private collaboration (WEF, 2021). The regional platform includes top-level members of government, business and civil society who have committed to convening monthly to “develop action-oriented initiatives and projects that strengthen the region's resilience for the post-COVID-19 era”.

The Stakeholder Capitalism Principles underscore partnerships beyond siloed governmental mandates and responsibilities. With the public mindset shifting, the core focus of corporations has become creation of long-term sustainable value and the inextricable connection of sustainable reporting and development to environment, social and governance (ESG) standards. In other words, corporate values and strategies are measured against how well they align with the UN's SDGs to better serve society. This focus is stressed through the WEF's recently released universal metrics and recommended disclosures to assess stakeholder capitalism on the principles of governance, the planet, people, and prosperity. The metrics reflect the prioritization of multi-stakeholder platforms to facilitate “an open consultation process with corporations, investors, standard-setters, NGOs and international organizations” to “provide a common set of existing disclosures that lead towards a coherent and comprehensive global corporate reporting system”. (WEF, 2020)

By means of a shared vision and language that serves as the guiding framework to steer collaboration, the Action Group is able to offer a concrete and vigorous launch pad for stakeholders to materialize projects and initiatives, with the aim of scaling them up and replicating them throughout the region.

Fresh thinking is needed on how the region can become more resilient. In particular, the region's diverse stakeholders – leaders in government, the private sector, civil society and the academic and scientific community – must adopt a shared vision and language for collaboration. A key pillar of this new understanding of cooperation is around the role and responsibility of companies in society – encapsulated in the principles and practice of stakeholder capitalism. Stakeholder

capitalism proposes that companies should consider the interests not only of customers, suppliers, employees and shareholders, but also of the wider community, the environment and society at large. Especially relevant to the societies of MENA, it also emphasizes companies' responsibility with respect to the most vulnerable segments of the population.

Today, as Covid-19 affects health and economic systems globally, these principles have acquired an even greater sense of urgency. Now, they are part of the Forum's Great Reset initiative to shape a more inclusive and resilient post-COVID world. To this end, the members of the Regional Action Group of the World Economic Forum believe that the seven principles and the practice of Stakeholder Capitalism provide the outlines of a shared vision for building more resilient, inclusive and sustainable social and economic systems in the Middle East and North Africa. There are seven principles that cover aspects of this shared vision, namely; crafting inclusive economic policies and a new social contract; stimulating economic integration; re-shaping education systems; harnessing the 4th industrial revolution; promoting environmental sustainability; mitigating global health risks and committing to good and agile governance.³

4. Looking Ahead

Beyond the notion of being specific sustainable development commitments, multi-stakeholder partnerships and platforms to enable their effective realization and cooperation have never been more vital. In 2020, the urgency of global circumstances, particularly demands the use of these mechanisms to convene stakeholders around policy issues in order to catalyze, elevate and maximize resources by way of inclusive engagement and innovative action.

Egypt's Ministry of International Cooperation has taken the theory and modeled it as a primary function of its Economic Diplomacy Framework to directly address the tightening fiscal and constraints present in the development assistance space. As such, catalyzed by Egypt's forward progress in the GPEDC 2018 Monitoring Round survey results, and in an attempt to actively address the sweeping impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic while also not losing stride on the remaining Decade of Action for achieving the SDGs, the Ministry launched the multi-stakeholder platform on 'Global Partnerships for Effective Development Cooperation' in April 2020.

The platform showcased how the Ministry has institutionalised a cold-for global practice and brought a participatory frame-work to the forefront of its agenda. Since the introductory GPEDC meeting in April, the Ministry has led a number of participatory multi-stakeholder platforms in various sectors, focusing on discussing different areas such as the health sector, public enterprises, transportation, rural and agricultural development and gender quality, and

³ http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Principles_Stakeholder_Capitalism_MENA_Endorsements_2020.pdf

monitoring progress in the implementation of projects. Through these MSPs, the Ministry has demonstrated its commitment to the three principles of Economic Diplomacy in order to increase ownership, mobilize resources, develop knowledge, foster inclusive dialogue and accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda across a wide range of stakeholders and national sectors.

Whether through organizing targeted workgroups on priority themes, highlighting implementation challenges, identifying intervention prerequisites that can be served through technical cooperation, or creating complementarity among different development interventions and scale-up successful practices, the foundation is set.

With a clear conviction that private sector engagement in development cooperation is key to pushing the development agenda on the national and international levels, the Ministry set its focus to making 2021 the year of private sector engagement in development. That means the main themes for building back better, with a focus on sustainability and the green economy, are at the forefront of the Ministry's action plan.

Principle II: Mapping Official Development Assistance to UN Sustainable Development Goals

Official Development Assistance (ODA) and cooperation finance have always been important vehicles for achieving development objectives. Cooperation with bilateral and multilateral development partners are centered around pushing national the development agenda and providing appropriate financing tools to support government efforts in realizing development objectives. The global commitment to the UN's SDGs provides a unified vision for countries and development partners to work together towards achieving common goals.

In 2020, Egypt's development cooperation portfolio included more than 377 ongoing projects, totaling US\$ 25.6 billion. With the beginning of the UN-proclaimed "Decade of Action", it was essential to assess how well Egypt's ODA aligned with the UN SDGs. The Ministry thus embarked on an extensive, first-of its kind, comprehensive mapping exercise of all current effective projects in its portfolio to identify their alignment with relevant SDGs, and ensure optimal contribution of development cooperation projects to the SDGs. The mapped cooperation portfolio includes both financing to sovereign projects as well as financing to the private sector, and also accounts for projects implemented by the UN and its agencies.

With the focus of engagement and inclusiveness, the Ministry orchestrated broad consultations on the mapping process, explained the chosen methodology and verified the mapping results with all concerned development partners. The process garnered wide interest and commitment by the international community on aligning efforts and harmonizing interventions towards the global development agenda.

1. Mapping Official Development Assistance Projects to UN Sustainable Development Goals

In recent years, Egypt has realized significant economic reforms that have strengthened economic growth, reduced unemployment -- especially among women and youth -- and increased competitiveness. Still, the country has tremendous untapped potential to further boost economic and social development. Realizing this ambition requires the mobilization and efficient management of financial and technical resources.

The Ministry's critical role is to push the frontiers of economic diplomacy and to strengthen and expand Egypt's partnerships with bilateral and multilateral development partners. To accomplish these tasks, the Ministry mobilizes, aligns and synchronizes the resources of ODA with national objectives and ensures the efficient management of these resources to maximize their development impact. The Ministry aims to ensure that the objectives of development cooperation interventions in Egypt are consistently aligned and connected to intertwined national and international development agenda.

In parallel to the national stage, Egypt looks to its role at the international level. The UN's holistic 2030 Agenda looks to address development challenges across different sectors and themes that have direct and indirect effects on reducing poverty and inequality, achieving sustainability and ultimately contributing to "leaving no one behind". The SDGs represent a comprehensive set of interdependent social, economic, and environmental goals for action aimed at both international development institutions as well as national governments. Underlying the 2030 Agenda are four main principles of universality, interconnectedness, indivisibility and inclusiveness.

...[The Agenda is] a set of universal principles, values and standards... ... for all people, as captured by the call to 'leave no one behind' ...(through) a set of interlinked trajectories of social, economic and environmental evolution, concerns all countries, regardless of income levels...all-encompassing and interconnected in all its dimensions and at all levels: between goals, between countries, and between global, regional and national levels...This underscores the idea of the 2030 Agenda as a global partnership for sustainable development. (United Nations, 2015)

Aligning and mobilizing financial resources towards meeting the 2030 Agenda has been a priority for member states at the global as well as national level. Moreover, in recent years, there has been recognition of the "*prolonged, goal-oriented and time-bound planning*" (Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2019) that is required to successfully achieve SDG targets and goals and to track financing for development. This planning and tracking particularly includes how components of financing for development can be distributed, and includes government resources, official development assistance as well as private sector and civil society contributions.

These actions are framed within the wave of global implementation efforts during the remainder of the "Decade of Action". A call for "*accelerating sustainable solutions to all the world's biggest challenges — ranging from poverty and gender to climate change, inequality and closing the financing gap*" was particularly meaningful in 2020 as member states mobilized to meet the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda.

The state of the global economy in 2020 only amplified the importance of the Decade of Action. Member states' progress across all 17 SDGs have been imperiled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet the pandemic has also placed urgency on the Agenda's realization by underscoring the disproportionate distribution of inequities and vulnerabilities with the poorest and the most

vulnerable populations, least developed, in-crisis and land-locked developing nations being affected the most. Moreover, fragilities and constraints on monetary and non-monetary resources towards meeting the Agenda have become more jarring. Not only has this crisis created insurmountable hurdles for vulnerable populations, it has also created demand and urgency for tactful planning and collective action. In September 2019, the UN Secretary General highlighted the demands of the Decade of Action. While his words were delivered before the pandemic's occurred, they are even more meaningful in charting the way forward:

All sectors of society [are encouraged] to mobilize for a decade of action on three levels:

- *global action to secure greater leadership, more resources and smarter solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals;*
- *local action embedding the needed transitions in the policies, budgets, institutions and regulatory frameworks of governments, cities and local authorities;*
- *and people action, including by youth, civil society, the media, the private sector, unions, academia and other stakeholders, to generate an unstoppable movement pushing for the required transformations. (United Nations, n.d.)*

The COVID-19 crisis has made even more clear the need to leverage this time to address enormous challenges face-on and to capitalize on tremendous opportunities available in order to reach the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Specifically, at the national level

"[The crisis] gives governments a unique opportunity to set the terms of public, private and third sector interaction, making the SDGs the missions to achieve and adopt innovative approaches to policy, regulation and partnerships. Fundamentally, the COVID-19 crisis is an opportunity to re-evaluate how public and private sectors collaborate to shape a better kind of capitalism. Beyond the immediate crisis and the need to strengthen social protection systems and provide specific support for the poor and vulnerable during the crisis, governments must reclaim their role in supporting the development of productive capacities to ensure structural transformation and resilience." (United Nations Committee for Development Policy, 2020)

Egypt has committed to align its efforts with the international community in advancing the UN 2030 Agenda. In 2016, the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics established the Sustainable Development Unit (SDU), with the mandate to collect, classify and track data on different sectors and themes contributing to the realization of the SDGs. Strong cooperation has resulted between the Unit and the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) to support and enhance its capacity, and to constantly update the relevant methodologies and data collection tools. The SDU, in coordination with UNICEF and the UN Resident Coordinator Office in Egypt, launched an innovative and interactive SDG Observatory Dashboard (CAPMAS, n.d.), which classifies SDG data by goals, sectors and indicators, and disseminates the updated status of the SDGs on the national level. Meanwhile, after the official launch of the SDG agenda, Egypt was amongst the first countries to step forward and present the Voluntary National Review (VNR) during the UN High

Level Political Forum (UNFPA) in 2016. This was not only a bold step, but also strong statement of Egypt's commitment to sustainable development. The 2016 report served as the baseline for future reviews as it identified the current situation at the time regarding the SDGs, highlighted actual and potential strength points, and identified the bottlenecks to be addressed to pave a steady path to achieve the 2030 Agenda⁴.

Egypt is also collaborating with the UNDP in the Mainstreaming, Accelerating and Policy Support (MAPS) initiative, which aims to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The initiative was first launched by the UNDP in 2015, and provides support to countries to develop action plans that put all activities that are implemented on the national level within the context of achieving the 2030 Agenda. Through the Mainstreaming phase, all initiatives at the national and local levels are framed within the context of the Agenda. It also aims to raise public awareness of SDGs, targeting key stakeholders especially policy makers. The Acceleration phase identifies the needed interventions aimed at addressing obstacles and hurdles that countries face within their journey to the 2030 Agenda. The Policy Support phase is where the UNDP lends support and expertise to specific sectors and themes to realize tangible outcomes. Egypt is one of 50 countries cooperating with the UNDP through MAPS to enhance national efforts towards the implementation of the SDGs. A clear alignment of the SDGs to the national goals was explained in the "Sustainable Development Goals - MAPS Engagement for Egypt 2018-2019" report: *"The 17 SDGs at its heart are integrated and indivisible, and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development (the economic, the social, and the environmental)"*, which are specifically the three dimensions of Egypt's development plan, Vision 2030.

With a strong commitment to the 2030 Agenda on the national level, and as the focal point in promoting development cooperation with international bilateral and multilateral organizations, mapping ODA to the SDGs is a primary priority for the Ministry, and an essential contribution to both national and international efforts to promote transparency, knowledge-sharing and good governance. Mindful mobilization is at the heart of the Ministry's strategy, which aims to ensure that the promotion of future collaborations is based on fostering strong connections and engagement between the government of Egypt and its multilateral and bilateral development partners. Within this context, the launch of the multi-Stakeholder platform on "Global Partnerships for Effective Development Cooperation" with the participation of 120 representatives from 45 international institutions and foreign courts, highlighted the ambitious scope of the SDGs and the unprecedented scale of financing it requires. With the core mandate to manage the country's ODA and deliver long-term sustainable development results, the Ministry recognizes the role of ODA in providing *"substance to outcome-focused monitoring and dialogues on development co-operation"* (OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD), 2017) and mobilizing resources to meet the ambitious 2030 Agenda. Thus, it embarked on an in-

⁴ Egypt has also presented a second Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the UN HLPF in 2018.

depth ODA-SDG mapping exercise to assess the extent to which development cooperation funds in Egypt contribute to the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

A distinguishing feature of ODA as a contributor to SDG delivery is how it stands out as measure of reaffirming commitments. Establishing this link can *“contribute to efforts by providers and partners to make development investments relevant to the needs and priorities identified by developing countries and articulated in their country results frameworks”* (OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD), 2017). Specifically, measuring the contribution of development co-operation through ODA to the SDGs would provide results for four purposes that the OECD has identified for the development community as a whole, as a complement to what individual providers and partners collect in their respective frameworks:

- *“Accountability: analyzing the contribution by providers and partners to common goals and results;*
- *Communication: monitoring real change for the best results stories and evidence to policymakers;*
- *Direction: providing results information for decision making, while avoiding perverse incentives; and*
- *Learning: providing and using an evidence base for capacity-building and behavioral change.”*

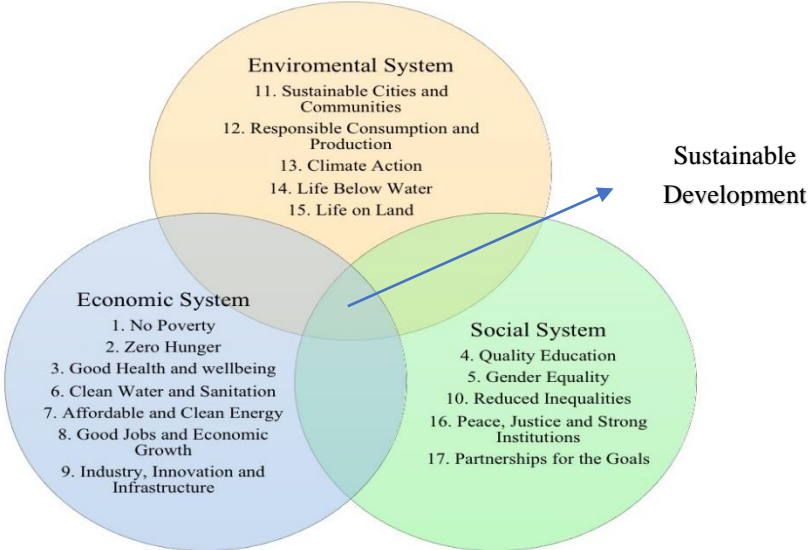
These purposes were the motivation and impetus behind the Ministry’s ODA-SDG mapping exercise, which established a mechanism for analyzing the contribution of development co-operation to the SDGs to provide greater transparency both on the impact created, and on measurable change achieved.

One such approach the OECD proposed to link SDG targets to ODA is *“establishing linkages between the activities and the goals and targets to which the activities are contributing”* under a new statistical system, currently under development, to measure Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD). The idea is that the inclusion of an SDG data field *“would shift the logic of the current system, that is mainly based on the classification of the purposes and sectors of intervention of the activities (inputs), towards a new system that will also capture a large set of targets alongside the purposes and sectors (inputs and expected outputs) ... ultimately improve - the effectiveness of development finance flows.”* (OECD, 2018)

When development co-operation is linked analytically to the SDGs, providers and partners gain information about how development co-operation contributes to results. Providers need to understand how ODA fits into this results chain of efforts to achieve the SDGs in partner countries. The purpose of linking ODA to the SDGs is to give substance to outcome focused monitoring and dialogues on development co-operation. (OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD), 2017)

Barbier & Burgess’ Venn Diagram maps the goals and their intersection to three interlinked systems: environmental (or ecological), economic and social, and presents visual clarification to the process of sustainable development (Figure 5). Of special note, sustainable development occurs at the intersection (∩) of the three systems: environmental, economy and social. While the model was first presented by Barbier in 1987, it has since seen a number of iterations and versions. A common insight from the model is that achieving sustainability is not feasible by maximizing the goals for a single system because it would mistakenly disregard the impacts and linkages of and between the other two systems (Holmberg & Sandbrook, 1992). Moreover, efforts would prove futile as *“the costs imposed on the other systems are not taken into account”*. Instead, *“sustainable development can only be achieved by balancing the tradeoffs among the various goals of the three systems”*. (Barbier & Burgess, 2017)

Figure 5: Systems Approach to SDG Mapping



Source: Barbier, E. & Burgess, J. (2017). ‘The Sustainable Development Goals and the systems approach to sustainability

“Each of the 17 SDGs can be characterized as a goal primarily attributed either to the environmental, economic or social system, and as suggested by the systems approach, there may be important tradeoffs in attempting to attain all these goals simultaneously.” (Barbier & Burgess, 2017)

Objective and Scope of Work

The Ministry’s objective for the ODA-SDG mapping exercise was to identify the alignment of current and effective ODA projects with the 2030 Agenda at a granular level, in order to inform decisions on future allocations of development assistance finances.

From a development perspective, the mapping exercise expanded the Ministry's "*knowledge base of interactions*" (Nilsson, et al., 2018). Not only did it allow for more informed choices on the allocations of development assistance initiatives and finances, but accurate mapping of ODA to the SDGs along with a magnified lens on Egypt's performance across individual SDGs, also provided insight on needed finances and priority areas. The Ministry and its partners also benefited from more nuanced insights on and surrounding the interactions between means of implementation (Moi) as emphasized by SDG Goal 17 (Partnerships and Goals). The Moi consists of financial resources, technology development and transfer, capacity-building, inclusive and equitable globalization and trade, regional integration, and creation of an enabling environment (including policy coherence, partnerships, data, monitoring and accountability) for Egypt to implement and meet the sustainable development agenda. Therefore, the mapping exercise was prioritized to focus on transformational pathways of Moi and "*how SDG interactions can lead to more integrated decision-making and coherent policy approaches*" (Nilsson, et al., 2018) and allow for more targeted and effective interventions.

From a communications perspective, mapping Egypt's ODA portfolio to the SDGs informs the Ministry's Global Partnerships Narrative and helps "*create purposeful and meaningful connections with [local and international] audiences that lead to their endorsement and advocacy*" (Ministry of International Cooperation, 2020). As described in Chapter 3, it also supports the proper dissemination of SDG mapping results to all relevant stakeholders and constituencies. "*Multifaceted social and environmental processes*" inherent to the SDGs make their connectedness "difficult to understand". While not all maps are effective, those that are "*well-designed (maps) tell a story that truthfully represents the data available*" and "*reduce(s) the complexity*". (Kraak, Ricker, & Engelhardt, 2018)

With this vision, a wide participatory and engaging approach with development partners was adopted to discuss the mapping methodologies and outcomes. More than 20 meetings were conducted with bilateral and multilateral partners to present the methodology of the mapping, discuss the criteria, agree on guidelines and definitions, and verify results. At the outset of the exercise, ODA was defined according to the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) as:

"flows to countries and territories on the DAC list of ODA Recipients and to multilateral development institutions which are: provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies; and each transaction of which: is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective; and is concessional in character. In DAC statistics, this implies a grant element of at least... 15 per cent in the case of bilateral loans to the official sector of LMICs (calculated at a rate of discount of 7 percent)" (OECD, 2017)

It was also important to identify the projects that would fall under the scope of mapping. With the conviction that the mapping process is an active and dynamic one, the initial stage of mapping was determined to cover the ongoing active portfolio, including all projects approved by both the

government of Egypt and its development partners, and were in implementation at the time of the exercise. These included projects that were financed by bilateral and multilateral development partners and have completed the necessary constitutional procedures, including the approval by the Parliament, and were declared effective before end of June 2019.

Methodology and Approach

Since the launch of the SDGs more than five years ago, different methodologies have been introduced to map financial flows to the SDGs. As mentioned above, most approaches aim directly to track and map all financial flows that advance the realization of the 2030 Agenda, including: public financial allocations, private sector investments, ODA flows as well as contributions by civil society. Mapping of ODA projects and initiatives to the SDGs has also been on the agenda of different development partners who want to assess their individual contributions to the 2030 Agenda.

For context, since the launch of the 2030 Agenda, the UN encouraged member countries, developed and developing, to regularly monitor their progress towards the SDGs, including their national and international financial allocations. To that end, the UN developed the Global Indicators Framework for Sustainable Goals and Targets, which was officially adopted by the General Assembly in 2017 to act as a “*solid framework of indicators and statistical data to monitor progress, inform policy and ensure accountability of all stakeholders*” (United Nations, n.d.). The UN continuously reviews and updates the Global Indicator Framework to update the definitions and clarify the purposes of the SDGs and their corresponding 169 targets and 230 indicators.

Parallel efforts are in progress by the OECD to use the Creditors Reporting System (CRS) in mapping and tracking ODA finances. With ODA being essential contributors to financing development and SDGs, provider as well as recipient countries demanded the advancement of a unified coding system to standardize reporting and tracking. The OECD has been thus developing a “*Handbook*” to include standardized codes that are also consistent with the frameworks of other big data statistics initiatives, namely the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and the Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD).

“The CRS field for reporting on the SDG focus of development co-operation was introduced in the data collection in 2019 on 2018 activities [DCD/DAC/STAT (2018)52]. Members have requested that additional guidance be developed to support their internal data collection and quality assurance processes in this area. Following a presentation at the December 2019 WP-STAT meeting, the Secretariat has drafted the first modules of the guidance on SDGs coding in the CRS. Members will be invited to COMMENT on these modules, to be

complemented by additional modules for discussion at the June 2020 meeting” (OECD, 2020)

The Handbook specifically aims to facilitate reporting in the context of the CRS, but makes reference to both the statistical framework of Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), that also implement an SDG coding field with similar characteristics, and aims to contribute to a common understanding on SDG reporting.

Therefore, the Ministry adopted a blended methodology using the latest 2020-reviewed version of the UN *“Global Indicator Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”* (United Nations, 2020), as well as the general criteria pertaining to the OECD CRS, especially the description of the SDG field and the rationale of the principles of coding. In turn, this has enhanced the accuracy of the mapping process, minimized potential subjectivity and ensured alignment with international standards (OECD, 2020).

Different mapping methodologies and approaches were implemented by the Ministry to link ODA projects to the relevant SDGs, ranging from a broad sectoral methodology to more detailed project-based mapping. Under the project-mapping methodology, two different approaches were embraced as each approach had its advantages and disadvantages. Both made significant contributions towards advancing learning and knowledge of the interrelations and connectivity of the SDGs. The two main methodologies adopted were: (1) Sectoral Mapping Methodology, and (2) Project-Based Mapping Methodology. The latter was implemented through two distinct but related approaches: (a) single SDG mapping, and (b) multiple SDG mapping.

To further explore the interconnectedness and correlation between each goal and other SDGs on the one side, and amongst all SDGs on the other side, the social Network Analysis (SNA) tool was used. Social network analysis is widely used as a charting tool in a wide variety of sciences to map the relationship among different variables represented as nodes in a network or web structure, *“and the relationships being described as named arrows between the knots... The relationships are described by a number of characteristics such as frequency, type of relationship, level or strength of the interaction, and so on. Finally, the data collected are analyzed by means of several techniques that illustrate the relationships.”* (Brender, 2006)

1.1. Sectoral Mapping Methodology

In January 2020, the first ODA mapping initiative began, covering the active project portfolio through December 2019. Quick results were needed to reflect the extent to which ODA finances in Egypt were aligned with the 2030 Agenda. A sectoral mapping approach was followed with the

main national sectors being classified by recipient entities. The SDGs were assigned and the financial flows to each were determined according to the mandate of each entity.

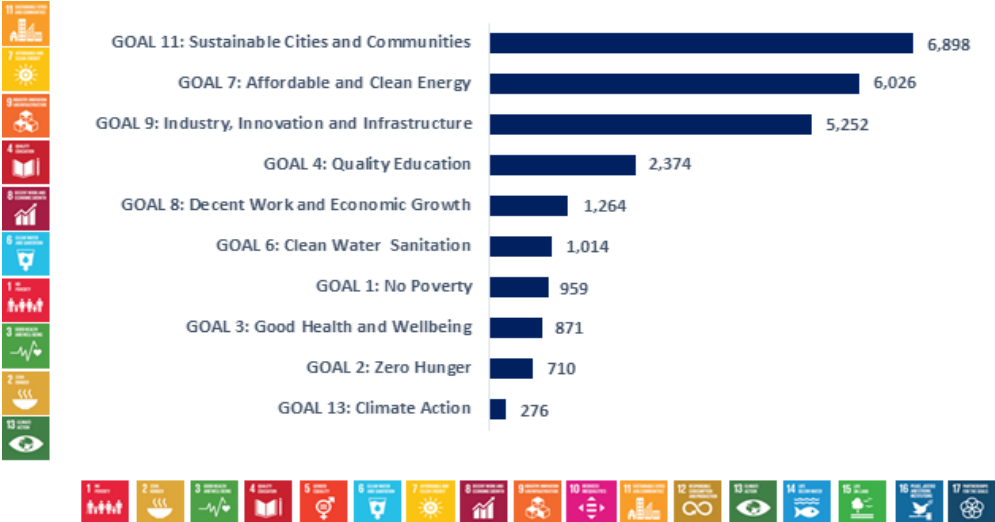
The sectoral mapping approach lends itself easily to aligning and connecting with corresponding SDGs for some sectors such as agriculture, health, education and energy. This is not at all surprising, given that *“most member states govern their public policy sectors, such as health, energy, agriculture and education, through sectoral ministries and agencies. There are very good reasons for this, such as the need to have specialization of competence and establishing clear accountability relationships”*. (Nilsson, 2016)

On the other hand, other significant sectors did not have specific SDGs, for example transportation, yet their objectives were relevant to corresponding targets and/or indicators under one or more of the SDGs. In the instance of transport, the UN ESCAP’s 2017 report titled *“Transport and Sustainable Development Goals”*, found that it

“plays a critical role in economic and social development by providing access to economic and social opportunities. Transport facilitates the movement of people, goods, labor, resources, products and ideas across the region, creating market opportunities for both consumers and producers. Different transport modes and services, and the state of domestic and international connectivity can greatly influence the wellbeing of the people and their environment.” (United Nations, 2017)

The initial mapping results depicted in Figure 6 show that this mapping approach linked sectors that benefit at a national level from ODA finances to only ten SDGs. Thematic goals, that may cut across different sectors or that are influenced by project activities, were difficult to link to specific sectors. One example is SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality), which is achieved through the projects in several sectors. Similar challenges exist for SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG12 (Responsible

Figure 6: Sectoral Mapping Methodology Mapping



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, 2020

Consumption and Production), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and SDG 17 (Global Partnership for Sustainable Development).

As Figure 6 shows, SDG 11 received the highest financial allocation, significantly driven by projects directed to the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities. Some of the projects included in this category were directed towards potable water and sanitation networks. In contrast, using the sectoral mapping methodology, the Ministry's sectoral portfolio is mapped to the SDG not to the project objective. SDG 11 also received allocations that were directed towards the Ministry of Local Development and the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, making the total contributions of ODA to Goal 11 under the sectoral mapping methodology US\$ 6.8 billion. Goal 7 was the second highest recipient of ODA allocations, receiving the finances directed to projects of the Ministry of Electricity and New and Renewable Energy as well as the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources. SDG 9 received almost US\$ 5.3 billion directed to Ministries of Transportation, Trade and Industry and Information and Communication Technology. Although this methodology provided a level of clarity about SDG resource allocations, it fell short of providing sufficient evidence to advise policymaking on current and future directions. A more detailed methodology to disentangle the overlap among sectors and ministries' mandates was needed for a clearer vision of projects' contributions to SDGs.

1.2. Project Mapping Methodology

With the aim of enhancing the accuracy of the mapping process, a more detailed and systematic approach entailed identifying the main objective of each development project. To ensure mapping precision, the availability of detailed project descriptions, including their specific objectives, targets and activities, were crucial for matching each project with corresponding SDGs. Typically, it is a challenge to obtain "*comprehensive, detailed and comparable information from development co-operation providers on their sector activities, including detailed project descriptions*" (OECD, 2018), yet this was not experienced during the Ministry's mapping process. The Ministry's role as the designated national entity responsible for managing development cooperation through the whole cycle of negotiations, agreements and implementation was key to the availability of relevant information. Following the collection of all needed project documents, a unified structure was followed to optimize the accuracy of the mapping process, including a thorough review of the documents for all current active projects. The UN's "Global Indicator Framework" was the main unified reference for the definitions and scope of SDGs. Finally, projects' general and specific objectives were linked with the corresponding SDG targets and indicators to ensure accuracy and comprehensiveness. As explained earlier, the Project Mapping Methodology adopted two different approaches:

1. **The Single Mapping Approach**, which identifies the primary SDG towards which each project contributes.
2. **The Multiple Mapping Approach**, which accounts for the multidimensional linkages of projects to various SDGs.

1.2.1 The Single Mapping Approach

Each development project can be linked to one main SDG to which it directly contributes. As projects' documents were reviewed, mapping was usually easier and more straightforward for projects that targeted a specific sector, as was the case under the sectoral mapping methodology. Examples include the construction of a power plant (SDG 7), provision of healthcare services (SDG 3), or expanding access to education (SDG 4). On the other hand, some major sectors, like Transportation, did not have specific SDGs clearly linked to their objectives, yet they were relevant to corresponding targets and/or indicators under the SDGs.

The mapping exercise using the single SDG approach was completed in May 2020, and during a meeting with all development partners, the methodology and findings were presented and responses offered to inquiries from various entities. As a result, each development partner was requested to identify a focal point to coordinate with the Ministry in reviewing and verifying the findings; and in setting a forward-looking mechanism to map all future ODA interventions to the SDGs, applying a consistent methodology. Figure 7 presents the findings of the mapping.

The findings of this mapping approach presented the distribution of all 377 projects across the different SDGs. SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) received the highest allocation of the total active ODA financing worth almost US\$ 5.9 billion, followed by SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) with US\$ 5.7 billion and US\$ 4.9 billion, respectively.

These results echoed the findings of the sectoral mapping methodology, however with more detail as some national recipient entities managed finances in more than one sector. As explained in the previous section, the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities manages projects that cover a range of sectors as housing, water and sanitation, upgrading informal areas as well as a number of road constructions. Under the sectoral mapping approach, ODA projects that are directed to the Ministry were grouped under SDG 11 to correspond to all these areas. Under the single SDG project mapping approach, however, the team was able to align the projects to a wider set of SDGs including SDG 6, SDG 9 as well as SDG 11.

Figure 7: Results of Single Mapping Approach



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Annual Report, 2020

Furthermore, utilizing this approach made additional SDGs visible as primary objectives were highlighted and not diluted within a bigger sectoral picture as occurred under the sectoral methodology. Thus, projects that contribute to SDGs 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced Inequality), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) were identified while they did not appear in the sectoral mapping.

Yet again, the findings did not fully capture the richness and value of projects, since development cooperation projects, through their designs and intended objectives, usually target and contribute to the advancement of several development areas.

The inherent design of the SDGs makes it difficult to link some of them directly to ODA financial allocations “because some SDGs (e.g., on poverty reduction, economic growth and equality) cut across the purpose of all ODA interventions” (OECD Development Co-operation Directorate, 2017). In short:

“the SDG targets are too numerous and too diverse to be applied comprehensively in a provider’s results framework; on the other hand, providers may argue that their influence and impact goes beyond what may be captured by SDG indicators.” (OECD Development Co-operation Directorate, 2017).

Reviewing the data and findings of the single SDG-mapping approach revealed examples that demonstrate some of that methodology’s limitations in that a wider angle was required for trying to map ODA projects to SDGs. Two pronounced examples are SDG 5 and SDG 1, which represent

significant components within a large number of projects, yet were poorly represented in the single SDG-mapping approach.

Example: SDG 5 (Gender Equality)

For example, SDG 5 (Gender Equality) only includes 13 projects with a total value of US\$ 82 million, or 0.32 percent of the total active ODA portfolio in Egypt (US\$ 25.6 billion). These 13 projects identified gender equality as their main primary objective, yet the portfolio includes many other projects where gender equality is mainstreamed across their activities. Since the primary value of SDG 5 is to promote gender equality and empower all women and girls, mainstreaming gender equality across projects in various sectors has a wider scope of influence and is a better policy approach to achieving the goal.

As contributions to SDG 5 were further investigated, gender equality emerged as a cross-cutting theme in 99 projects worth US\$ 6.7 billion. These projects aimed at ensuring the integration and inclusion of women and girls through their activities, from participation in project design to promoting their safety and wellbeing, or to being the end beneficiaries themselves.

These projects spanned a wide range of sectors including Housing and Utilities, Education, Social Protection, Health, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and many others. They included investments in utilities that directly affect women's daily lives, as well as improving their access to services and opportunities that affect their social wellbeing and economic competitiveness. They targeted improving the education sector, and ensuring equal participation of girls throughout the different phases from basic to higher education. And they ensured the economic empowerment and access to finance by women, especially in underprivileged communities. The single SDG project mapping approach did not capture these contributions and resulted in limiting the pool of projects aligned with SDG 5 (Gender Equality) to only 13 projects that specifically targeted women and girls, thus missing out on many valuable results and falling short of capturing complete channels of impact.

Indeed, SDG 5 is an area of strong focus in much of the UN's flagship literature where the linkages between SDG 5 and the aforementioned sectors are often cited, such as SDG 5's overlap with SDG 4 (Quality Education). Vladimirova & Le Blanc highlighted the dimensionalities between Education and Gender Equality in terms of enabling better employment opportunities, shaping intergender attitudes (between girls and boys, and in turn, males and females), increasing bargaining power, accelerating demographic transitions via investment in education, and breaking patterns of vulnerability.

“Education expands opportunities for girls and young women and raises their aspirations for work outside the home (UNFPA, 2014; World Bank, 2007)...” (Vladimirova & Le Blanc, 2015)

Another case in point is SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being):

“SDG 3 is (also) interlinked with three targets of SDG 5, which refers to ending all forms of violence (5.2) and harmful practices (5.3) against women and girls and ensures universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights (5.6).” (Tosun & Leininger, 2017)

Example: SDG 1 (End Poverty in all its Forms)

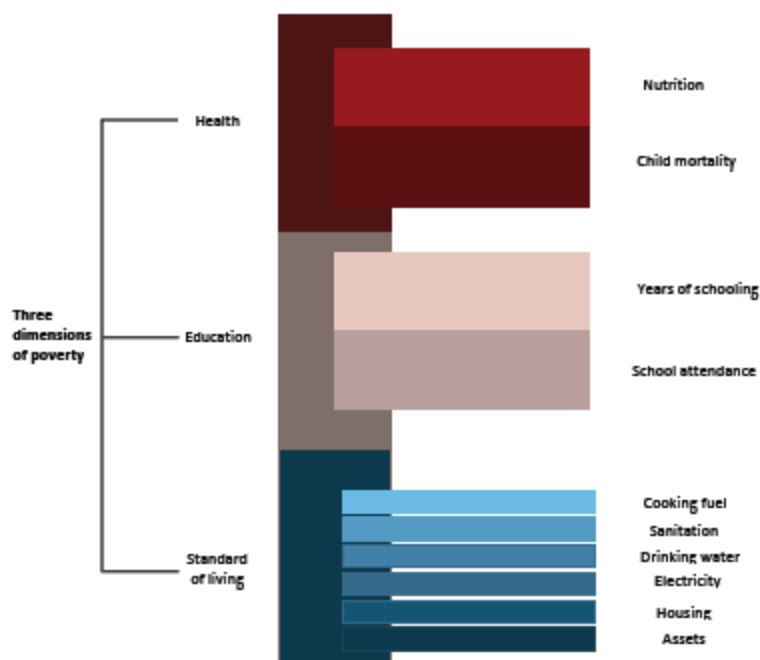
As depicted in Figure 8, SDG 1 received total financing of US\$ 1.3 billion across 20 projects, constituting 5 percent of the total ODA portfolio in Egypt. It can be argued that all development cooperation projects are aimed at reducing poverty since the UN defines poverty as:

“more than the lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods. Its manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion, as well as the lack of participation in decision-making.” (United Nations, n.d.)

By this definition, and in accordance with targets and indicators specified in the UN Global Indicator Framework (target 1.4⁵), all projects that contribute to enhancing access to basic services or target underprivileged communities include an element of ending poverty in its various forms. Also, *“reducing poverty is statistically linked with progress in SDGs 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), or 10 (Reduced Inequalities)”* (Pradhan, Costa, Rybski, Lucht, & Kropp, 2017). These outcomes are in line with the findings of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). The MPI was launched in 2010 by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative at the University of Oxford and the Human Development Report Office of the UNDP for the flagship Human Development Reports. The global MPI uses ten indicators to measure poverty across three dimensions -- education, health, and living standards -- aims to capture the complexities of poor people’s lives, individually and collectively each year across 107 developing countries. By permitting comparisons across countries, the MPI looks into disparities within countries disaggregated by age groups, urban/rural areas and subnational regions. It shows the *“interlinked deprivations of people in the same household across 10 indicators that relate to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 11”* (UNDP and Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI), 2020)

⁵ States that “by 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance”

Figure 8: Multidimensional Poverty Index Structure



Source: UNDP & Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative. (2020). 'Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020 Charting pathways out of multidimensional poverty: Achieving the SDGs.

More specifically,

“the global MPI reflects deprivations each person faces in multiple SDG areas – education, water and sanitation, health, housing, etc. Connecting to at least seven SDGs, the MPI brings many concerns together into one headline measure. And, since people are MPI poor if they are deprived in one-third of the weighted indicators, the MPI focuses on people who are being left behind in multiple SDGs at the same time.” (OPHI, 2018)

Thus, while the MPI provides an aggregate measurement of poverty across the aforementioned dimensions, it also shows inadvertently that there is an inextricable connection and overlap of SDG 1 with areas of health, education, housing, work, and social protection. Indeed, in the case of Egypt, as well as almost all developing countries, all projects that target improving education and health services, connecting underprivileged areas through modern modes of transportation, and enhancing access to finance or energy significantly contribute to reducing poverty. Alternatively, using the single SDG mapping approach, the projects that specified ending poverty as their main objectives were mainly projects in the agricultural sector that aimed to enhance the living conditions and income levels of rural communities. Although these projects explicitly state that the main SDG they contribute to is SDG 1 (Ending Poverty), these projects also make significant contributions to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). The corresponding targets for SDG 2 are:

“to double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers ... including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs,

knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment” (United Nations, 2020)

These are also the specific objectives of these agricultural projects. SDG 2 in itself, aims to

“achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (and is also) connected to targets associated with eight different SDGs. Food security and eradicating poverty (1.1. and 1.2) go hand-in-hand. Target 1.4 connects agri-food governance to the right of owning and controlling land, which is an important precondition for practicing agriculture.” (Tosun & Leininger, 2017)

As the single SDG methodology permits only one SDG to be assigned to each project, it introduces trade-offs that do not satisfy the objective of the mapping activity nor reflect the multidimensionality of development interventions. A more comprehensive methodology was needed that enables mapping each project to multiple SDGs that may be directly related to its objectives and activities.

1.2.2 The Multiple Mapping Approach

It is important to highlight that the intricacy of linkages between sectors and the SDGs; and, indeed as seen above, among the SDGs themselves, challenged the single-mapping approach. While many developing countries *“primarily design and implement their interventions as inputs by sector (e.g., health, education, energy or agriculture)”* (OECD, 2018), there is a new focus on outcomes given their multisector impact. This presents the third challenge of requiring

“providers (to) engage with partner countries to identify their respective SDG priorities, align country programmes with the indicators identified at country level, and target resources appropriately.” (OECD, 2018)

Indeed, one of the distinguishing features of the SDGs is that they *“build on the key lesson from the MDGs that sustained systemic change cannot be achieved through single-sector goals and approaches”* (United Nations, 2016). With this in mind, the Ministry explored alternative approaches that could better reflect and capture project-level contributions to the SDGs. Most development cooperation projects have various development outcomes and contribute to the realization of more than one SDG. Moreover, different goals in the 2030 Agenda overlap, making it difficult to disentangle them when discussing development outcomes.

The aforementioned mapping attempts highlighted the dynamic nature of SDGs – especially in cross-cutting themes, including SDG 1 (Ending Poverty), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reducing Inequality), SDG 12 (Sustainable Production and Consumption), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Global Partnership for Sustainable Development).

Thus, the closely intertwined nature of the SDGs makes it challenging to limit mapping to a single SDG for each project. In 2018, Choi & Lee proposed a definition of the outcomes derived from

development projects and described how to measure their contribution to SDGs by applying SDG indicators based on a survey. From this survey, existing SDG indicators could be identified and applied to agricultural and rural areas and subsequently used to analyze an integrated rural development project such as Bolivia. Choi & Lee also suggested a way to quantify the contributions of the project outcomes to SDGs, and highlighted the inherent complexity in linear mapping of single SDGs to projects:

“in the case of agriculture and rural development projects, they include a considerable part of cross-cutting elements...result measurement of the project can be implemented by selecting indicators compatible with SDG indicators and project type characteristics. The main project components can be divided into increase in income, improvement of living condition, and rural infrastructure. In general, the project intended to increase income and creates new income sources through new technologies, installation of a stock farm or greenhouse, introduction of alternative crops and seed improvement...” (Choi & Lee, 2018)

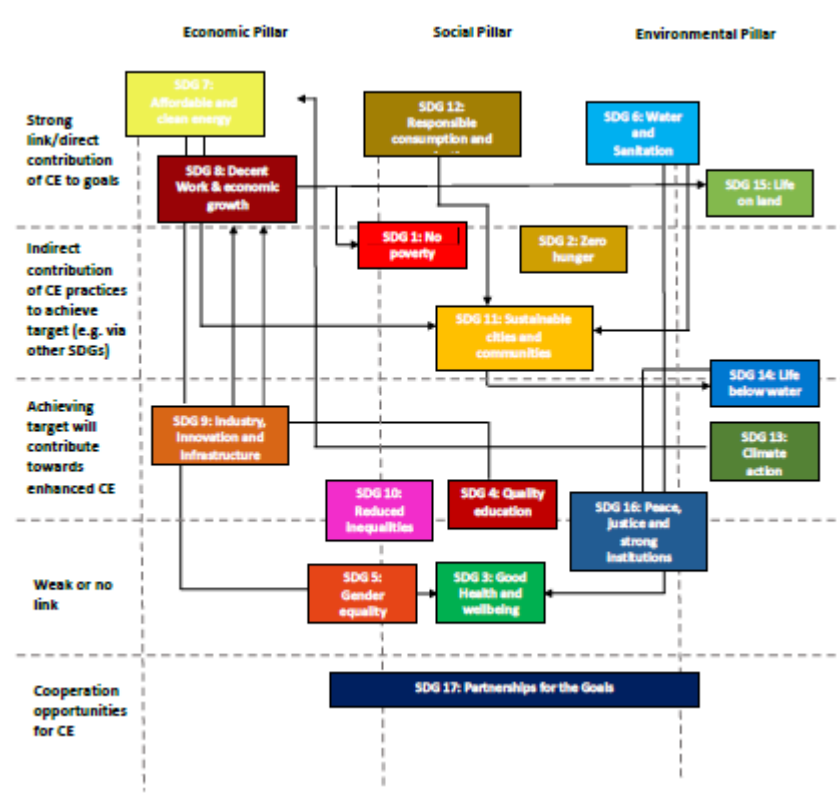
In order to address this issue, the Ministry prioritized finding an approach that allowed the identification and alignment of more than one SDG for each project’s contribution to the cross-cutting themes. This approach was not only more reflective of the complex and reciprocal relationships that exist between SDGs in reality, but it also captures the nature and purpose of development cooperation projects. Furthermore, this multidimensionality of “goals and sectors” which would pave the way for the “integration and policy coherence across sectors” was more aligned and reflective of the Ministry’s partnership model. Allowing for linkages to be cross-cutting and mapped in network-like form “may also facilitate real mainstreaming of dimensions that previously suffered from not having strong sectoral anchoring in development institutions, such as sustainable consumption and production”. (Le Blanc D. , 2015)

Nevertheless, despite its simple appeal, some limitations remain for the application and extension of the multiple SDG mapping approach for policy guidance purposes. Specifically, this approach offers “no guidance as to how the tradeoffs among the goals of the various systems should be made. How should we decide to trade off, for example, more economic efficiency for less biodiversity and ecological resilience?” (Barbier & Markandya, 2013). That means “choices must therefore be made as to which goals should receive greater priority. Different development strategies will assign different priorities.” (Barbier & Burgess, 2017; Holmberg & Sandbrook, 1992)

Figure 9 shows the intertwined relationship between the SDGs and circular economy (CE) practices and principles. Conducting a review and matching exercise determined the relationship between CE practices and SDG targets, and found evidence that CE practices can indeed potentially contribute directly to achieving a significant number of SDG targets. The strongest relationships between CE practices and SDG targets were between SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth),

SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). (Anggraeni, Schroeder, & Weber, 2018.)

Figure 9: Circular Economy Relationships and SDGs



Source: Anggraeni, K., Schroeder, P. & Weber, U. (2018). 'The Relevance of Circular Economy Practices to the Sustainable Development Goals'

These relationships informed the mapping process to investigate the interrelation and reciprocal relations among different SDGs. Applying this study, and the OECD CSR SDG coding principles, clarified the linkages between project activities and SDGs. The coding principles are aimed at:

“Establish[ing] a common understanding among reporters on high-level principles for assigning the SDGs or targets to development co-operation activities... (and their corresponding) criteria... are: 1) The activity should directly contribute to the reported SDGs, in the short or medium term. 2) The SDGs reported should be the principal objective of the activity, or a significant one. 3) An activity with a substantial, unmitigated, detrimental effect to one or more SDGs should not be reported as contributing to the 2030 Agenda, regardless of its positive contributions to other SDGs. 4) The SDG reporting should in principle be coherent with the policy markers and, when relevant, with the information reported in other CRS fields.” (OECD, 2020)

Although the current stage of the multiple SDG mapping approach did not link the projects to the CSR codes, the Ministry followed the OECD rationale and criteria for mapping the projects and identifying the relevant SDGs and their corresponding targets and indicators for each of the 377 projects in the active ODA portfolio. The SDGs that were linked directly or indirectly to the

activities and interventions of the projects were highlighted. Yet, distinguishing between the principal or primary objectives versus significant or secondary ones was challenging, as in many projects, SDGs were equally targeted or influenced by project interventions.

During initial meetings to discuss the multiple SDG mapping approach, development partners endorsed its rationale, yet expressed reservation regarding distributing each project's budget among its relevant SDGs. They expressed comfort with the single mapping approach, which avoids the complexity and subjectivity that may be encountered in distributing the financial allocations of each project to more than one SDG on the one hand, and the double counting that may occur if the same project's total budget was recorded as contributions for more than one SDG. Still willingness to explore the results of the multiple approach to account for the intended results and impact of the projects across various areas, and to utilize international approaches aimed at tracking SDG allocations motivated the Ministry and partners to reach consensus that there is merit to both methodologies: the single mapping approach gives insight towards the initial financial distribution across the SDGs, while the multiple mapping approach elucidates the interlinked objectives of development interventions.

What followed were more than 20 interagency meetings with several development partners and email exchanges to share the results of the mapping exercise with all partners. Not only did these meetings promote knowledge-sharing amongst the various stakeholders, it also enhanced the depth and value of consultations, and distilled the outcomes as well as reinforced the definitions of the mapping exercise.

Following three months of consultations, the exercise was successfully concluded and outcomes were drawn on how ODA financed projects advance the SDG agenda. A comparative analysis between the findings of the two approaches was developed and linked with the Sustainable Development Report 2020, where the SDG Index presented the current status of the SDGs in different UN member states.

Comparative Analysis by SDG

To distill the results of the two mapping approaches, the projects that targeted each goal directly or indirectly were analyzed. Direct targeting refers to projects whose objectives and activities *explicitly* address the targets and indicators identified within an SDG. Indirect targeting refers to projects whose objectives and activities *implicitly* or *interrelatedly* address the targets and indicators identified within an SDG. Outcomes for each of the 17 SDGs are shown below using both mapping approaches and looking at a number of indicators such as percentage of contribution by development partner as well as main sectors and funds received to finance each SDG.

Figure 10: ODA Distribution among SDGs



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

As shown in Figure 10, SDGs 7, 9 and 6 combined receive almost 65 percent of the total ODA portfolio. This reflects the national policy to upgrade infrastructure across different governorates to improve people’s livelihood and promote a conducive environment for businesses and investments.

The picture for the multiple mapping approach is more complex and nuanced as it is important to note that both values for the total number of projects as well as ODA finances related to a specific goal are neither absolute nor binary. In other words, what the approach identifies is the total worth of projects and interventions that include each specific SDG as a cross-cutting theme or as one of many objectives. There could be primary or secondary degree linkage of the projects to a specific SDG as it is worthwhile looking at the wider scope of all projects that contribute to each individual SDG. Interestingly, SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) came first with largest number of projects – 138 – contributing to the Goal as a cross-cutting theme. SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) follow with 118 and 117 projects respectively. Again, it is important to view these numbers not in binary or absolute terms as they do not exclude overlapping projects that also contribute to other SDGs. The exercise indicates that the SDGs are inherently cross-cutting and thus, it would be difficult to delineate and isolate the impact of one SDG without taking into account other SDGs.

The subsequent analysis broken down by each of the 17 SDGs revealed the results of the single and multiple mapping approaches. Also integrated in the analysis were Egypt’s latest progress and trends in the 2020 Sustainable Development Goals Dashboard. Egypt’s 2020 progress is denoted next to the formal SDG icon per the formal UN legend for Sustainable Development Goals, as illustrated in Figure 11.

Figure 11: Recreation of the United Nations' Legend for SDG Dashboard Trends



Source: (United Nations, 2020)

1.3 Goal 1: No Poverty



As reported by the World Bank’s “Poverty and Equity” brief in April 2020, only about 3.2 percent of Egyptians live on less than the international poverty line of US\$1.90. Conversely, 4.1 percent of Egyptians are considered multi-dimensionally poor by WBG dimensions (The World Bank, 2020; The World Bank, 2018). Still, the most recent data released by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) in 2018 reported a much higher share of the population, approximately 32.5 percent, lives on less than US\$3.20 per day. This represents an increase from the 27.8 percent in 2015. Still, the country has been performing well in its progress towards achieving this SDG. It was considered on track or maintaining SDG achievement, according to the UNDP’s 2020 Sustainable Development Report.

The aim of SDG 1 is to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. Without discounting other Goals, SDG1 is considered to be one of the most challenging goals that any developing country will face. Poverty is multidimensional as it encompasses deprivations experienced by the impoverished in other sectors, such as education, health, energy, housing, water and sanitation networks (The United Nations, 2020). One of the main objectives of “No Poverty” as a goal is to produce an efficient policy framework that supports the alleviation of extreme poverty and mobilizes resources, domestically and internationally, in a more efficient way to focus on the needs of the poor (The United Nations, 2020).

Upon setting an ambitious reform program in 2016, Egypt adopted a full-fledged policy to fight poverty. One of the main tools of this policy was the introduction of a new national program for social safety nets called Takaful (Solidarity) and Karama (Dignity). Takaful and Karama underscored how vulnerable groups -- for instance women, children and the elderly -- are those most in need of subsidies. Egypt reformed social and fiscal policies to allow for the reallocation

of resources to such targeted groups, thus contributing to the achievement of SDG 1. CAPMAS' latest release showed that 30 percent of Egypt's general budget allocations for fiscal year 2016-2017 was directed to poverty reduction program (CAPMAS, n.d.).

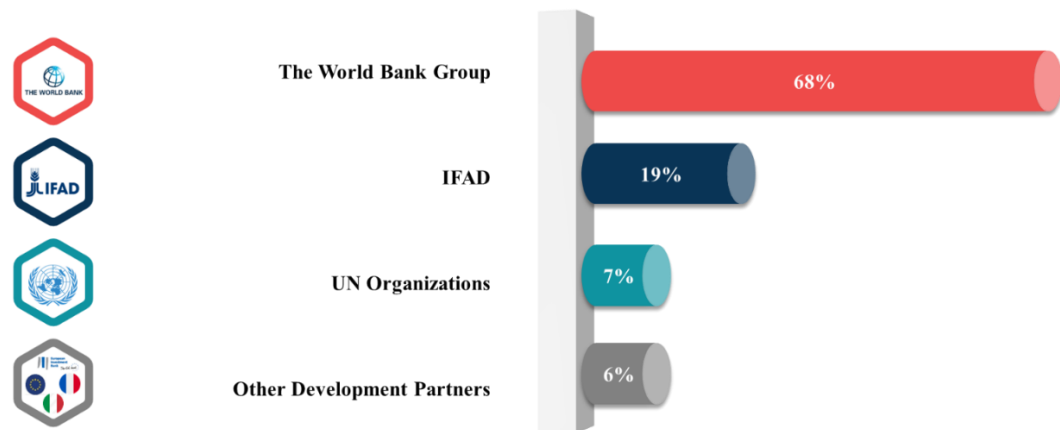
To further support national efforts, the Ministry in coordination with development partners also began undertaking several other projects targeting SDG 1. Twenty projects, worth US\$ 1.3 billion, identify "No Poverty" as their primary objective, while 37 projects with total funds of US\$ 4.4 billion have reducing poverty as a cross-cutting theme within their activities.

1.3.1 Single Mapping Approach

The 20 projects that directly target SDG 1 are mainly in the finance, social protection⁶ and agricultural sectors. Seven bilateral or multilateral development partners are engaged in projects targeting "No Poverty". Figure 12 depicts where the largest development partners' finances come from. The World Bank Group (WBG) represents 68 percent of the total ODA received to support this goal, which is a significantly higher contribution than its counterparts. The second highest amount comes from the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), which comprises 19 percent; followed by UN organizations, which contribute 7 percent. The remaining 5 percent represent a joint program among the UNDP, the UN-Habitat and the UNICEF.

US\$ 1.3 billion financed **20 projects directly** contributing to **SDG 1**.

Figure 12: Single Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 1



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

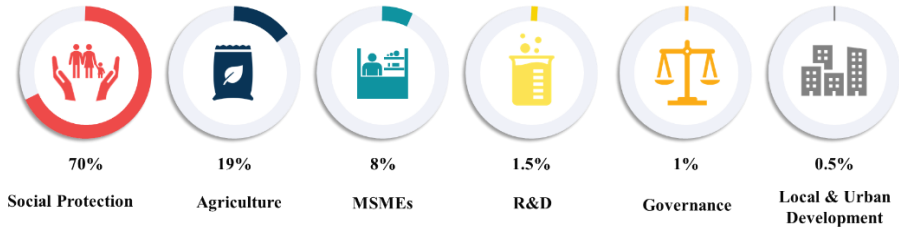
The WBG's large contribution to SDG 1 under the single mapping approach is due to financing Takaful and Karama program, the main social safety net system developed by the government of Egypt. Meanwhile, all IFAD projects target the rural poor through improving farming techniques,

⁶Social security assistance to vulnerable groups in society and to enable these groups to engage in the development process.

connecting supply chains, providing microloans, and enhancing living conditions, and IFAD identifies SDG 1 as the primary objective for all these projects. Therefore, under the single mapping approach, all IFAD projects were mapped under SDG 1. UN organizations came in third position contributing 7 percent of the total financing to SDG1, with 71 percent of their contributions coming from UNDP, 23 percent from WFP.

Figure 13 shows the sectors contributing to SDG 1 under the single mapping approach, with Social Protection coming first with total financial allocations of US\$ 926 million, followed by Agriculture and MSMEs sectors with allocations of US\$ 258 million and US\$ 109 million respectively. This distribution sheds light on the role that providing economic opportunities plays in reducing poverty and improving living conditions.

Figure 13: Single Mapping Approach –Financial Contribution by Sector to SDG 1

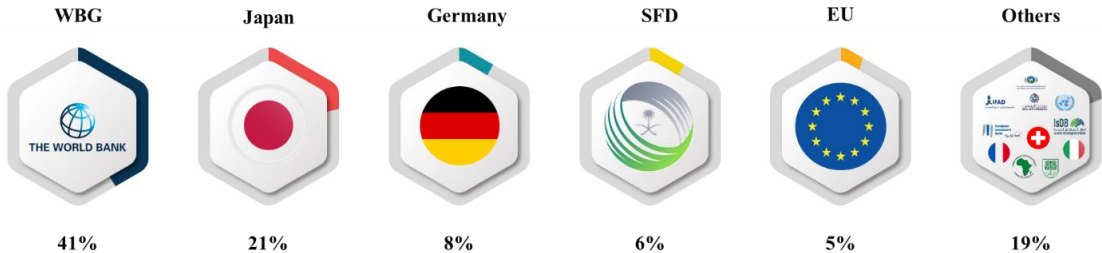


Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

1.3.2 Multiple Mapping Approach

A total of 77 projects worth US\$ 5.9 billion identify SDG 1 as a cross-cutting theme. Figure 14 shows development partners’ contributions to SDG 1, with the WBG having the highest share, 41 percent. Japan and Germany come in second and third with 21 percent and 8 percent, respectively. UN organizations identified as contributing to “No Poverty” under the multiple mapping approach (totaling 4 percent of all cross-cutting funds for this goal) include UNDP (57 percent), UNFPA (18 percent) and the WFP (13 percent).

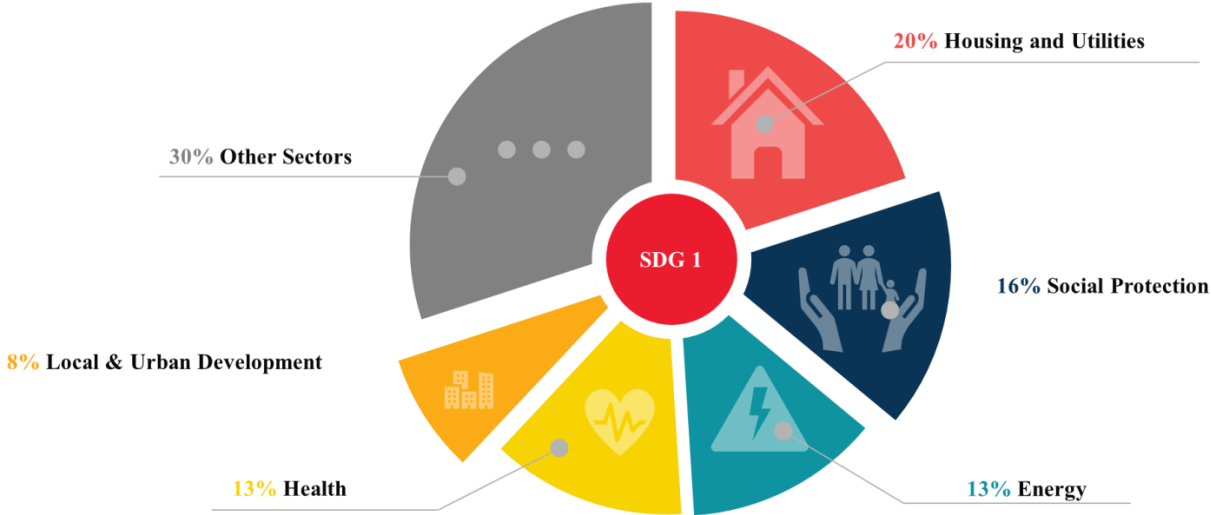
Figure 14: Multiple Mapping Approach – Percentage Contribution to SDG 1 by Development Partner



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

These projects are mainly directed to the Housing and Utilities, Social Protection, Energy as well as Health sectors with the shares of 20 percent, 16 percent, 13 percent and 13 percent respectively, as illustrated in Figure 15. Given the prerequisite role that the Housing and Utilities sector plays in poverty eradication, with projects such as inclusive housing, slums and informal housing settlements development, this sector represents the largest share of funds received. This outcome is particularly meaningful as housing stability and utility services such as water, electricity and gas have a critical impact on the proportion of the population most affected by low-income levels. Other sectors such as Local and Urban Development, Health and Irrigation also contribute to SDG 1 as they provide needed services that improve people’s livelihood. Indeed, projects within these sectors, in addition to implicitly addressing the eradication of poverty, also guarantee equal access to basic infrastructure and services, taking inclusivity into account, such as healthcare access projects.

Figure 15: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Sector to SDG 1



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

To further assess the relationships and connection between SDG 1 and all other SDGs, the social network analysis mapping tool was used. In this tool, every node represented an SDG, the size of each node represented the total value of projects that identified SDG 1 as one of their objectives, and the thickness of the connecting lines between the nodes reflected the number of projects including multiple SDGs as their objectives. Figure 16 shows that all SDGs correlate to SDG 1. This is not surprising as “No Poverty” can be described as the motive and ultimate goal of all development interventions through ODA. As these interventions target infrastructure, provision of services or promoting sustainability, they influence the lives of people and arguably reduce one or more of the multiple dimensions of poverty. According to the graph, the largest number of projects affecting SDG 1 are those connected to SDGs 8 and 10. Regarding SDG 8, there is direct relation between provision of jobs and economic opportunities and reducing poverty rates.

According to Fonseca, Domingues , & Dima (2020), there is a positive correlation between SDG1 and SDG8, since economic growth can lead to absolute income increase and thus poverty alleviation (Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the Secretary-General, 2019). Similarly, a slow-down in economic activities leads to loss of jobs and increased unemployment rates, thus contributing to higher levels of poverty (Hangoma & Surgey, 2019). As for SDG 10, studies show that it is highly correlated with SDG 1, when multidimensionality of poverty is addressed to ensure that growth is equitable.

“Progress on SDG 1 and ending poverty in all its forms is also central to closing gaps between the rich and the poor. Conversely, the goal of ending extreme poverty by 2030, under most reasonable growth scenarios, will require reducing inequality within countries with high incidence of poverty”. (UNDESA and World Bank Group, 2019)

Another prominent relationship between the number of projects influencing or influenced by SDG 1 relates to projects targeting SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Data show that enhancing women’s and girls’ access to financial, economic and social services direct reduces poverty, thus establishing a positive correlation between SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality) (Fonseca, Domingues , & Dima, 2020).

“Reducing inequalities between women and men is a strategy to alleviate poverty and develop sustainable forms of development where women as well as men are equally involved in the governance of public affairs, at all levels” (Swiss Agency For Development And Cooperation (SDC), 2003).

Figure 16: Multiple Mapping - Relationship between SDG 1 and Other SDGs



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

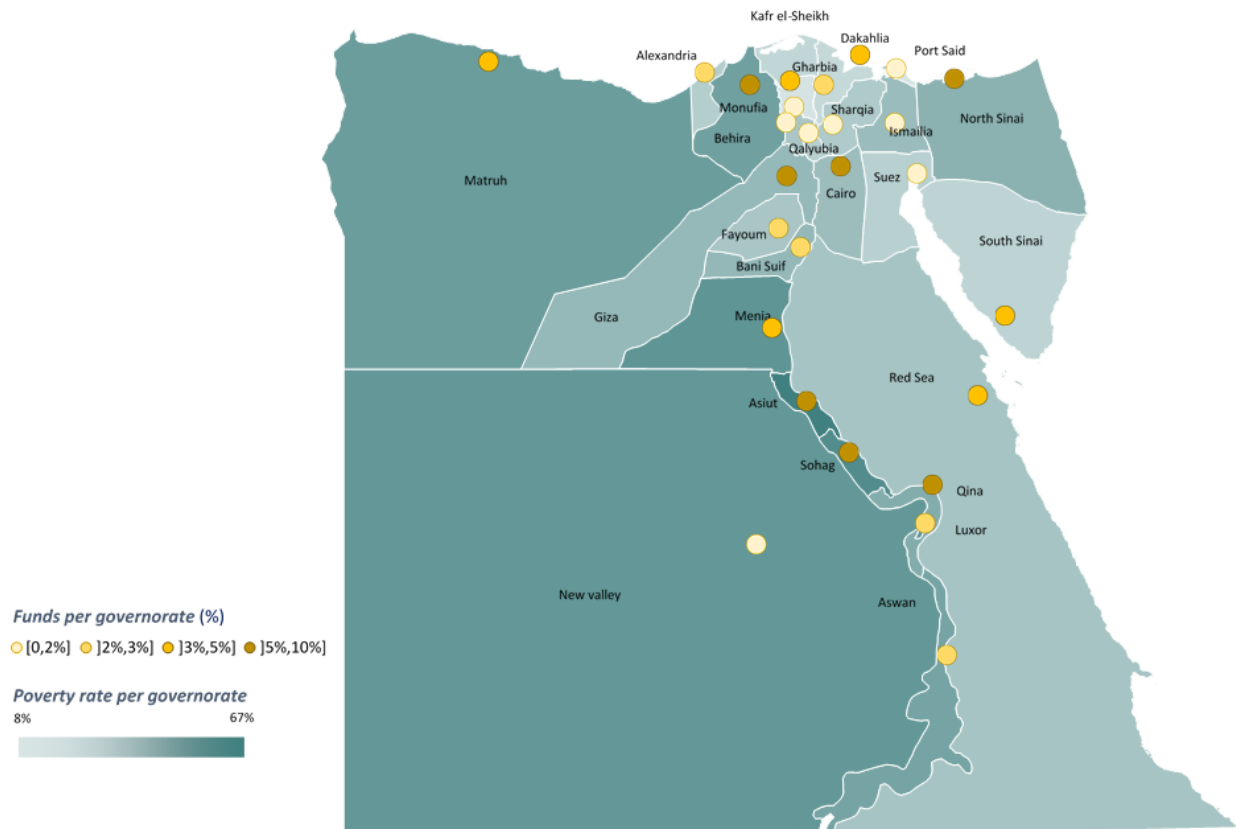
As for the amount of ODA financing connected with SDG1, the strongest relationship is found with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure). This reflects the extent to which sustainability measures and improved infrastructure are preconditions to eradicating poverty in all its forms. When projects target improving and diversifying public transportation systems, expanding water and sanitation networks, improving electricity transmission systems, upgrading slum areas or expanding on social housing, the poor have better accessibility to services and thus greater opportunities.

The Ministry also studied the geographic targeting of projects directed to SDG1. To that end, an analysis of Egypt's poverty map was conducted according to the latest data available from CAPMAS' Income, Spending and Consumption for fiscal year 2017/2018. As per Figure 17, Assiout, Souhaj, Luxor, El-Minya, New Valley and Matrouh are the poorest⁷ governorates in Egypt, with more than 50 percent of their populations living under the poverty line. The map also shows the share for each governorate of the total ODA funds directed to projects under SDG 1, following the multiple mapping approach. The map depicts poverty level per governorate through teal color intensity, while percentage of ODA fund allocations is shown by the intensity of yellow bullets.

There is overall a high degree of relevance and efficient targeting of ODA finances to SDG 1 across governorates. The Upper Egypt region, which includes some of the poorest governorates (Assiout, Souhaj, Luxor, El-Minya, Aswan, Quena and Beni Sewif) receives almost 40 percent of cross-cutting ODA allocations for SDG 1.

⁷ In 2017/2018 Income, Spending and Consumption data, CAPMAS has defined the poverty line at EGP 8,827 per year, which is approximately equivalent to US\$ 1.5 per day.

Figure 17: Poverty Map in Egypt and the Allocation of ODA Funds per Governorate



Source: CAPMAS and Ministry of International Cooperation Data

Cairo and Giza, which are referred to as the Greater Cairo region, are amongst the highest receiving governorates for ODA. This is mainly because their population concentration is estimated to be more than 20 million, or about one fifth of the total population of Egypt (World Population Review, 2020). Further, many recipient institutions of ODA funds that contribute to SDG 1 are located in Cairo, although their operations and services cover almost all governorates. For example, the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (MSMEDA) aims at enhancing financial inclusion through its extensive branches across the country. Meanwhile, Matrouh and North Sinai, which are considered Frontier Governorates, with poverty rates of 50 and 38 percent respectively, receive considerable allocation of ODA finance to SDG 1. The two governorates have very low population concentration (0.0007 and 0.005 percent of the total population in Egypt respectively), yet, their living conditions and available services are rated way below the average in other governorates. The focus of the government of Egypt is to capitalize on these governorates' vast economic opportunities and transform them into attractive centers for businesses and investments thus encouraging relocation of Egyptians from more highly densely populated areas.

Box 1: Social Safety Net ODA Project-Partnership for SDG 1



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation

1.4 Goal 2: Zero Hunger

Under the second goal, the 2030 Agenda targets the eradication of hunger, the achievement of food security and better nutrition and promotes sustainable agriculture. SDG 2 aims to resolve the persistence of undernourishment or malnutrition for children including internationally agreed on targets on the wasting and stunting in children under five by 2025. SDG 2 also underscores agricultural productivity; sustainable food production systems; income for small-scale food producers; and genetic diversity in genetic diversity of seeds, and farm and domesticated animals.



As the most populous country in North Africa and the Arab World, Egypt boasts a population of approximately 100 million. In its latest assessment, the UNDP reported that the country is moderately improving towards SDG 2 (United Nations, 2020). And in its 2020 rankings, the Global Hunger Index (Global Hunger Index, 2020), Egypt ranked 54th out of 107 qualifying countries. The Index reports that stunting in children under five year and under-five mortality rates have declined over the last two decades while prevalence of wasting in children under five has

increased. The proportion of undernourished in the population has steadily declined but remained constant from 2010 to 2019.

Qena, Suhag and Aswan are the three top governorates facing **calories deficit**.

The top governorates with the highest percentages of their population suffering from a calories deficit in 2015 were Qena, Suhag and Aswan with 70 percent, 60.8 percent and 45.2 percent, respectively. These governorates are primary beneficiaries of ODA projects that target the reduction of hunger among the population. Projects contributing to SDG 2 also aim to increase agricultural productivity and income for small-scale farmers, ensure sustainable food production and improve living conditions in rural areas.

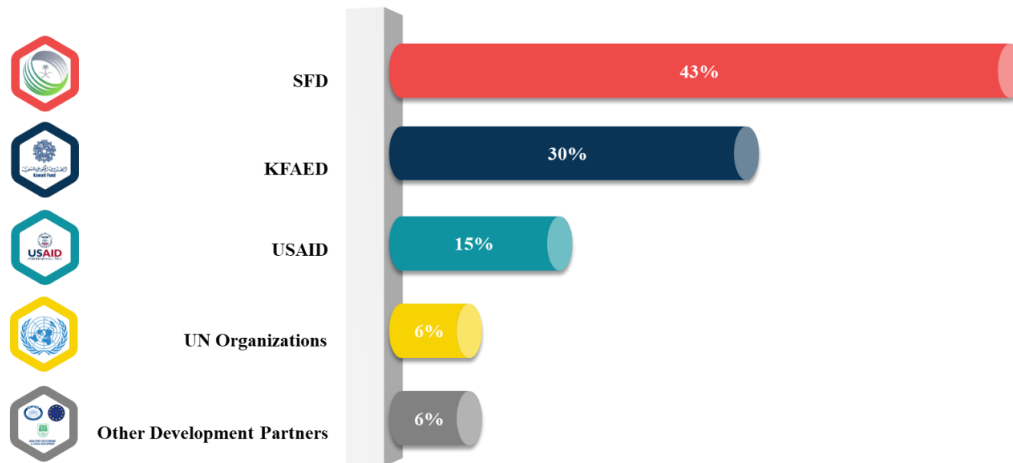
1.4.1 Single Mapping Approach

There are currently 17 ongoing ODA projects in Egypt that identify “Zero Hunger” as their main objective. Total finances received for these projects account for 2 percent of the total ODA portfolio— or US\$ 486 million.

US\$ 486 million financed **17 projects directly** contributing to **SDG 2**.

As shown in Figure 18, the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) is the highest contributor of project finances targeting SDG 2. SFD finances alone represent 43 percent of the total ODA directed to this Goal, with US\$ 210 million devoted towards projects in the agriculture sector. These projects include developing grain silo storage facilities and water desalination plants that provide irrigation water to expand agricultural land. The second highest contributor towards SDG 2 is the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) with 30 percent, followed by USAD with 15 percent. Funding from UN organizations, OFID, EU and AFESD make up the remaining 12 percent. Among UN Organizations that contribute to SDG 2 are joint projects between WFP and UNHCR, which account for 60 percent of the total UN finances, while FAO contributions are around 4 percent.

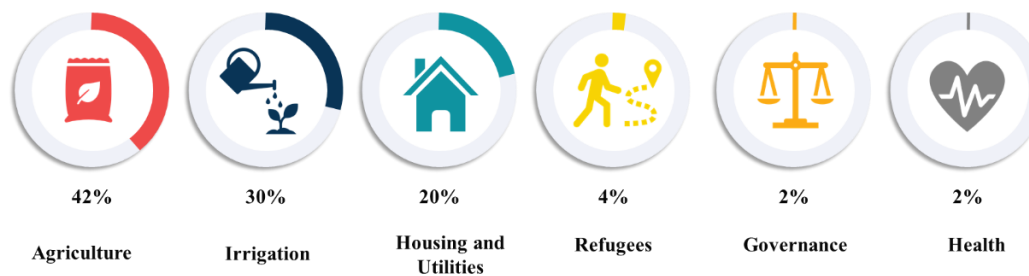
Figure 18 : Single Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 2



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

The main sectors that benefit from projects to promote SDG 2 are Agriculture and Irrigation as shown in Figure 19. These two sectors receive more than 70 percent of the total funds targeting this goal. Projects within the agriculture and irrigation sectors directly affect food security as their activities include: support to agribusiness, improvement of grains and seeds storage, cultivation of new and enhancement of old agricultural land to increase productivity, improvement of poor and vulnerable peoples’ livelihood within rural areas (including increasing their household income).

Figure 19: Single Mapping Approach –Financial Contribution by Sector to SDG 2

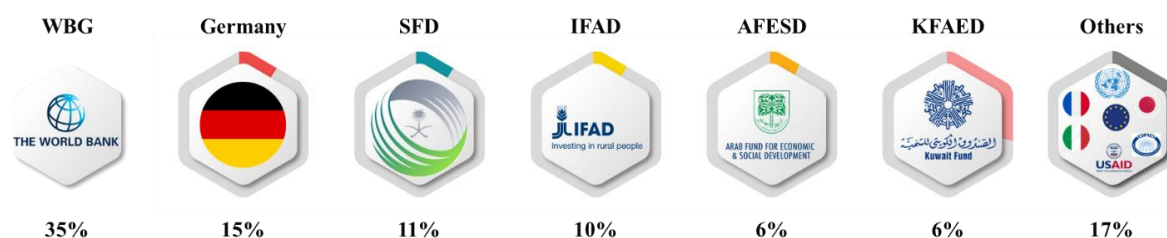


Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

1.4.2 Multiple Mapping Approach

Using the multiple mapping approach, further cross-cutting activities were found to promote eradication of hunger and enable food security. Among 43 projects that carry a combined worth of US\$ 2.8 billion, 18 percent identified Goal 2 to be their primary objective, while 82 percent considered “No Hunger” as amongst several SDGs targeted by their interventions. As mentioned under the multiple mapping approach for SDG 1, projects financed by the IFAD consider SDG 1 (No Poverty) to be their main objective. Therefore, IFAD projects, which total around US\$ 206 million, are not accounted for under SDG 2, when using the single mapping approach. As shown in Figure 20, the main development partners who provide finances that affect SDG 2 include the WBG contributing 35 percent of funds targeting this Goal. The next highest partner, Germany, accounts for 15 percent, and the Saudi Fund for Development accounts for 11 percent.

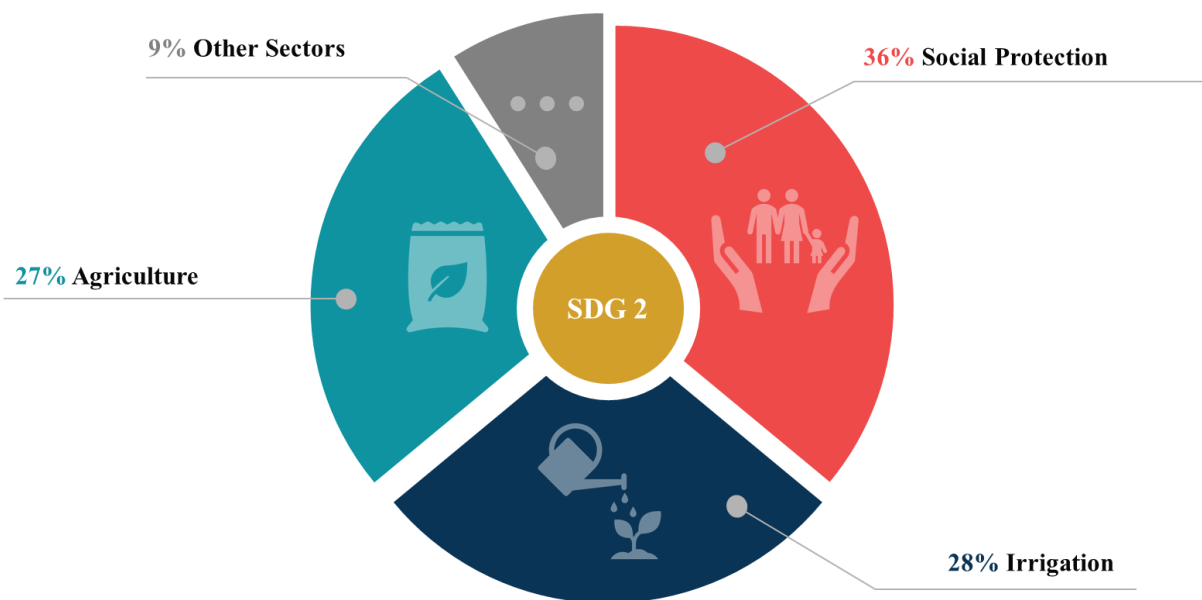
Figure 20: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 2



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Further emphasizing the multidimensionality of this Goal, Figure 21 shows the sectors that contribute through their projects to SDG 2. Projects in the Social Protection sector were highest, with 36 percent of funds directed to “Zero Hunger”. As these projects target primarily the eradication of poverty, they also have direct impact on progress towards “Zero Hunger”, particularly as they include in their activities the distribution of ration and food coupons to beneficiaries. In addition, a direct correlation between poverty and undernourishment has been demonstrated (Sukhatme & Margen (1981); Schiff & Valdes (1990). The problem of hunger is more crystalized through the waste and stuntedness due to malnutrition or obesity. Specifically, this occurs as poor people lack necessary nutrition and prefer to eat food that is relatively cheaper but lacks nutrition when consumed in high portions. Social protection programs therefore provide targeted support to impoverished and more vulnerable households that do not have access to sufficient resources for improved nutrition.

Figure 21: Multiple Mapping Approach – Contribution by Sector to SDG 2



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Projects directed to the Agriculture and Irrigation sectors came second and third, with 28 percent and 27 percent respectively. These findings are in line with the single mapping approach as these sectors are directly related to increased agricultural outputs and improved cultivation and storage mechanisms. Interestingly, Housing and Utilities Sector came in fourth, having 4 percent of finances including SDG 2 as one of their goals, as projects that target improved wastewater management and water desalination directly affect agricultural productivity. This was emphasised in the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance, which stated that *“the insufficient management of wastewater has devastating effects on agricultural productivity”* (SuSanA, n.d.). Although this sector’s percentage contribution to SDG 2 is low compared to other sectors, the exercise highlighted the link between the expansion of wastewater management projects and possibilities of enhancing better and higher quantities of crops/food.

Looking at the linkages between Goal 2 and other SDGs through the SNA tool (Figure 22), it was found that “No Hunger” connected to all other 16 Goals to varying degrees. In terms of frequency, projects reporting that SDG 2 was linked to their activities (represented by the thickness of the connecting line) were mostly related to SDG 1, SDG 8 and SDG 12. Both reduced poverty and improvement of economic opportunities can have direct effect on the quality and access to nutritional food. As argued under Goal 1, social safety net programs provide ration cards and food coupons to beneficiaries to ensure that the vulnerable segments in the community, mainly women and children, receive basic nutritional needs. Meanwhile, many projects that target Goal 8 are aimed at providing micro and small loans to farmers to improve their production, improve cultivation and storage mechanisms, and connect to supply chains. These interventions contribute directly to improving food quality and production.

Figure 22: Multiple Mapping - Relationship between SDG 2 and Other SDGs



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

The connection with SDG 12 comes in line with the UN targets and supports findings from the 2018 HLPF review of the implementation of SDGs. A clear target under Goal 12 is reducing “food loss and waste”. The review affirmed that there are serious measures implemented across countries that aim through their activities to reduce food waste. It particularly highlights the activities that include “research to identify the causes and to recommend solutions to the problems; target-setting, the development of policies, frameworks and the enactment of legislation, the use of market-based instruments (taxes, incentives and subsidy schemes) investment in infrastructure as well as the implementation of global, regional and national campaigns and education to promote awareness and advocacy on the issue” (HLPF, 2018)

Considering the amount of ODA contribution of SDGs that were connected with SDG2, the largest shares were SDGs 11 and 9. This is simply because projects under these two SDGs include a high value of financial investments as they contribute to improving physical and financial infrastructure. SDG 11 is a cross-cutting theme for many projects, mainly in the transportation and water and wastewater sectors. Improvements in these areas, when linked with projects in the agriculture sector, contribute directly to enhanced production and distribution of food. It is also worth mentioning that a number of projects targeting wastewater management consider

SDG 11 as one of their objectives. They directly contribute to reducing pollution of lakes, rivers and seas, resulting in the improvement of fisheries activities, thus influencing food security.

Similarly, SDG 9 contributes to SDG 2 as it includes projects that enhance access to safe transportation modalities in rural areas. It also promotes access to finance and improvement of financial institutions that provide micro, small and medium loans to small businesses and industry; a target identified by projects that improve agricultural output and agribusiness.

Box 2: Grain Silo Storage Projects- Partnership for SDG 2

2 ZERO HUNGER

SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER

Grain Silo storage

114 million USD worth project to accommodate higher production and ensure food security with SDF.

2 ZERO HUNGER

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR GOALS

PEOPLE AT THE CORE

- Enhance food security for the most vulnerable people
- Support farmers in securing their production and crops, and increase their income

PURPOSE AS THE DRIVER

- Accommodate higher production
- Create Job opportunities
- Improve Food Security

PROJECTS IN ACTION

7 **Grain Silos** in 6 governorates with a total storage capacity of 420,000 tons of grains

Source: Ministry of International Cooperation

1.5 Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being

Integral to sustainable development is universal health coverage. Particularly as the world finds itself grappling with the threats of the COVID-19 crisis, SDG 3 emphasizes quality healthcare services to fully eradicate a wide range of diseases and address persistent and emerging health issues. Indeed, this can be done by focusing on mobilizing resources and allocating efficient funds to buttress health systems, improve sanitation and hygiene, and increase people’s access to physicians. Within goal 3, maternity and infant deaths are targeted to decrease to less than 70 per 100,000 live births, 12 per 1000 live births for neonatal mortality, and 25 per 1000 births for

under 5 mortality, respectively (United Nations, 2020). SDG 3 also charts a number of ambitious targets including the elimination of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other tropical diseases and decreasing the number of deaths and injuries due to road traffic accidents, globally, within the remaining Decade of Action.

The Egyptian healthcare system is complex with both public and private providers as well as various financing agents. The complexity has been a challenge for reform as services are managed, financed, and provided by agencies across three tiers: government, parastatal, and private. The government of Egypt has prioritized investment in the healthcare sector and specifically universal health coverage (UHC). According to the UNDP (United Nations, 2020), Egypt showed moderate improvement in its performance towards SDG 3. Some milestones have placed the country on a trajectory of progress (and continue to) towards SDG 3 since 2015. For instance, Egypt formerly had one of the world’s highest prevalence rates of hepatitis C. The country embarked on an intensive targeted effort to eradicate the disease over five years, and since then, more than 1 million patients have been cured, and 15 million people will be surveyed and treated every year over a period of three years. Data reported by the WHO indicate that since 2014, the government has been able to provide free treatment to 88 percent of all patients. Another example pertains to the role of the private sector, which has significantly grown in extending aid for vulnerable groups through corporate social responsibility (CSR) over the past decade (Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, 2018).

These efforts have also been supported on the policy and legal front with the adoption of the Social Health Insurance (SHI) law in 2018 which set out to ensure adequate and sustainable funding for health and reduction of out-of-pocket expenditures. Additionally, the Egyptian government started implementing a universal health insurance system, which entered its first phase in July 2019, with the objective of providing high quality healthcare services to all Egyptians, at no cost.

Through the single mapping approach, 36 projects worth US\$ 1.4 billion identified SDG 3 as their primary objective, while 87 projects worth US\$ 7.2 billion were highlighted through the multiple mapping approach as contributing to the achievement of the Goal’s targets.

1.5.1 Single Mapping Approach

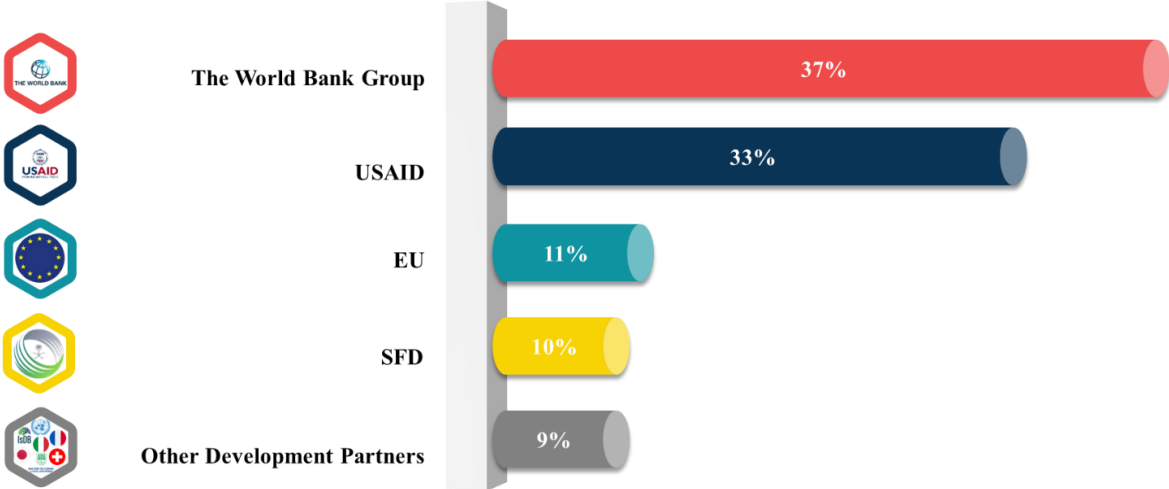
US\$ 1.4 billion financed **36 projects directly** contributing to **SDG 3.**

The total ODA directly targeting SDG 3 is US\$ 1.4 billion, representing 5.6 percent of the total ODA portfolio. There are 11 development partners engaged in financing projects targeting SDG 3. As shown in Figure 23, three partners account for approximately 83 percent of the total funds provided. The World Bank comes first with 37 percent as it provides US\$ 530 million in support

of Egypt’s Universal Health Insurance System (UHS) -- the country’s pathway toward achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and improving the health outcomes of its citizens. The WBG share is expected to further increase as its Board of Executive Directors approved another project in June 2020, worth US\$400 million to top up the finances of the UHC.

USAID and the EU follow as the second and third highest contributors to SDG 3 at 33 percent and 11 percent respectively, with projects targeting population growth as well as water and sanitation. Next, the SFD is responsible for 10 percent of ODA finances, valued at US\$ 140 million for improving healthcare facilities and hospitals. Remaining partners include UN organizations, France, Japan, IsDB, AFESD, Switzerland and Italy, which together are responsible for the remaining 9 percent of ODA funds directed to SDG 3. Among the UN organizations supporting Goal 3, the UNFPA provides the majority of the funds, with a share of 75 percent. The UNICEF, the UNDP and the UNAIDS follow with shares of 15 percent, 4 percent and 3 percent, respectively.

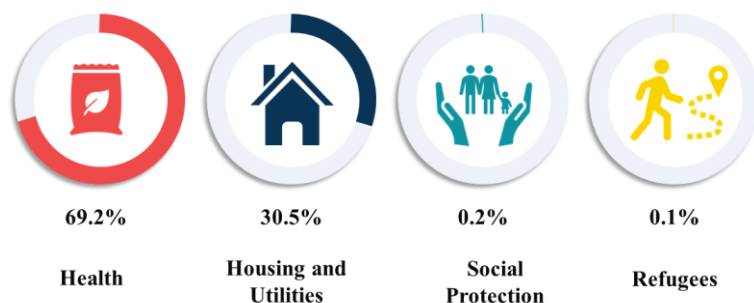
Figure 23 : Single Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 3



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

The projects that aim at achieving SDG 3 under the single mapping approach are mainly concentrated in the Health and Housing and Utilities sectors, which received 68 percent and 32 percent of ODA funds as depicted in Figure 24. Projects under the health sector are aimed at improving the provision of healthcare system, expanding services to underprivileged areas, and renovating public hospitals and clinics. Special programs also target maternal and child health care and support national campaigns on improving reproductive health. On the other hand, projects under the housing and utilities sector that consider SDG 3 as their main objective are focused on providing access to clean water and sanitation networks, thus contributing to reducing water transmitted diseases, which is a clear target under SDG 3.

Figure 24: Single Mapping Approach –Financial Contribution by Sector to SDG 3



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

1.5.2 Multiple Mapping Approach

US\$ 7.2 billion financed **87 projects** contributing to **SDG 3** as a **cross-cutting theme**.

Under the multiple mapping approach, 87 projects with total funds of US\$ 7.2 billion contribute to the achievement of SDG 3. Among the development partners that provided funds to projects with SDG 3 as one of their objectives, the WBG has the highest share with 32 percent in total funds, as shown in Figure 25. This is followed by EIB and KFAED, each of which represent 9 percent. In total, UN organizations account for only 2 percent of the funds aiming to achieve SDG 3. The highest contribution amongst them comes from UNFPA with 38 percent, followed by the joint program of the WFP and the UNHCR, the WFP and the FAO, with shares of 16 percent, 16 percent and 9 percent, respectively.

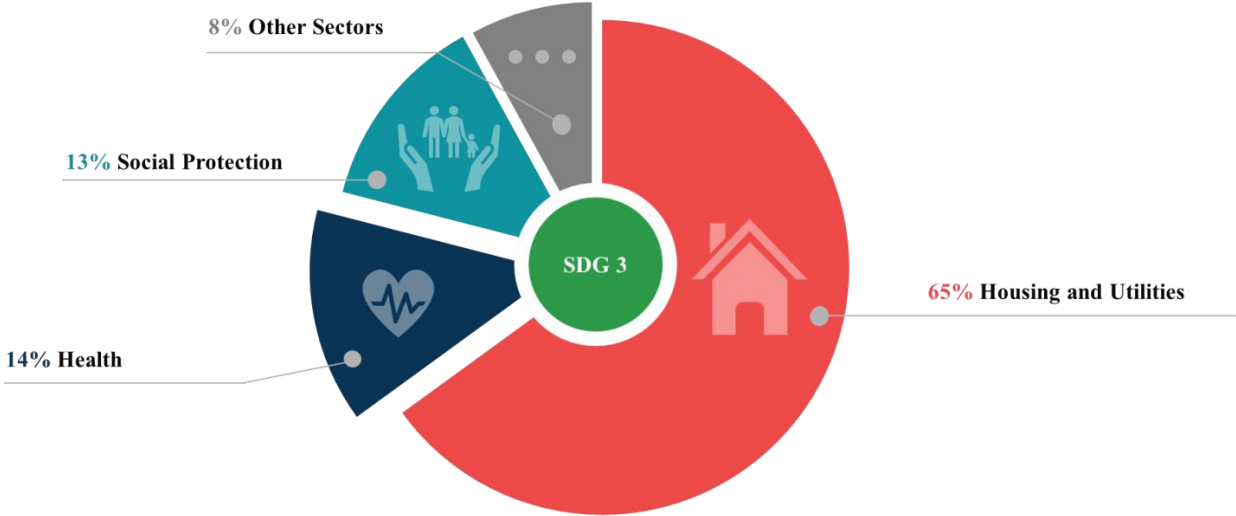
Figure 25: Multiple Mapping Approach – Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 3



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Similar to the single mapping approach, these projects were found mainly in the Health and Housing and Utilities sectors. Figure 26 illustrates the allocation of funds by sector. Of note, the sector with the highest share in total funds was Housing and Utilities, which received 65 percent of total funds aimed at achieving Goal 3. Conversely, the Health sector received only 14 percent. This allocation reveals the government’s increased focus on multidimensional projects that extend benefits and impact a number of sectors. These two sectors are followed by Social Protection, which represents a share of 13 percent of total funds received to support the achievement of SDG 3. Other sectors receive 3 percent or less of total ODA, including Irrigation (2 percent), Agriculture (2 percent) and Education (1 percent). It is worth mentioning that projects in the Housing and Utilities sectors consist mainly of water and drainage reform projects. As previously mentioned, there is an inextricable link (World Health Organization (WHO), 2004) between access to safe, reliable, affordable and secure water supplies and health (Hunter, MacDonald, & Carter, 2010), which is directly tied to Indicator 3.3 under Goal 3, targeting the elimination of water transmitted diseases by 2030. Thus, it is anticipated that these projects will positively impact progress towards SDG 3 as beneficiaries of the necessary infrastructure needed to combat infectious diseases among others.

Figure 26: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Sector to SDG 3



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

In addition, projects that support social safety nets include conditional transfers and incentives for recipients to regularly receive necessary healthcare services, especially for maternity and childcare. These projects increase households’ revenue and consumption levels, which in turn increase the potential contribution of health spending and nutrition on the total budget. (Beegle, Coudouel, & Monsalve, 2018).

Figure 27: Multiple Mapping - Relationship between SDG 3 and Other SDGs



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

The findings of Figure 27 reflect the high frequency in which projects targeting SDG 3 were also linked with projects targeting SDGs 6, 5, 10, and 11. Projects in water and sanitation, under SDG 6, have direct effects on improving health. As for projects that influence SDG 5 (Gender Equality), they are closely linked to SDG 3 since many target women through enhancing reproductive and maternity health. As explained by the World Health Organization, “An expanded understanding of gender and health, ... provides a new starting point for progress on ecologically sustainable development.” (Magar, 2015)

Similarly, projects under the health sector aim to enhance access to healthcare services to different social groups and geographical regions, thus contributing to SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality). Indeed, the relationship between health and inequality is reciprocal. Improving access to health reduces inequalities, and similarly, reducing inequalities improves health.

“As income inequality increases, lower income workers see their income stagnate or even decline, a relationship described as the “concavity effect”. Lower incomes predispose individuals to worse health directly through exposure to harmful environments, decreased opportunities for educational and occupational advancement, and a decreased ability to prevent and cope with disability and disease.” (American Public Health Association (APHA), 2017)

A study conducted by the Public Health England organization, “Closing the Health Gap and Reducing Inequalities”, reported that “people living in the most deprived areas in England have on average the lowest life expectancy and conversely, those in the least deprived areas have the highest life expectancy.” (Newton J. , 2017)

SDG 11 is closely linked to SDG 3 in both the number of projects that included the two SDGs as their objectives, and also in the amount of finance directed towards them. The indicators and targets under SDG 11 listed a number of areas that directly influence people’s health and well-being. Addressing these targets through projects in various sectors included upgrading slum areas, expanding social housing, enhancing solid waste and wastewater management, improving transportation to reduce accidents, and reducing hazardous conditions in cities and communities. The investments across these areas are measurable and are reflected in the size of node corresponding to SDG 11.

Box 3: Strengthening Egypt’s Family Planning Program-Partnership for Goal 3



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

1.6 Goal 4: Quality Education



As mentioned above, education is central to the realization of the 2030 Agenda. In fact, a closer look at the 169 targets of the Agenda reveals that education is not restricted to SDG 4 but is a theme that is visibly and inherently cross-cutting. It is, in fact, specifically mentioned in targets for five other SDGs and is linked to almost all other SDGs in one way or another: SDG 3 (Health and Well-Being) and Target 3.7; SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and Target 5.6; SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and Target 8.6; SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and Target 12.8; and SDG 13 (Climate Change Mitigation) and Target 13.3.

Egypt has seen positive progress towards SDG 4 in recent years. (United Nations, 2020) This is further demonstrated by its on-track performance noted by UNDP in its latest SDR 2020. With 20 million students in pre-tertiary education, Egypt has the largest education system in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) (PwC, 2019). The system, which is divided into pre-university (overseen by the Ministry of Education) and higher education (overseen by the Ministry of Higher Education), has undergone a number of reforms since September 2018. These reforms worked in tandem as part of a joint program between the government of Egypt and the WBG totaling US\$500 million to support the Egypt Education Reform project, which targeted the improvement of teaching and learning conditions in the public education system. Another notable program is the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Reform Programme (TVET), funded by the government of Egypt and the European Union to improve the system of technical education and vocational training, in order to meet social and economic needs, especially youth employment.

There are currently 36 projects worth US\$ 2.4 billion that consider SDG 4 to be their primary objective, and 54 projects worth US\$ 4.1 billion that target Quality Education as a cross-cutting theme.

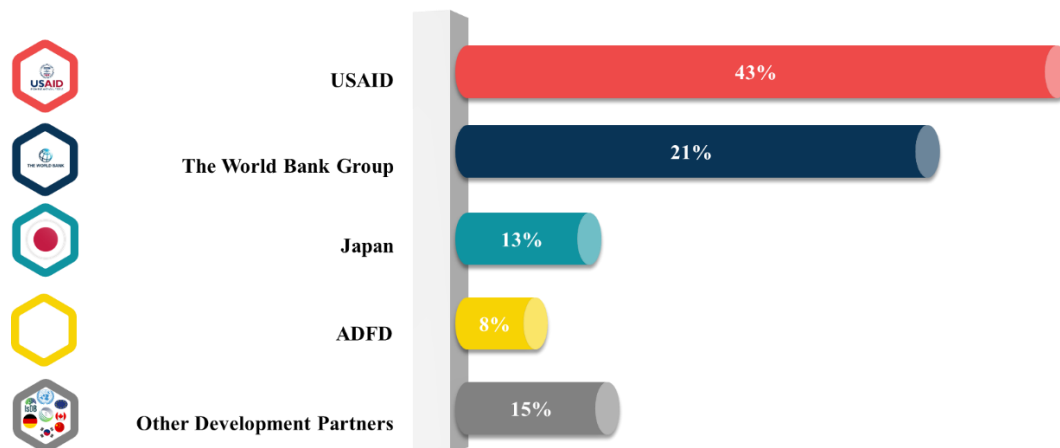
1.6.1 Single Mapping Approach

US\$ 2.4 billion financed
36 projects directly
contributing to **SDG 4.**

Goal 4 receives 9 percent of the total current ODA portfolio, with an approximate value worth US\$ 2.4 billion financing 36 projects that highlight “Quality Education” as their primary objective. As shown in Figure 28, USAID is the highest development partner contributing to financing these projects with a share of 43 percent and a total contribution of US\$ 1 billion. Funding from USAID is devoted and directed to four projects that target the provision of technical assistance to support the Education sector – specifically, higher education and primary education levels – as well as technical and vocational training. The second highest contribution comes from the WBG with their funding to SDG 4 representing 21 percent. The funding from the WBG directly supports

reform projects in the education system. Other development partners include Japan, Abu-Dhabi Fund for Development, and the European Union, which together account for 28 percent of ODA finances to education. Meanwhile, UN organizations contributing directly to Goal 4 include UNICEF, UNHCR, UNESCO and WFP.

Figure 28 : Single Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 4



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

The projects under SDG 4 target different sectors as shown in Figure 29. Basic and Higher Education receive the highest fund allocations with 61 percent and 19 percent respectively. These projects mainly target the reform of the education system through improving access to quality education in public schools, from early childhood to secondary education. They also enhance the capacities of teachers and workers in the system to deliver better results, support government’s efforts in promoting the use of technology and digital tools in the sector, encouraging the enrollment of girls across different grades, and strengthening innovation and technology education through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) schools. Projects in higher education enhance the quality of university education with specialized initiatives in technological and scientific universities.

Figure 29: Single Mapping Approach –Financial Contribution by Sector to SDG 4



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Projects under the Housing and Utilities sector, which represent 8 percent of the ODA funding to SDG 4, aim at creating inclusive cities and communities and upgrading informal settlements, part of which are directed towards building public schools and educational facilities to provide access to educational services in the targeted areas.

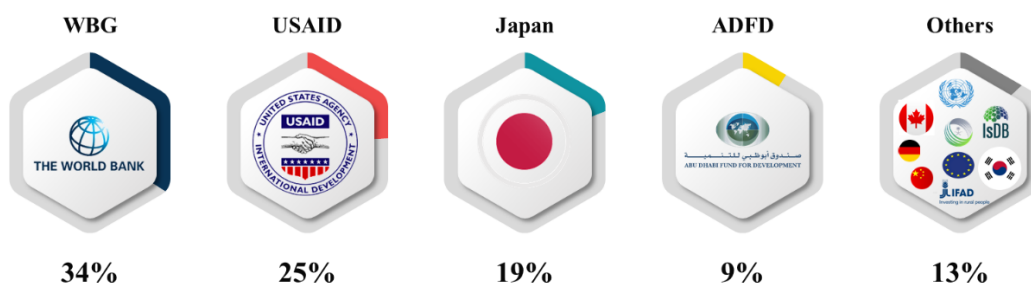
1.6.2 Multiple Mapping Approach

There are 54 projects worth US\$ 4.1 billion that contribute to the achievement of SDG 4 (Quality Education). Some of the projects have multiple and cross-cutting objectives, demonstrating the inherent dimensionality of Education as a goal.

US\$ 4.1 billion financed **54 projects** contributing to **SDG 4** as a **cross-cutting theme**.

Thirteen development partners contribute to “Quality Education” through the provision of ODA funding support towards a range of projects. As shown Figure 30, 34 percent of funding is provided by the WBG towards reform-supportive projects within the educational system in addition to social protection projects. The latter particularly targets low-income and vulnerable households whose children would otherwise have limited or reduced access to basic and quality education. Another partner active in this group of projects is USAID, whose funds account for 25 percent of total ODA that indirectly targets SDG 4. This is followed by Japan with 19 percent, contributing to projects targeting primary education as well as improved research and development in science and technology. Abu-Dhabi Fund for Development follows with 9 percent of the contributions to SDG 4 through the Housing and Utilities sector, where projects are particularly meaningful as they promote and buttress urban planning and development, including the establishment of schools, thereby improving available quality learning facilities.

Figure 30: Multiple Mapping Approach – Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 4



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

As shown in Figure 31, projects targeting Quality Education directly are usually implemented in the Education sector, which receives 35 percent, while projects targeting social protection constitute 22 percent of ODA funds promoting access to education. As mentioned earlier, these programs include conditional cash transfers that include regular school attendance for children

in primary education as primary criteria for recipient families. Also, projects in the Culture and Tourism sector promote SDG 4, accounting for 11 percent of total funds. Projects that promote this sector include the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) financed by Japan which aims to enhance research and education activities on historical and cultural heritage preserved at the GEM. Meanwhile, projects in the remaining sectors, such as Technical Assistance, Health, Research and Development or TVET, contribute to meeting SDG 4 targets.

Figure 31: Multiple Mapping Approach – Contribution by Sector to SDG 4



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Figure 32: Multiple Mapping - Relationship between SDG 4 and other SDGs



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

As Source: *Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020*

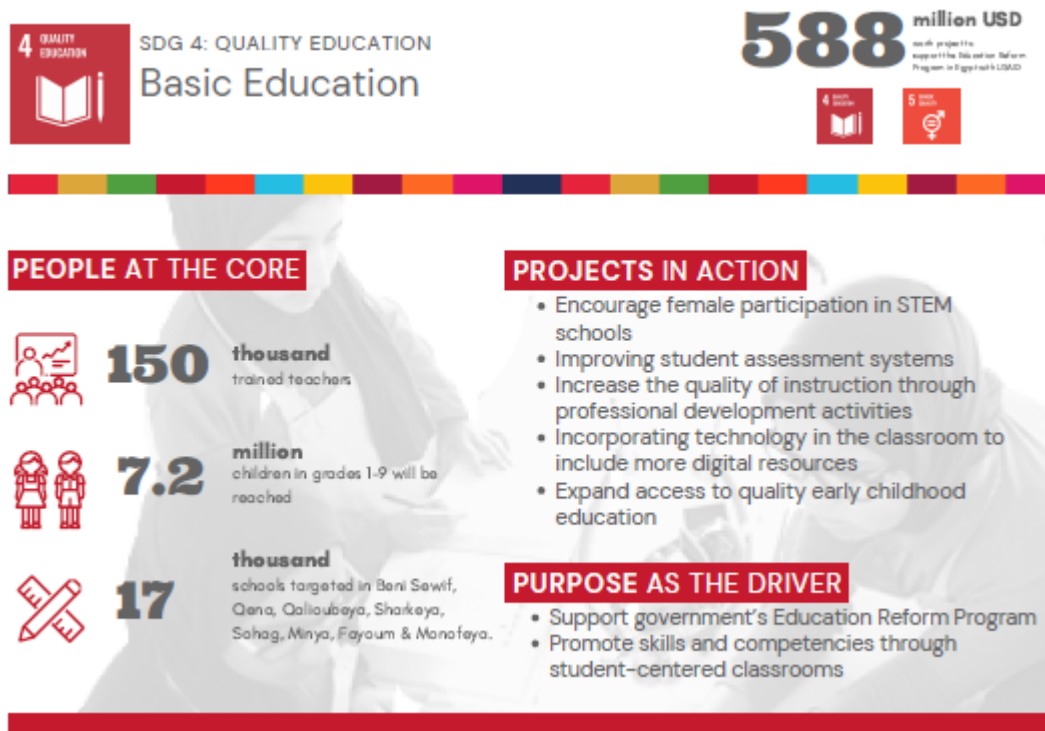
Figure 32 shows, assessing the correlation between SDG 4 and other SDGs found a direct relationship between Quality Education and all other SDGs with the exception of SDG 15. In terms of the number of projects, there was high frequency between SDG 4 and SDGs 8, 5 and 10. This is not surprising as access to quality education has a direct effect on improving economic growth and job creation. *“Many reports state the importance of education for employment and growth in general. Channels emphasized include the impact of education, particularly at secondary and tertiary levels, on workers’ productivity and productive capabilities” thus “policy recommendations, many reports advocate for higher investment in education in order to stimulate growth and foster innovation”* (Vladimirouva & Le Blanc, 2015)

Similarly, many ODA projects in Education include a direct component for improving female enrollment ratios to ensure that girls and women receive access to quality education, which reflects on both their economic and social empowerment. Educated women are better equipped to enter the formal market place and contribute as productive individuals in the economy. *“As women acquire more education, they increasingly move out of traditional household or agricultural production activities and enter wage work”* (Vladimirouva & Le Blanc, 2015)

Also, educational attainment is a main factor contributing to reduced inequalities. Basically, education affects people’s social and economic status, and improves their chances to access better services and consequently have opportunities to improve their living conditions. *“Education is seen as both a factor that conditions inequalities later in life, for example access to formal jobs (World Bank, 2013), and a powerful instrument for advancing equity (UNDP, 2013).”* (Vladimirouva & Le Blanc, 2015)

As for the amount of finance directed to the other SDGs linked to SDG 4, again SDG 11 and SDG 9 were the highest. ODA projects that are directed to upgrading informal settlements and building new inclusive communities include the establishment of schools. Also, as a number of projects that are mapped with SDG 9 are targeted towards enhancing innovation and use of technology in education, they are directly linked to SDG4.

Box 4: Basic Education Program-Partnership for Goal 4



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation

1.7 Goal 5: Gender Equality



As a standalone goal and one that is as intersectional as Education in the 2030 Agenda, SDG 5 on Gender Equality is devoted to “end to all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere” by providing a supportive roadmap for the equality, empowerment and integration of women and girls. More than 50 of the 231 indicators pertaining to the 17 SDG goals have integrated gender dimensions with measurable indicators explicitly mentioning women and girls. SDG 5 underscores the elimination of all types of discrimination against women and girls, everywhere, and offering them equal opportunities in their political, economic and public life (United Nations, 2020). Specifically, it calls for the extension of public services, supportive infrastructure and social protection policies, to create a safer environment for women and girls and to protect them from all forms of violence and harmful practices.

Since 2014, Egypt has prioritized women’s social and economic empowerment and many initiatives have been led by the National Council for Women (NCW). Indeed, in 2017, the NCW developed the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Women to focus on the SDGs and

gender issues in the ten pillars of the national strategy (National Council for Women , 2017). Notable progress has been achieved on certain fronts, namely education, health and survival, and political empowerment. One example pertains to women’s financial inclusion, which has reached a number of milestones including the signing of a new protocol on the financial inclusion of women between the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), and the NCW, which aims to ensure bank funding for women’s micro-sized projects. Another is the launch of social protection programs such as Takaful and Karama. There have also been substantial reforms that improve the ecosystem for business and improve women’s rights in general legislation such as the amendment of Companies Law 159/1981, which will allow women-owned enterprises, mostly MSMEs, to form and grow.

Still as of 2020, Egypt remained stable or without movement in activities pertaining to progress towards SDG 5. (United Nations, 2020) The country thus has untapped potential in the realm of women’s economic participation and opportunity. The government of Egypt remains steadfast in encouraging the active participation of females in the labor market, political sphere and key economic sectors by devoting resources towards an enabling environment that fosters their productivity. Examples include requiring the private sector to extend childcare facilities on site by means of the Labour Code. Another example is targeted programs that subsidize the healthcare of children and female heads of households.

One of the latest initiatives that demonstrate the Government’s commitment to SDG 5 is the Ministry’s launch of **“Closing the Gender Gap Accelerator”** in cooperation with the NCW and the World Economic Forum (WEF). This initiative represents a national public-private model of collaboration that motivates governments and businesses to take necessary action to close economic gender gaps. Egypt is the first country in the Middle East and African to launch the Accelerator, which sends a strong statement about its commitment to SDG 5.

1.7.1 Single Mapping Approach

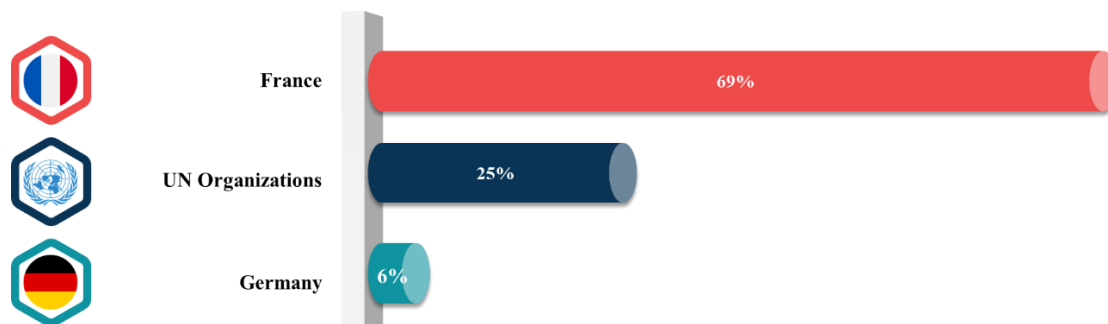
The total ODA targeting SDG 5 as the main objective is US\$ 82 million. This figure represents 0.3 percent of the total ODA portfolio. According to the single mapping approach, France is the highest direct

US\$ 82 million financed **13 projects directly** contributing to **SDG 5.**

contributor to SDG5 (Figure 33) with 69 percent of the funds. Finances from France consisted of a loan and a grant to support women’s economic empowerment through enhancing access to MSME finances. Next, the UN organizations and Germany contribute 25 percent and 5 percent of total funds, respectively. Among the UN organizations, UN Women is unsurprisingly the highest contributor to SDG 5 with a share of 49 percent of UN finances. UN Women also partnered with other UN divisions, like UNIDO, UNDP and UNFPA, to implement joint programs

supporting women empowerment. The project jointly financed by UNIDO and UN Women has a share of 32 percent, followed by a project financed by the UNFPA, with a share of 11 percent.

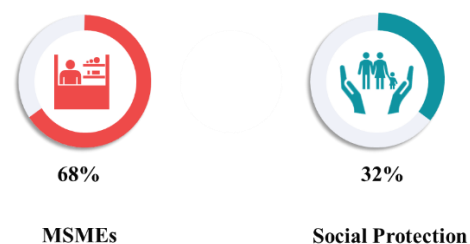
Figure 33 : Single Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 5



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Figure 34 depicts the sectors with projects identifying gender as their main objectives. The largest contribution was by the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector, with 68 percent of the financing directed to Gender Equality. Projects under this sector mainly provide credit lines and technical training to women to encourage them to start their own businesses, which promotes women’s participation in the economy. Projects directed towards the social protection sector, which constitute 32 percent of the finances for SDG 5, are projects that fight harassment, gender-based violence, and aim towards making cities and communities safer and more inclusive to women and girls.

Figure 34: Single Mapping Approach –Financial Contribution by Sector to SDG 5



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

1.7.2 Multiple Mapping Approach

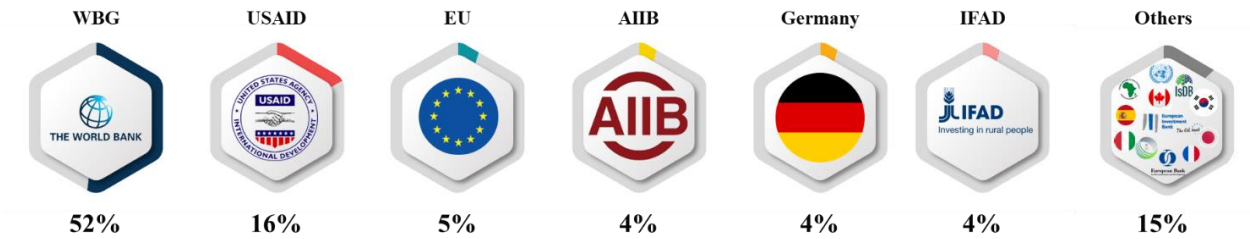
US\$ 6.7 billion financed **99 projects** contributing to **SDG 5 as a cross-cutting theme.**

A total of 99 projects have received funds worth US\$ 6.7 billion contributing to SDG 5 as a cross-cutting theme. Distilling the data by development partners (Figure 35) reveals that more than half of the funds that include a strong gender aspect come from the WBG with 52 percent.

These projects include social safety networks, where women headed households represent 80

percent of the beneficiaries; health sector projects that focus on enhancing access of women and girls to health services; projects in education that encourage female enrollment as well as projects to promote entrepreneurship, where women are amongst the targeted groups. The WBG is followed by the USAID, which represents a share of 16 percent of total funds, where many of the projects also in education and health are directed to women. Then, the EU comes in third place with 5 percent of the contributions to Gender Equality.

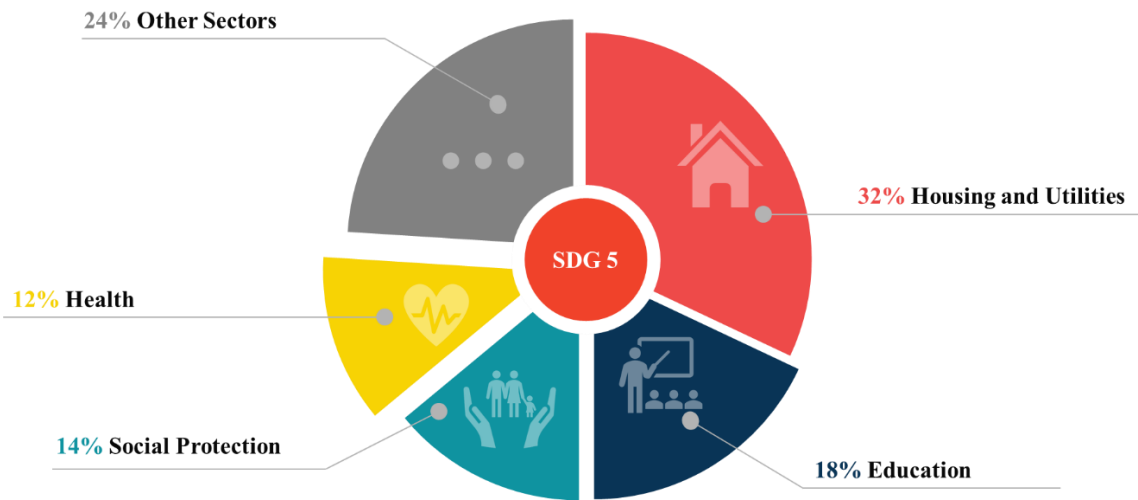
Figure 35: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 5



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Figure 36 provides a breakdown of the funds financing these projects by sector. Housing and Utilities is the largest beneficiary, with 32 percent of total funds devoted to projects in the sector. These projects are focused on water, drainage and rural sanitation services, and identify women as one of the main target groups. Women were thus included in the design, consultations and awareness programs within these projects. The Education and Social Protection sectors follow next with shares of 18 percent and 14 percent, respectively, with all projects within those sectors aimed at ensuring equal access of females to basic services. The Health and the Higher Education sectors represent 12 percent and 5 percent, respectively. It is also worth noting that the TVET sector’s projects have a gender aspect, since they aim at empowering female entrepreneurs and providing women with necessary vocational training to increase their share in the labor market. Furthermore, the establishment of an inclusive healthcare system will enable the creation of inclusive and affordable healthcare services to women and girls.

Figure 36: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Sector to SDG 5



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Regarding the correlation between SDG 5 and other SDGs, Figure 37 shows that all SDGs, except SDG 15, were reported to share common projects with SDG 5. The SDGs having the highest frequency of reporting projects related to SDG 5 are projects related to SDGs 10, 8, and 3. Reducing gender inequality is unarguably part of reducing overall inequalities. SDG 10 sets a target to “empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status” (United Nations, 2020) by 2030. Thus, projects that aim to enhance inclusion of women and girls in economic activities, access to finance, improved healthcare and access to education contribute directly to the achievement of both SDG 5 and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

Meanwhile, projects under SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) contribute to this goal through providing credit lines to support MSMEs and entrepreneurship.

Figure 37: Multiple Mapping - Relationship between SDG 5 and Other SDGs



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

The majority of these projects require that women receive a certain percent of the total finances provided. As explained under SDG 3, many ODA projects directed towards health and well-being are aimed at improving reproductive health and improving women’s access to healthcare, especially in remote areas.

The SDGs that are linked to SDG 5 and receive relatively high financial allocations include SDGs 11 and 9 followed by SDGs 8, 12 and 13. Gender inequalities prevail in urban as well as rural areas. Investments in projects that target the improvement of housing, utilities and transportation include amongst their objectives developing women’s living conditions and providing reliable modes of transport to ensure their safety, security, and accessibility to economic and social opportunities.

Conversely, many ODA projects that target the improvement of inclusive infrastructure and industrialization should considering gender dimensions while planning, managing and financing projects targeting SDG9 (UN Women, 2016). In addition, women are recognized for their contributions in research and innovation as well as their share in total employment in the manufacturing industry. ODA project activities therefore try to link the objectives of SDG 9 to increase “*access to information and communications technology*” (United Nations, 2020) with the objectives of SDG 5, which entail the promotion of women empowerment through information and communications technology. Consequently, internet access, digital skills and

online rights must be gender blind in order to accomplish SDG5 (World Wide Web Foundation, 2017).

Box 6: Women in Business Support Program-Partnership for Goal 5

5 GENDER EQUALITY

SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY

Women in Business Support Program

56.2 million USD worth project to empower and increase their access to finance with France

PEOPLE AT THE CORE

Increase women access to financial and non-financial services

PURPOSE AS THE DRIVER

- Support the development of the SME sector
- Support women empowerment through the creation of sustainable sources of income

PROJECTS IN ACTION

- Increase women's financial inclusion and women entrepreneurship
- Enhance the creation of sustainable jobs opportunities for women
- Provide women-owned SME's with business development services.

Source: Ministry of International Cooperation

1.8 Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation



The water sector plays a central role in ensuring equitable human rights, poverty reduction, elimination of inequality, instilling peace and justice, and protecting the environment. As such the sixth goal, which addresses Clean Water and Sanitation, provides a tremendous opportunity for progress on the 2030 Agenda. The objective of SDG 6 is to “ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” (United Nations, 2020). This goal, which is intrinsically and symbolically linked to the entire 2030 Agenda, consists of seven important targets. These include universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all, improving the quality of water through pollution reduction, increasing water-use efficiency across all sectors, and the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems in mountains, rivers and lakes. As a cornerstone of the country’s Vision 2030 under the environment pillar, water takes a priority in the objectives set for Egypt’s sustainable development agenda. The Nile River is Egypt’s main source of water resources, with a

dependency ratio estimated at 97 percent with the remainder coming from winter rain and non-renewable ground water aquifers.

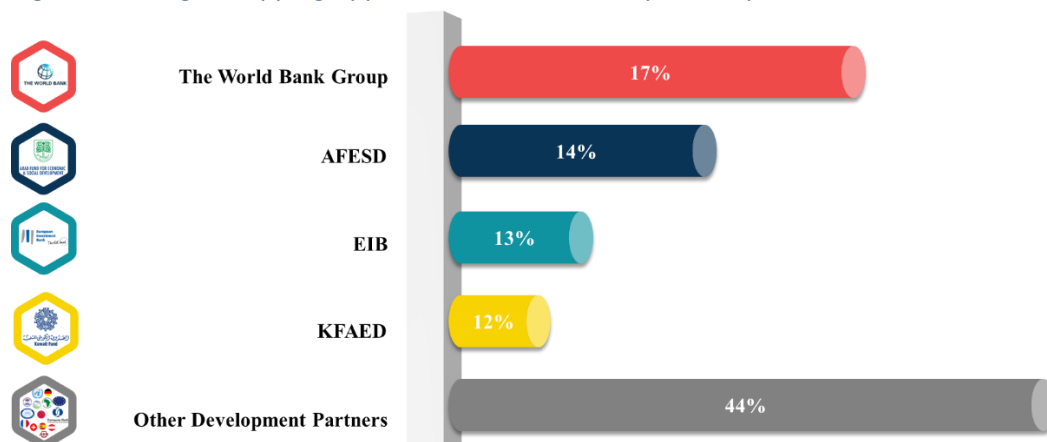
In recent years, the government of Egypt has exerted significant efforts to reinforce the water sector and address existing challenges. This is signaled by Egypt’s on-track progress towards SDG 6 as of 2020 (United Nations, 2020). Understanding that the needs of its growing population will place further demand on water resources, the government embarked in 2017 on efforts to more efficiently manage Egypt’s water resources. Monitoring water pollution levels in the Nile has also been part of these initiatives with the installation of 21 monitoring stations to monitor “*both the quality of (the Nile River) and quality of direct industrial wastewater released into the river*”. This number is expected to increase more than four-fold to 95 stations by 2030. Other noteworthy endeavors have included awareness campaigns that promote water-use sustainability, conducted by state bodies such as Egypt's Holding Company for Water and Wastewater (HCWW). Work is also underway to transform the irrigation system in Egypt into a drip system.

1.8.1 Single Mapping Approach

In tandem with the government’s focus on this SDG is the attention and interest of Egypt’s development partners. This is exemplified by the number of partners engaged in this group of projects, coupled with the contribution of value. A total of 18 development partners comprised of national governments, bilateral and multilateral organizations, have contributed financial assistance towards 43 projects that directly that promote this goal, worth a total of US\$ 5 billion. With a share of 17 percent of the ODA finances towards SDG 6, Figure 38 shows that the WBG is the largest benefactor. The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) comes next with 14 percent, followed by the EIB with 13 percent, and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development with 12 percent. Projects financed by development partners aim mainly to support the government’s efforts to extend clean water and sanitation networks to underprivileged urban as well as rural areas.

US\$ 5 billion financed **43 projects directly** contributing to **SDG 6.**

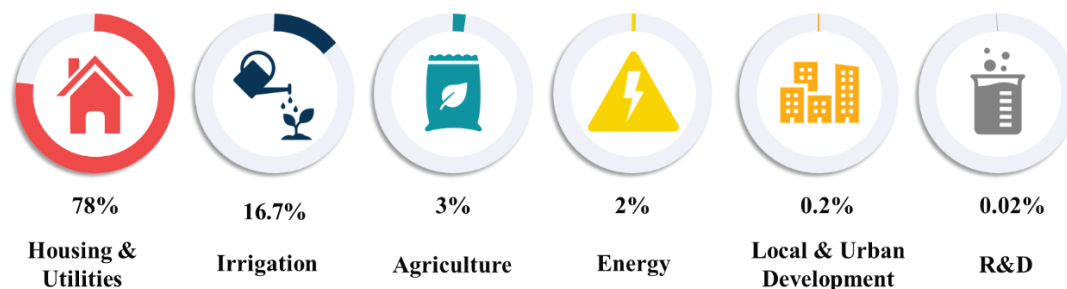
Figure 38 : Single Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 6



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

At a sectoral level, Figure 39 shows that the Housing and Utilities sector receives 79 percent of finances contributing to SDG 6. ODA projects in this sector include all activities pertaining to the extension and rehabilitation of clean water networks, and sewage systems as well as water desalination facilities. These projects help extend connections to deprived and underserved governorates and villages that provide clean potable water and sanitation networks to people. The projects support the development and implementation of government programs including the Sustainable Rural Sanitation Services Program, the Water and Wastewater Services Program, the extension of Potable Water to Villages in Sinai, and the National Drainage Program, in addition to wastewater treatment projects and water desalination plants.

Figure 39: Single Mapping Approach –Financial Contribution by Sector to SDG 6



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

As Figure 39 shows, Housing and Utilities is followed by the Irrigation sector with 17 percent of the funds under SDG 6. The Irrigation projects target improving supply of water to agriculture to support natural resource preservation, constructing, and rehabilitating barrages and upgrading agriculture drainage systems. The sectors of Agriculture and Energy receive 5 percent of total

funds to SDG 6 with the aim of establishing and rehabilitating water pumping stations that support agricultural sector expansion.

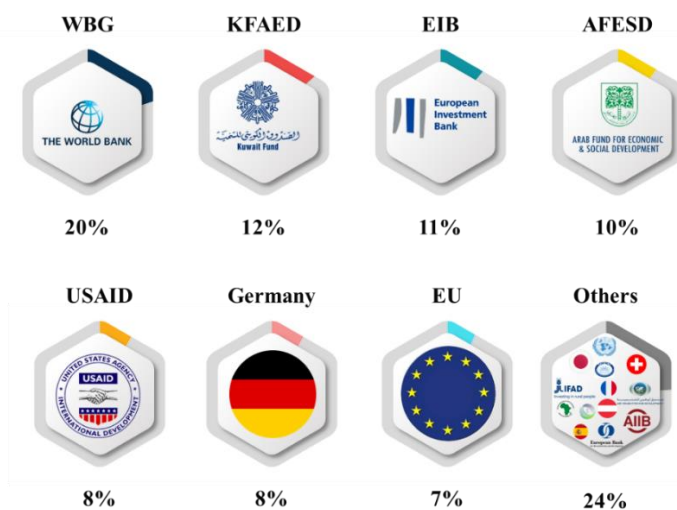
1.8.2 Multiple Mapping Approach

There are 60 ODA projects that contribute to clean water and sanitation, whether directly or indirectly, with total allocated funds worth US\$ 6.75 Billion.

US\$ 6.75 billion financed **60 projects** contributing to **SDG 6 as a cross-cutting theme.**

While 74 percent of the total funds received to support SDG 6 is devoted to projects that directly promote the goal, the remaining 26 percent finance 12 projects that include SDG 6 as one of their objectives. Again, using the multiple SDG mapping approach, the WBG was the highest contributing development partner to SDG 6 with 20 percent of the total funds as shown in Figure 40. The WBG was followed by KFAED, EIB and AFESD contributions, representing 12 percent, 11 percent and 10 percent of total funds, respectively. For SDG 6, the multiple mapping approach did not differ greatly from the single mapping compared to other SDGs that represent cross-cutting themes, such as No Poverty, Gender Equality and Reduced Inequality. This makes sense as SDG 6 is closely linked to a sector where its contributions may not be diluted much among other objectives. The main additions of the projects that were added to SDG 6 under the multiple mapping approach are ones that identified the sectors of agricultural or industrial development as their main objectives, where water resources are much needed to ensure efficient and sustainable capacities of production. Meanwhile, some projects in the electricity sector provide energy for water pumping facilities.

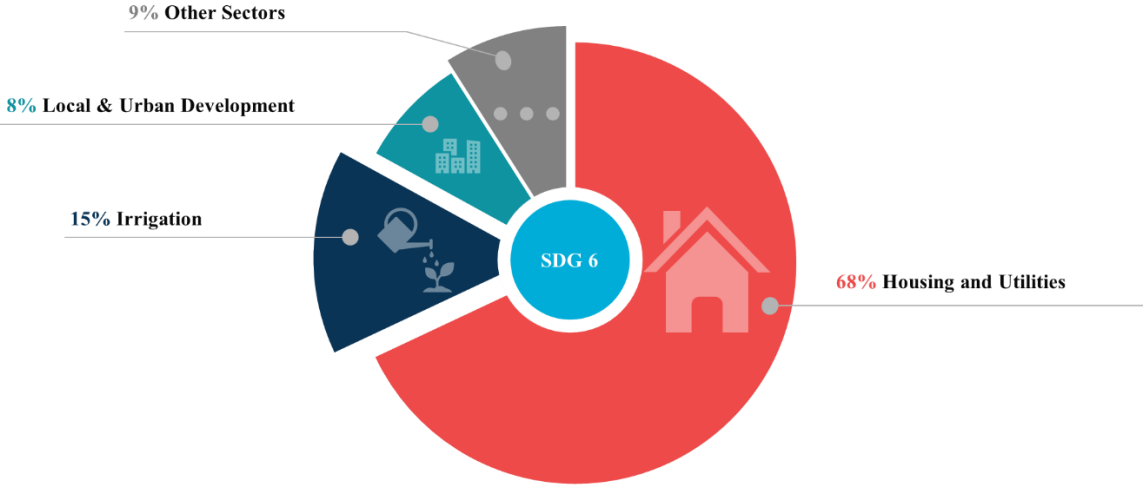
Figure 40: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 6



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Figure 41 depicts the contribution of different sectors to the realization of SDG 6 through the multiple mapping approach. The findings are similar to the single mapping approach, with the Housing and Utilities sector receiving 68 percent of the total funds directed to this SDG as it includes projects that extend water and sanitation networks in different governorates. The Irrigation sector received 15 percent of the total funds to Goal 6. The role of Clean Water and Sanitation in the Agriculture sector is often particularly cited in academic literature as it improves agricultural productivity, supports food security and aids in making crops less vulnerable to dry weather conditions. (Ddiba, Bhattacharya, Kimanzu, Andersson, & Dickin, 2017).

Figure 41: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Sector to SDG 6



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Examining linkages, Figure 42 reflects how SDG 6 is connected with all other SDGs. The highest frequency of projects reporting a direct connection with SDG 6 was with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). This connection is not surprising as the efficiency of water, sanitation and hygiene systems is correlated with urban development, including waste management efficiency (HLPF, 2018) both in number of projects as well as amount of financing. SDG 11 urges accessibility to safe and affordable housing and basic services, which are positively affected by SDG 6 through the increase in access to sanitation and drinking water, adequate to human use (UNESCAP, 2018). SDG 11 also enhances efforts to decrease disasters, especially those related to water; hence, investing in water infrastructure (SDG 6) will enhance the resilience of the sector (SDG 11) (Dickin, Bayoumi, Gine, Andersson, & Jimenez, 2020). A close link between the number of projects targeting both SDG 6 and SDG 3 is consistent with the findings under SDG 3, where the extension of clean water and sanitation networks was shown to have direct effect on the enhanced health and well-being of beneficiaries.

Figure 42: Multiple Mapping - Relationship between SDG 6 and Other SDGs



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

An interesting finding is the high frequency of projects reporting SDG 6 and SDG 13 as their objectives. Climate change is known to have a direct impact on water resources. Its adverse effects, if not addressed, make safe drinking water scarcer, which puts stress on water availability, reduces the quality of water and may even increase its price (SWA, 2019). However, the objectives of projects under SDG 6 can have adverse effects on SDG 13 if not carefully addressed. Water treatment and sewage systems are reported to consume high levels of energy and contribute to greenhouse-gas emissions (Dickin, Bayoumi, Gine, Andersson, & Jimenez, 2020). Meanwhile, according to the UN (2020), mitigation policies to climate change can hinder access to water and sanitation, and the UN consequently recommends taking this perspective into account in tailoring related policies (United Nations, 2020). Therefore, the improvement of water and sanitation networks, if well designed, can have a vital role in promoting sustainable economy with a low carbon emission.

As for the relationship between SDG 6 and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), Clean Water aims to provide water and sanitation services for all, which implies that the establishment of a sustainable infrastructure and the investment in water treatment and management system as well as in drinking water systems are directly linked to SDG 9 (pS-Eau, 2018).

Box 1: El-Fayoum Wastewater Expansion Project-Partnership for Goal 6



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation

1.9 Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Investing in solar, wind and thermal power; improving energy productivity; and ensuring adequate energy for all is the seventh SDG. Affordable and Clean Energy is ubiquitous to a modern economy from manufacturing or agriculture to healthcare (Keim, Pastukhova, Voss, & Westphal, 2019). Goal 7 aims to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”, and sets out targets to: ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services; increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix; and double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency, all by 2030.



Goal 7 aims to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”, and sets out targets to: ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services; increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix; and double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency, all by 2030.

Egypt’s commitment to progress towards Clean and Affordable Energy is an integral part of the country’s Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) (Egypt Vision 2030, 2015). With the sector representing approximately 13.9 percent of GDP, and in order to meet the growing demand for energy, the Egyptian government has accordingly created an enabling roadmap vis-a-vis 2035 Integrated Sustainable Energy Strategy. The strategy aims to diversify energy sources to ensure the stability of energy supply in a reliable, efficient and eco-friendly manner. Despite the measurable strides by the government to transform a high percentage of energy production

towards renewable energy, non-renewable resources such as fossil fuels still account for 90 percent of the power supply. Natural gas and oil comprise the majority of the sector (International Energy Agency, 2020). Still, the government of Egypt is determined to capitalize on untapped resources and high deployment potential such as land and high wind speeds, which make the country a prime location for generating renewable energy to achieve the strategy's ambitious targets of diversifying its energy mix. By 2022, the Government aims to generate 20 percent of its power from renewable energy sources, with wind providing 12 percent, hydropower 5.8 percent, and solar 2.2 percent of the country's power. Renewable energy is targeted to represent 42.5 percent of the country's power by 2035 (IRENA, 2018). On the policy side, the government of Egypt has carried out a number of substantial reforms relating to energy subsidies and the implementation of a feed-in tariff regulation. In tandem with the government's strategies, the Ministry mobilizes large investments, by way of international development partners, which are devoted towards the renewable energy sector to promote the production of less costly components. With such a robust reform toolkit, it is thus appropriate that Egypt's performance and progress towards Goal 7 was reported in 2020 as moderately improving. (United Nations, 2020)

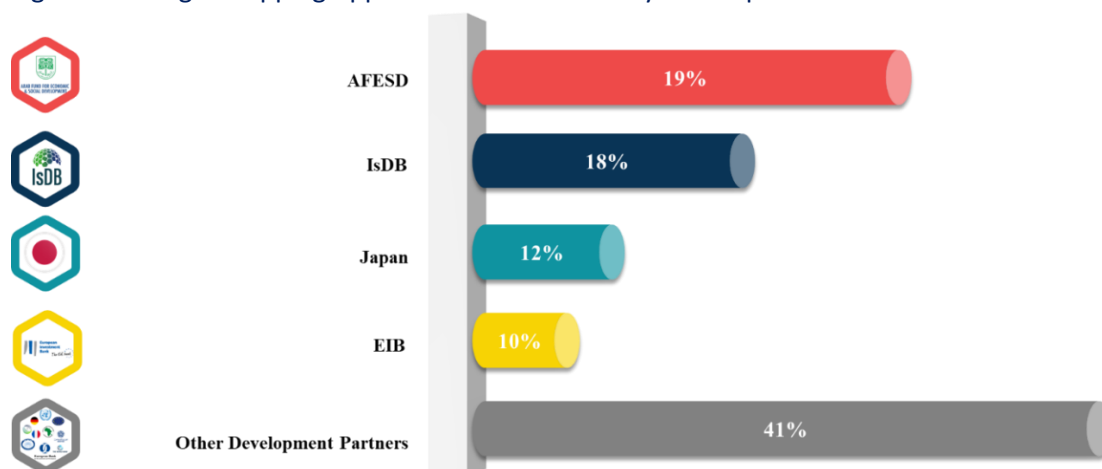
1.9.1 Single Mapping Approach

There are 34 projects that identify SDG 7 as their main objective with a total amount of USD\$ 6 billion. This value represents 23 percent of the total ODA portfolio, making energy the second highest recipient of ODA finances in Egypt. Figure 43 depicts the share of each development partner in total funds directed to projects

US\$ 6 billion financed **34 projects directly** contributing to **SDG 7.**

targeting SDG7, where the top three development partners include the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and Japan, with shares of 19 percent, 18 percent and 12 percent, respectively. The EIB and the EBRD follow next with shares of 10 percent and 9 percent, respectively. Although, the listed development partners are the highest contributors to current Projects under SDG 7, clean and affordable energy is a main priority for ODA cooperation with many other partners, including the Kuwait Fund for Economic and Social Development (KFAED), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the World Bank Group (WBG), Germany, France, the European Union (EU), the OPEC Fund for Development (OFID) and the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD).

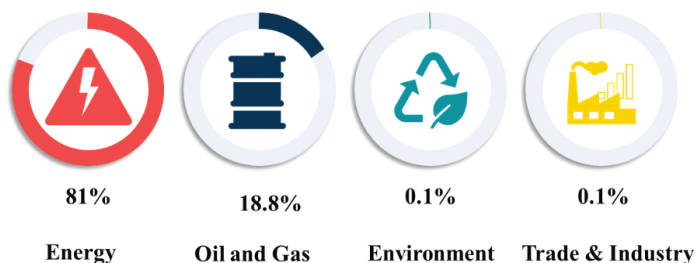
Figure 43 : Single Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 7



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Projects that target this SDG under the single mapping approach are concentrated in the Electricity and Renewable Energy, the Oil and Gas and the Research and Development sectors (Figure 44). Electricity and Renewable Energy receives a total of US\$ 4.8 billion in projects that aim to achieve clean and affordable energy. Projects under this Goal support the country’s plan to expand Egypt’s reliance on renewable energy sources, including solar and wind plants. They also target establishing, rehabilitating and upgrading the capacity of electricity production in the country, in addition to improving the efficiency of electricity transmission and the enhanced capacities of the electricity regulatory framework. Oil and Gas sector comes second with more than US\$ 1 billion to support projects mainly extending natural gas networks to households and production facilities. The Environment and the Trade and Industry sectors follow next with US\$ 5 million and US\$ 4 million, respectively. Projects aimed at these sectors encourage transformation to the use of renewable energy and reduced gas emissions in industrial facilities.

Figure 44: Single Mapping Approach –Financial Contribution by Sector to SDG 7

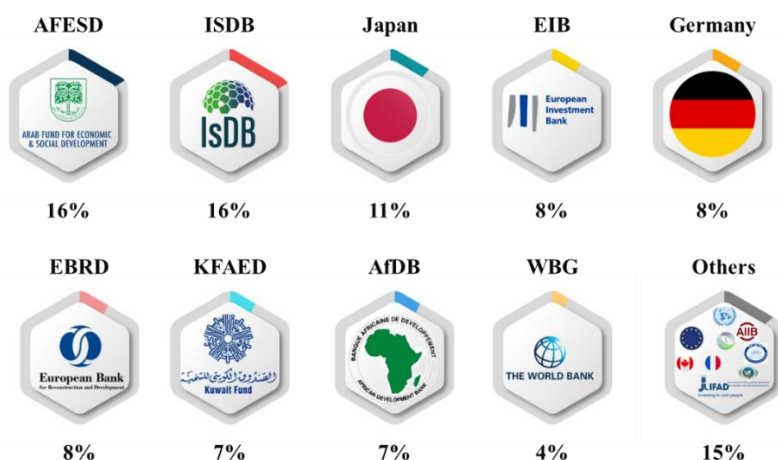


Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

1.9.2 Multiple Mapping Approach

When examining the share of funds received that indirectly impact progress towards SDG 7 (Figure 45), the AFESD and IsDB are responsible for 16 percent each, while Japan, the EIB, Germany and the EBRD are also benefactors with shares of 11 percent, 8.9 percent, 8.5 percent and 8.4 percent, respectively. As with SDG 6, SDG 7 does not have wide discrepancies between the single mapping and the multiple mapping approaches regarding the total amount of funds or the development partners contributing towards the projects that are related to it. The main reason is that SDGs which represent specific sectoral objectives have clearer mapping outcomes that can be argued to be consistent across sectoral, single project or multiple projects mapping approaches. As explained under the sectoral mapping methodology, “*there will be sectors that lend themselves to more easily align and connect with their corresponding SDGs*” (United Nations, 2020), and Energy is clearly one of them.

Figure 45: Multiple Mapping Approach – Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 7



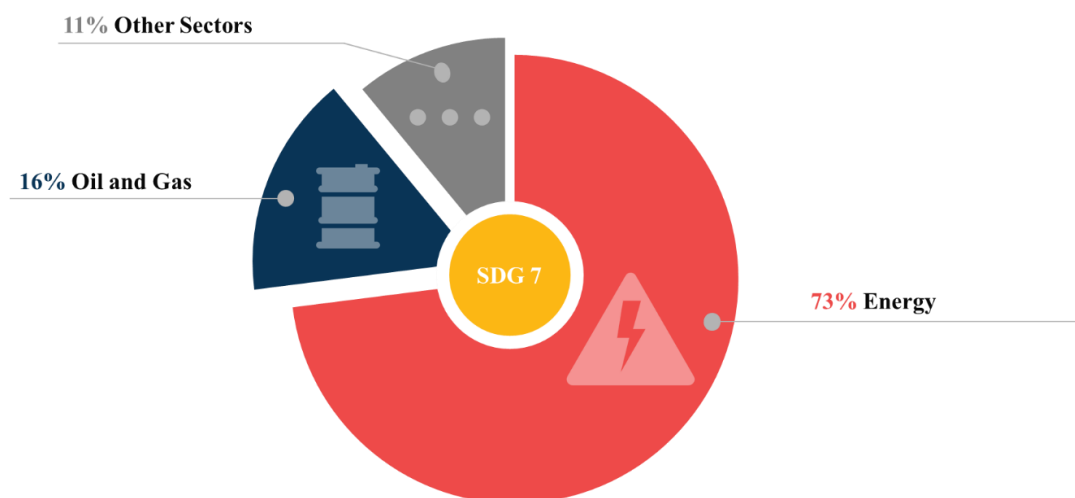
Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

As illustrated by Figure 46, the Electricity and Renewable Energy sector receives more than two thirds of funds (at 74 percent), while 17 percent is directed to projects in the Oil and Gas sector. Striking the balance between clean and affordable energy is indeed a major objective of the government of Egypt. The latest discoveries of natural gas, and the relative abundance in production has enabled the country to extend natural gas networks to households that used to rely on unsafe energy sources. The cost of natural gas is indeed lower than other available resources, thus ODA projects that help enhance accessibility and reliance on natural gas contribute to the “affordability” aspect of SDG 7. Parallel determined efforts are also in progress to capitalize on available renewable energy sources,

US\$ 6.7 billion financed **50 projects** contributing to **SDG 7** as a **cross-cutting theme**.

including wind and solar power. ODA projects support the government's expansion of wind and solar power plants, and are attracting private sector as well as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to increase production and substitution to renewable energy.

Figure 46: Multiple Mapping Approach – Contribution by Sector to SDG 7



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Other sectors that included Goal 7 amongst their objectives were in Housing and Utilities, Irrigation, and Agriculture. The last two clearly encourage farmers' use of renewable energy in water systems in central areas as well as on farm networks. Interestingly, few projects under the MSMEs sector are among those that indirectly contribute to SDG 7. Projects in those MSMEs and in the Trade and Industry sectors were reported to promote the usage of renewable energy sources and investment in green (renewable) energy by the private sector.

Regarding the relationship between SDG 7 and other SDGs, Figure 47 shows that Affordable and Clean Energy is correlated to all except SDG 15. The highest frequency was reported with SDGs 9, 12 and 13. It was obvious during SDG consultations with development partners (DPs) that there is consensus on the strong relations between SDG 7 and SDG 9. Some DPs developed coding systems that automatically map projects under the Energy sector to both SDG 7 and SDG 9. Renewable energy offers innovative solutions to increase the access to affordable electricity in rural and isolated areas (Raspaud, 2012), which contributes to the increase in the access to sustainable infrastructure by poor populations -- a main objective under Goal 9. Achieving SDG 7 will have co-benefits with SDG 9. Further, investing in renewable energy will contribute to the achievement of SDG 9 targets that promote sustainable infrastructure and sustainable industrialization (Nerini, et al., 2018). SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production) is also linked to improving energy efficiency, both in production and consumption patterns. Projects that target the reform of transmission grids, the use of new and renewable resources in energy

production and upgrading energy production facilities improve production and transmission efficiency. Meanwhile, projects that support the government in improving policies and regulations of electricity distribution and pricing encourage sustainable consumption.

Figure 47: Multiple Mapping - Relationship between SDG 7 and Other SDGs

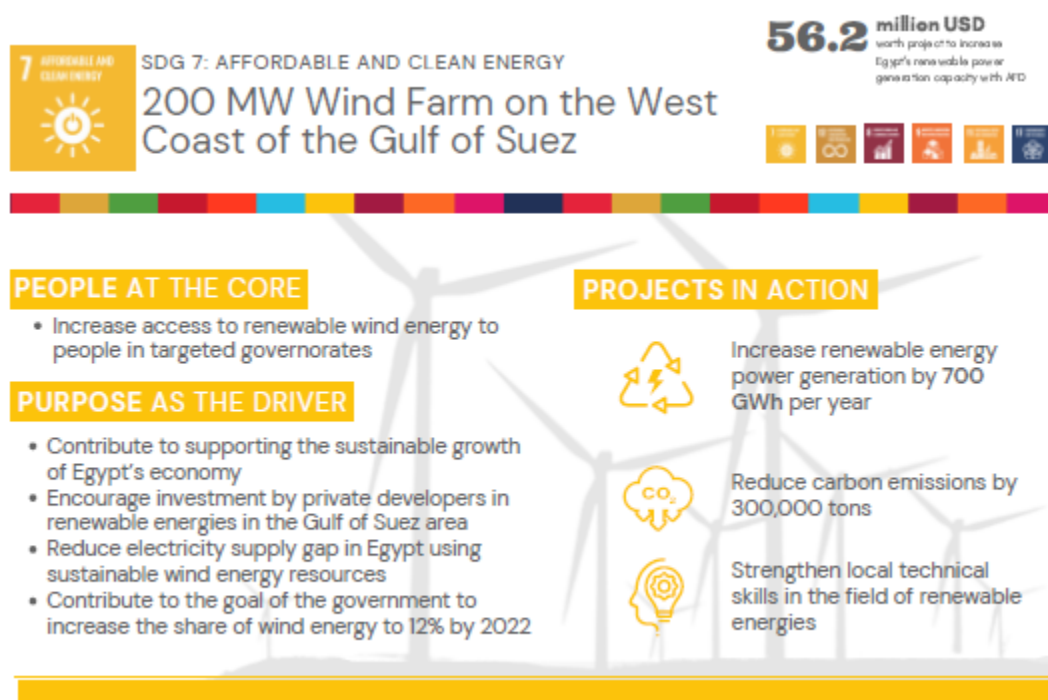


Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

It was not surprising that projects aimed at expanding renewable energy facilities and plants have a direct relationship to SDG13, as shifting the energy consumption pattern to renewable energy is a crucial step towards adapting to and mitigating climate change. Renewable energy projects are also in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement benchmark of 2 °C to 1.5 °C, as they are reliable sources of energy and have low carbon footprints. (Cedrá & Salaun (2019); (Nerini, et al. (2018)). In addition, increasing access to electricity and adopting effective energy-efficient policies (SDG 7.1 and SDG 7.3) are indispensable to diminishing energy demand (IRENA, 2019). On the other hand, the climate change action plan requires the decrease of the total greenhouse gas emissions per year (United Nations, 2020), which implies reduction in the use of carbon intensive energy sources and creating an energy supply that is mostly made of renewable sources of energy (IRENA, 2019)

Figure 47 also highlights the relationship between the amount of finances directed to SDG 11 and its direct influence on SDG 7. SDG 11.b states that by 2020, the number of cities which adopt resource efficiency and climate change mitigation and adaptation policies should increase (United Nations, 2020). Accordingly, increasing the share of renewable energy in the energy mix and improving energy efficiency will contribute to the achievement of SDG 11 (Nerini, et al., 2018).

Box 7: Gulf of Suez Wind Farm Project- Partnership for Goal 7



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation

1.10 Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth



“Decent work sums up the aspirations of people in their working lives. It involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.” (International Labour Organization (ILO), n.d.)

Eradicating extreme poverty requires the identification of root causes. A recent report by the ILO indicates that while *“the annual growth rate of the number of working poor in the world has been consistently negative since 2001, the decrease has slowed down considerably since 2016, and this slow-down is projected to continue in the next few years”* (International Labour Organization (ILO), 2019). Moreover, the working poverty rate has been increasing in the Arab States since 2010 (International Labour Organization (ILO), 2019). With the onslaught of negative impacts during the COVID-19 pandemic, this trend is only anticipated to worsen.

Simply stated, SDG 8 aims to address rising inequalities and employment creation that is not keeping pace with a growing labor force. The goal is simultaneously an instrument, a vector and a necessary pathway towards sustainable economic growth. Goal 8 is thus both a means and an end to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and working opportunities for all. SDG 8 is comprised of eight targets that pertain to sustainable economic growth: economic productivity; job creation; resource efficiency in consumption and production; equal pay; youth employment, training and education; the eradication of child labor, trafficking and modern day slavery; and promotion of labor rights and safer working environments.

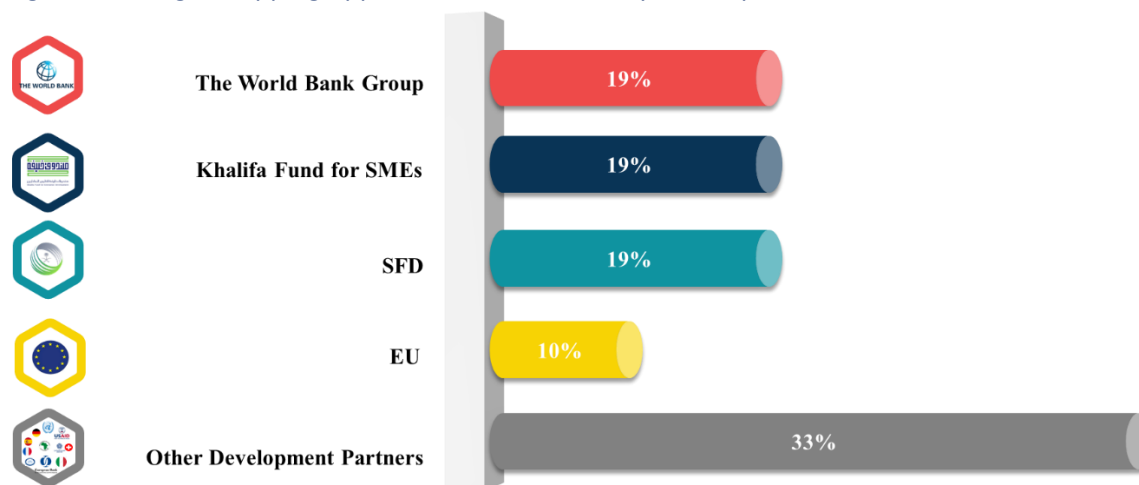
Beginning in 2016, the Egyptian economy has experienced a substantial recovery in growth following the successful implementation of major economic reforms. Still, despite this progress, youth and female unemployment remain a concern. The government of Egypt has prioritized addressing this issue by supporting small- and medium-sized enterprises and by improving financial inclusion for vulnerable populations. In 2020, Egypt was reported as on track in maintaining progress towards SDG 8.

1.10.1 Single Mapping Approach

The current active ODA portfolio includes 42 projects directly contributing to SDG 8. These projects are worth more than US\$ 1 Billion. As shown in Figure 48, 60 percent of funds that promote this SDG 8 are contributed equally by the WBG, the Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development and the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), with each at 19 percent. Other benefactors to SDG 8 include the EU, Germany, Italy, USAID, France, and UN organizations.

US\$ 1 billion financed **42 projects directly** contributing to **SDG 8.**

Figure 48 : Single Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 8

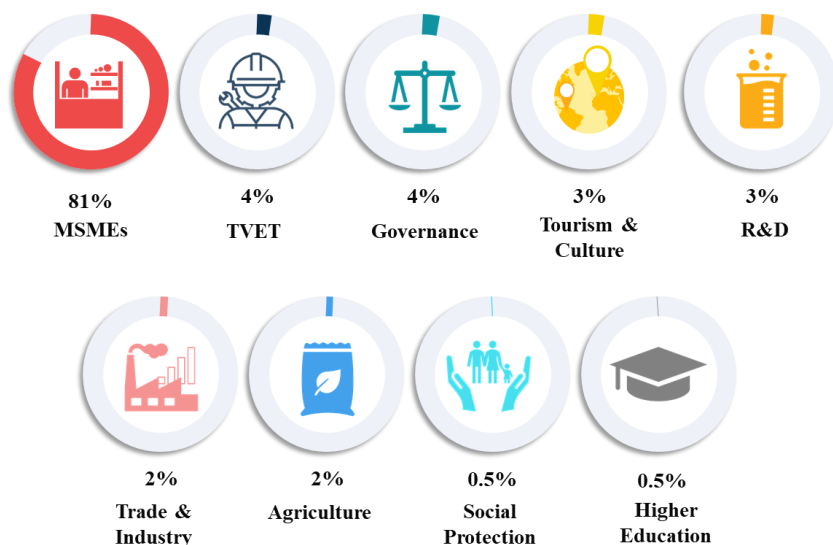


Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

It is worth noting that the projects of the UN organizations identifying SDG 8 as their primary objective contribute to 5 percent of the total finances directed to this goal. UNDP contributes primarily to this fund with 67 percent of the total UN allocation for projects targeting mainly enhancing government capacities and promoting R&D. Other UN organizations include UNIDO, ILO, IOM and FAO, which are mainly focused on improving the conducive environment for MSMEs.

Generally, most projects aimed at SDG 8 fall within the MSMEs sector with US\$ 874 billion, and are focused on the provision of credit lines to expand access to finance and encourage small businesses to grow (Figure 49). The projects aim to catalyze job creation and encourage greater private sector participation in the MSME market. They also look to provide business and capacity development in the form of training, mentoring, coaching, and business development services to eligible MSMEs, with participating financial institutions (PFIs) thus creating an enabling business environment for small and medium-size enterprises and entrepreneurs. Other sectors that receive funds under SDG 8 include Technical and Vocational Training (TVET), Governance, Tourism and Culture, R&D, Trade and Industry, and Agriculture. These projects aim to encourage investments and business development within specific sectors.

Figure 49: Single Mapping Approach –Financial Contribution by Sector to SDG 8



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

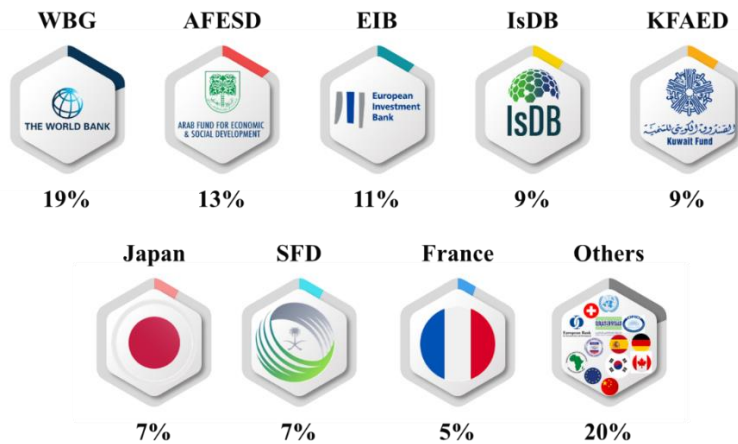
1.10.2 Multiple Mapping Approach

US\$ 10 billion financed **138 projects** contributing to **SDG 8 as a cross-cutting theme.**

Goal 8 is a cross-cutting topic underlying other goals as well as being intertwined with many targets across the 2030 Agenda. As such, the targets for Decent Work and Economic Growth are equally if not more impactful to progress on the overall Agenda when viewed as a coherent set so as to paint a comprehensive picture.

Under the multiple mapping approach, projects that contribute to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) as part of their objectives totaled 138, across almost all sectors. In other terms, US\$ 10 billion from development partners are devoted towards the promotion of a more enabling and productive labor environment. Figure 50 shows that the WBG provides the largest contribution of funds that target SDG 8 as a cross-cutting theme through different sectors, at 19 percent. Projects financed by the WBG include the Strengthening Social Safety Nets Project, which in addition to supporting ongoing efforts to expand and improve Egypt’s social safety nets also facilitates access to economic opportunities that focus specifically on women and youth. The second largest share of finances is EIB, with 13 percent of funds that highlight SDG 8 as one of their objectives. EIB’s funding can be found mostly targeted towards the Transport sector with projects such as Cairo Metro Line Upgrading and Renovation to support the public transport system in the capital and upgrade existing infrastructure in order to meet the capacity and passenger demands of the coming years, which will significantly improve connectivity, mobility and thus economic opportunities.

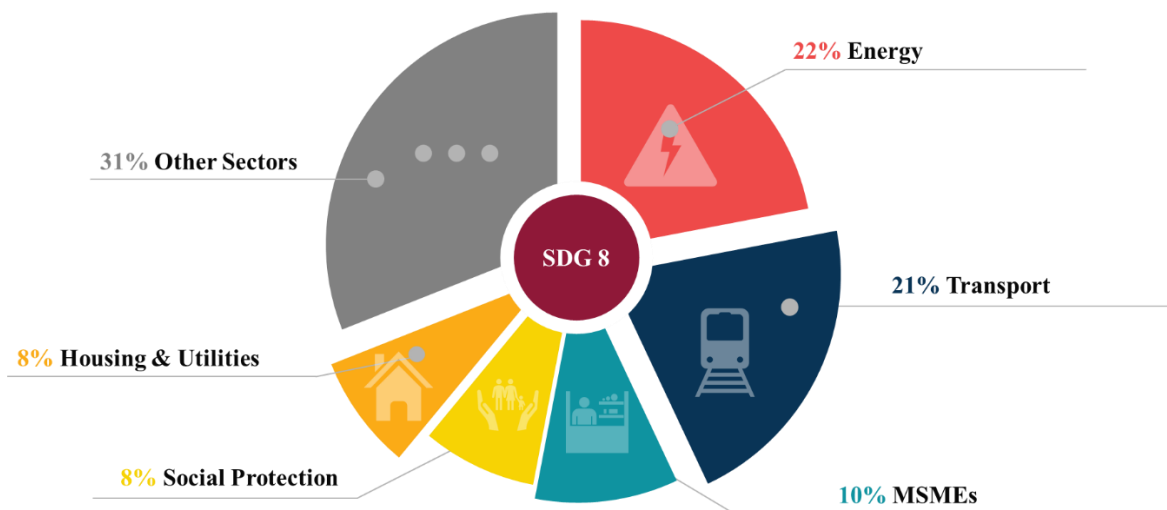
Figure 50: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 8



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Figure 51 shows the breakdown with the Energy and Transport sectors receiving the highest share of funds that contribute among their activities to SDG 8, at 22 percent and 21 percent respectively. There is a direct link between improving infrastructure and enhancing economic performance as well-developed transportation modalities as well as reliable energy are key factors in supporting economic activities, attracting foreign investments and providing mobility for individuals as well as businesses. Next, the infrastructure sector follows with projects that provide finances and technical support to MSMEs, accounting for 10 percent of ODA targeting SDG 8 under the multiple mapping approach. Projects in the Housing and Utilities and Social Protection sectors received 16 percent of the combined total of ODA in this SDG. The projects identify the provision of job opportunities as well as enhanced economic performance as part of their objectives. Similarly, the Irrigation, Local and Urban Development and Tourism sectors directly contributed to enhanced economic activities.

Figure 51: Multiple Mapping Approach – Contribution by Sector to SDG 8



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

It is not surprising to find connections between SDG 8 and all other Goals (Figure 52). The highest frequency of reported projects to have a direct link with SDG 8 were projects in Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. Goal 9 aims at enhancing access of small enterprises and businesses to efficient and inclusive financial services (SDG 9.3), which will in turn support the growth and formation of MSMEs, create sustainable job opportunities and contribute to economic growth and development (SDG 8) (IISD SDG Knowledge Hub , 2017). Moreover, the availability and enhancement of physical infrastructure affects business activities as it improves accessibility, reduces cost of mobility and enable access to economic opportunities (Etim & Daramola, 2020). Furthermore, investment in inclusive infrastructure and industrialization increases productivity and strengthens economic growth (Nilsson, 2016).

It is worth noting that SDG 8 and SDG 11 are interlinked both in the frequency of projects reporting both Goals as their targets, and in the amount of finance identified. The notion of sustainable cities has a significant effect on economic performance as creating quality life conditions for people provides the right foundation for better productivity and increased economic benefits. Sustainable cities become competitive in attracting smart and diverse workforce, which works as a catalyst for corporations and productions. Such factors will further boost economic growth and will provide decent employment opportunities (Kennan & Busch, 2016). Reductions in air pollutant emissions brought about by sustainable practices of cities benefit their residents amidst the rapidly developing and transitional economies (Nilsson, et al., 2018).

Another prominent link occurs between SDGs 8 and 13. The increasing demand for environment-friendly practices in all sectors will create new job opportunities and wealth through investment in renewable energy, water treatment and waste management (Everett, Ishwaran, Ansaloni, &

Rubin, 2010). Arguably, however, economic development can have adverse effects on environmental sustainability, due to harmful emissions, consumption of energy and hazardous practices (Yang, Yuan, & Sun, 2012). Therefore, projects that report both SDGs 8 and 13 amongst their objectives reflect mindful design toward environmentally sustainable growth and consequently sustainable development.

Figure 52: Multiple Mapping - Relationship between SDG 8 and Other SDGs



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Box 8: Supporting Micro-Enterprises Project-Partnership for Goal 8



SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
Supporting Micro Enterprises

200 million USD
worth for project development
implemented by MSMEDA with
Khalifa Fund for Enterprise
Development



PEOPLE AT THE CORE



252,717
financed projects across all
governorates of Egypt

PROJECTS IN ACTION

- Provision of sustainable financial facility to eligible Microenterprises.
- Targeting different sectors in including: Industrial, Agribusiness & Animal Production, Service, Commercial and other

PURPOSE AS THE DRIVER

- Reduce the poverty, boost economic growth and job creation
- Improve living standards of the most vulnerable population (in particular, women and youth)
- Target the most marginalized geographic areas

Source: Ministry of International Cooperation

1.11 Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Resilient infrastructure and innovative industrialization are an engine for sustainable economic growth, social development and climate action. As such, SDG 9 mandates the investment in these crucial drivers and the promotion of technological innovation that can support the realization of other SDGs such as those pertaining to Good Health and Well-Being (SDG 3), Quality Education (SDG 4), and Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6).



Egypt has made notable strides in the provision of infrastructure in all areas, including transportation, telecommunication, power generation, and water and sanitation. This is the fruition of targeted and purposeful investment reforms. Over the past five years, Egypt has invested around USD\$ 61.4 billion in infrastructure to connect governorates, and enhance accessibility and mobility of goods (OECD, 2019). As evidence of progress, Egypt's most recent performance in the Global Competitiveness Index was improved by four spots in the Infrastructure pillar from 56 to 52 out of 141 countries (Klaus Schwab, World Economic Forum, 2019). Transport and utility infrastructure also showed progress across the board for indicators of road connectivity, quality of road infrastructure, line shipping connectivity, efficiency of air transport as well as seaport services and exposure to unsafe drinking water. On the regulatory front, at the outset of 2018, the country enacted the Civil Service Reform Law, which aimed to cut the large public sector wage bill, alongside a number of legislations designed to remove investment barriers, including the Industrial Licensing Law, the Investment Law and the Company Law.

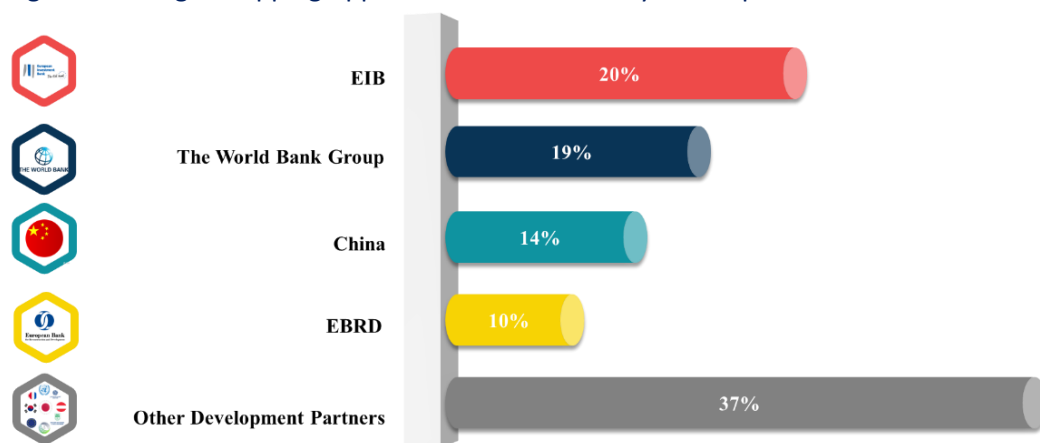
While continuing efforts on those fronts, the government of Egypt also prioritizes outstanding gaps looking forward. One such area is the anticipated financing gap in infrastructure, which was estimated in 2018 by the G20's Global Infrastructure Outlook to be US\$ 230 billion in order to meet the projected US\$ 675 billion that the country will require through 2038. Indeed, the transport sector alone accounts for US\$ 180 billion of the total investment gap, while water infrastructure requires over US\$ 45 billion, and the oil and gas sectors will require investments between US\$ 11 and 16 billion (World Bank, 2018). As such, the government of Egypt's ambitious economic reform agenda includes driving private sector-led growth and spurring job creation by attracting substantial new investment across high-potential economic sectors. Included in Goal 9 targets are increased credit access to small-scale enterprises and the provision of financial, technological and technical support to African countries (United Nations, 2020). Towards that end, support to MSMEs has also been crucial for Egypt. The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) and the Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA) focus on innovating the country's financial infrastructure to increase access to finance, and to accommodate the growing demand for diversified financing products. Egypt's progress towards SDG 9 remains stagnant as per the latest UNDP Sustainable Development Report (United Nations, 2020).

1.11.1 Single Mapping Approach

There are currently 36 ODA financed projects that mainly contribute to SDG 9 with a combined value of US\$ 5.7 billion, representing 20 percent of total ODA finances. Figure 53 reveals the share of contributions of each development partner with almost two thirds of the funds allocated coming from four partners: EIB, WBG, China and EBRD. Next, France, Japan and KFAED each represent 8 percent of total funds, followed by Korea with 7 percent. Most of the projects mapped under Goal 9 under the single mapping approach are projects in the transport sector, which constitutes 18.5 percent of all current ODA finances to Egypt.

US\$ 5.7 billion
financed **36 projects**
directly contributing
to **SDG 9.**

Figure 53 : Single Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 9

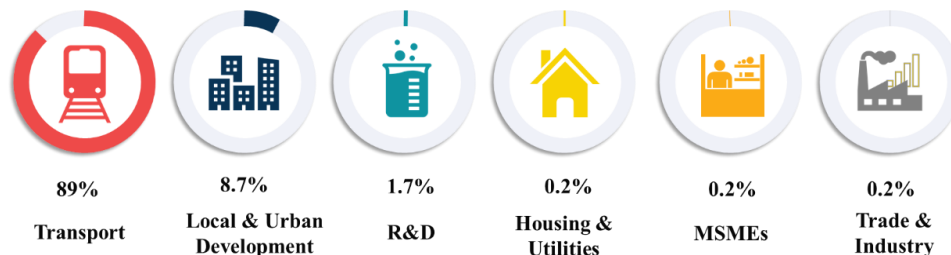


Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

These projects, which are mostly concentrated in the transport sector with 89 percent of the financing under this goal, as shown in Figure 54. The Local and Urban Development and R&D sectors follow with shares of 9 percent and 2 percent, respectively. During the Ministry's consultations with development partners, there was consensus that all transportation projects are automatically linked to this Goal, as available and affordable public infrastructure to enhance mobility and well-being is clearly stated as a target. Meanwhile, improving access to finance for small and medium enterprises at large, and for those in the industrial sector specifically is also amongst this Goal's targets. It was however debatable whether projects directly aiming at financial inclusion would be linked to SDG 9 or SDG 8. Using the single mapping approach, projects that provided direct finances for MSMEs were linked to SDG 8 while projects aimed at improving industrialization in specific were linked to SDG 9, though their share in the total

finances to this Goal was only 1 percent. Under the multiple mapping approach, however, these projects were linked to both goals.

Figure 54: Single Mapping Approach –Financial Contribution by Sector to SDG 9



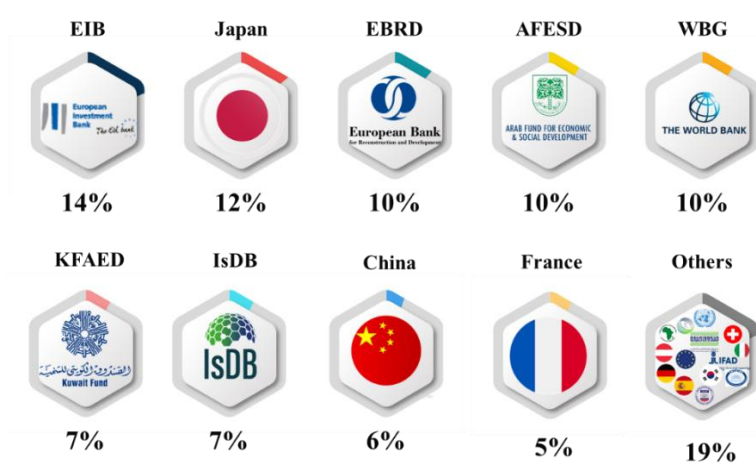
Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

1.11.2 Multiple Mapping Approach

More than 60 percent of projects that are connected to SDG 9 are through cross-cutting projects that impact other SDGs. When the source of funds by development partners is distilled in Figure 55, more than half of total funds that consider SDG 9 amongst their Goals come by way of five main partners: the EIB and Japan with shares of 14 percent respectively; followed by WBG, AFESD and EBRD, which provide a share of 10 percent each. Other development partners with a long history and commitment towards supporting government efforts in improving infrastructure networks are KFAED, IsDB, China and France.

US\$ 13 billion financed **118 projects** contributing to **SDG 9** as a **cross-cutting theme**

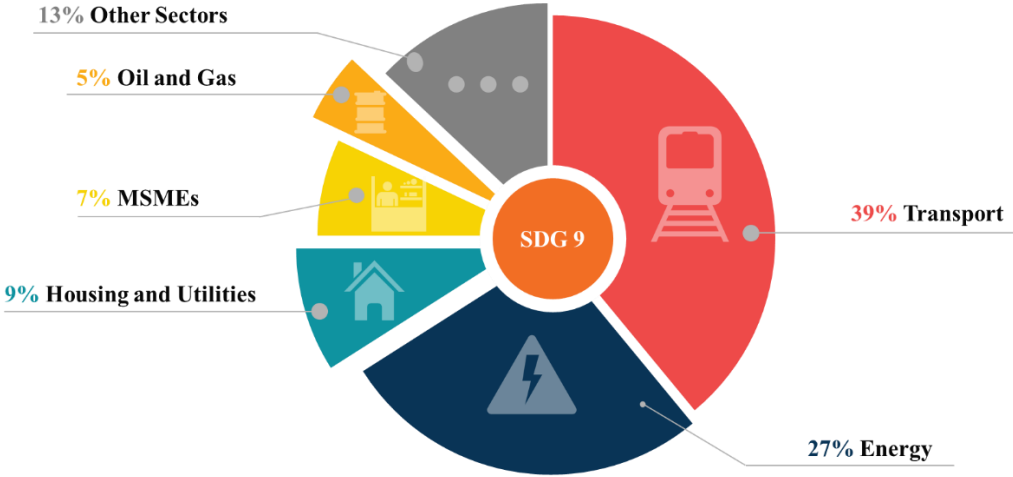
Figure 55: Multiple Mapping Approach – Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 9



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

The 118 projects that contribute to SDG 9 are valued at US\$ 13 billion, with more than one third of the projects concentrated in the transport sector (39 percent) (Figure 56). Projects in the transportation sector target a wide variety of transportation modalities. The railway system is one of the relatively most affordable transportation modalities that connect different governorates across the country, enabling individual mobility and enhancing economic opportunities. ODA projects augment government plans to upgrade the railway system, improve its security and modernize the signaling system. Metro lines across greater Cairo and its suburbs are also supported and expanded through projects under this goal in addition to enhancing river transportation as well as different types of ports. Adopting a wider definition of infrastructure, where energy, water and sanitation, oil and gas and similar sectors are involved in addition to transportation, the multiple mapping approach included a wider portfolio of projects that contribute to improving Egypt’s infrastructure. The Energy, Housing and Utilities and MSMEs followed next with 27 percent, 9 percent and 7 percent respectively; while the Oil & Gas sectors received 5 percent. This is not surprising since these sectors are directly related to infrastructure and industrialization.

Figure 56: Multiple Mapping Approach – Contribution by Sector to SDG 9



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

As for correlation to other goals, SDG 9 has connections with all except Goal 15, as shown in Figure 57. The highest frequency of linkages is with SDG 8, as the availability of physical infrastructure affects business activities. Based on Etim & Daramola (2020), the enhanced accessibility and affordability of infrastructure help businesses increase their productivity, and also encourages informal activities to move into the formal sector, thus contributing to economic growth. Furthermore, investment in inclusive infrastructure and industrialization development supports productivity increases, which in turn, strengthen economic growth (IISD SDG Knowledge Hub , 2017). The second visible relationship is between SDG 9 and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and

Communities), in both the number of projects and the financial contributions. Sustainable infrastructure is vital to urban as well as rural development. Accessibility to safe and affordable public transportation networks are targets under Goal 9, and also contribute to the sustainability of cities and communities as Goal 11 calls for “*access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons*” (United Nations, 2020).

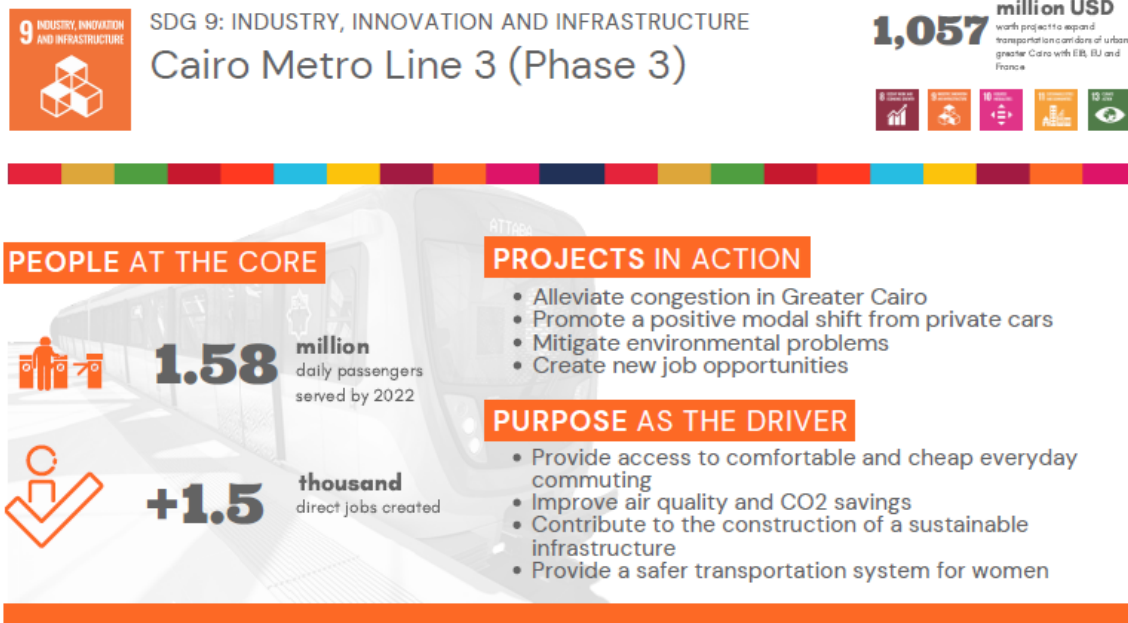
Figure 57: Multiple Mapping - Relationship between SDG 9 and Other SDGs



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Another obvious link is between SDG 9 and SDG 13. This correlation reflects that a number of ODA projects that aim to upgrade and renew old infrastructure are also mindful not only of making this transition sustainable, but also of contributing to the fight against climate change. In order to mitigate and adapt to climate change, investment in low-carbon infrastructure is crucial, (IRENA 2019), and it also urges drastic climate change action in all sectors, including urban infrastructure and industrial systems (IRENA, 2019).

Box 9: Cairo Metro Line 3-Partnership for Goal 9



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation

1.12 Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities



SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) is one of the more complex goals as it highlights the rampant and persistent impacts of inequality across developing as well as developed countries. SDG 10 promotes sustainable income growth; social, economic and political inclusion; social protection; and improved regulatory structures to monitor financial markets. Furthermore, with ten targets, this goal continues to face numerous challenges as it encapsulates the idea that inequality is not just pervasive as an outcome but also results from unequal disbursement and availability of opportunities. (Sieler, 2016) This has only become more so the case in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to “*expose the fragilities and inequalities of (our) societies*” (UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, 2020).

Despite promising and consistent economic growth, Egypt continues to grapple with a number of inequities, including rising poverty, at 32.5 percent in 2018 according to CAMPAS, a 5 percent increase from 2015. Other inequities include gender-based gaps between men and women in areas such as employment, and education; age-based inequities between “young people and older generations, urban and rural communities, those with disabilities and those without, and among different regions in Egypt” (Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform,

2018), Upper Egypt in particular having the country’s highest poverty rates and lowest levels of access to and quality of services.

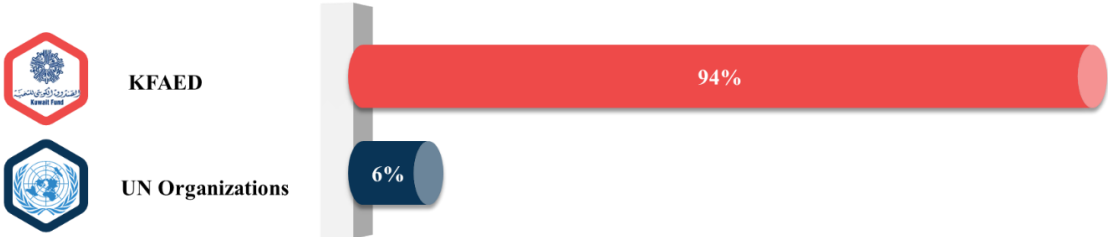
The government of Egypt has prioritized social justice and equality as part of its Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS). Programs under this pillar include a thorough review of laws that support social justice; the institutionalization of partnerships between government and civil society; development of authorities that are concerned with transparency and integrity; improvement and expansion of social protection systems; reduction of gaps among different social and economic groups; and achievement of balanced geographical distribution of the population. (Egypt Vision 2030, 2015)

1.12.1 Single Mapping Approach

Following the single SDG mapping approach, only three projects directly and explicitly identify SDG 10 as their main objective. These projects, which are worth US\$ 16 million and represent only 0.1 percent of total ODA (across all SDGs), are funded by KFAED and UN organizations, contributing shares of 94 percent and 6 percent, respectively (Figure 58). The project financed by the KFAED aims to support the Syrian refugee community in Egypt to relieve socio-economic impacts in health, municipal services, water, and sanitation. Out of three sectors that the project spans – Health, Housing and Utilities, and Local and Urban Development – the vast majority of funds, at 93 percent, falls in the first two sectors. UN organizations contributing to this goal are IOM with 64 percent and UNICEF with 36 percent of UN finances.

US\$ 16 million financed
3 projects directly
contributing to **SDG 10.**

Figure 58 : Single Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 10

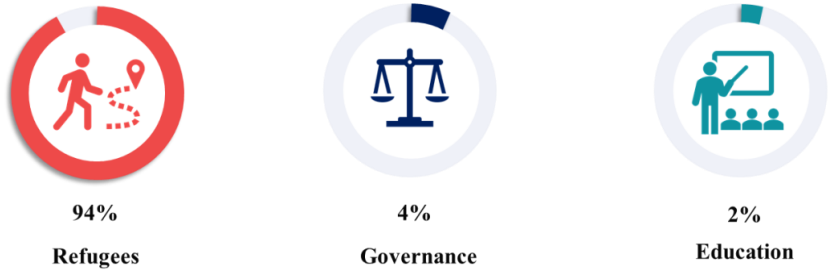


Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Arguably, all projects that target reduced poverty, enhanced infrastructure, connectivity and basic services essentially contribute to reducing inequalities. However, the targets and indicators identified under SDG 10 by the UN Global Indicator Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals give particular attention to migration and refugees’ regulations and inclusion. Therefore,

94 percent of the projects that considered SDG 10 as their primary objective were projects targeting refugee communities in Egypt as seen in Figure 59. Other projects under this goal that target the poor and promote inclusion included governance and education.

Figure 59: Single Mapping Approach –Financial Contribution by Sector to SDG 10



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

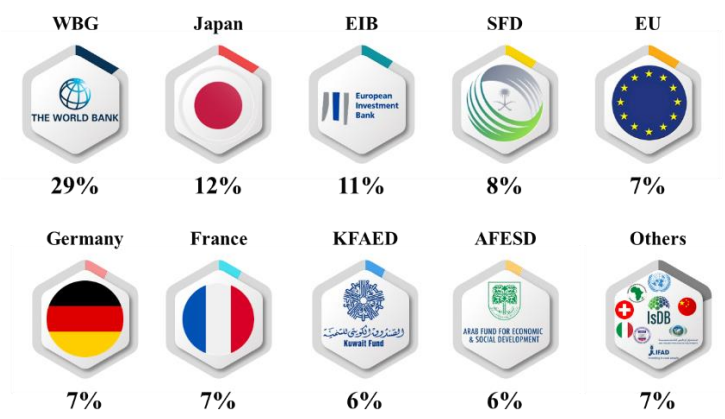
1.12.2 Multiple Mapping Approach

US\$ 8 billion financed **103 projects** contributing to **SDG 10 as a cross-cutting theme.**

Given the aforementioned dimensionality of SDG 10, the Ministry was not surprised to find that 103 projects implemented across 18 different sectors contributed indirectly to reduced inequities in Egypt. This set of projects is worth a total of US\$ 8 billion. It can thus be inferred that projects contributing to SDG 10 either directly, as the primary goal, or indirectly, as a secondary or tertiary goal, constitute more than 30 percent of ODA finances of the current portfolio.

The Social Protection sector receives 12 percent of funds with projects that support social safety nets and reduce inequalities in access to food, education, health and economic opportunities. The WBG is the largest share development partner in this set of projects representing 29 percent of funds (Figure 60). Japan contributes 12 percent and the EIB contributes 11 percent of the total funds. Other development partners contributing to reduced inequalities through ODA projects in various sectors include the SFD, EU, Germany, France, KFAED, and AFSED. This breadth of partners reflects the importance of this goal as a cross-cutting theme, and explains how enhancement of social, economic and environmental conditions and sectors contributes to the improvement of people’s livelihood.

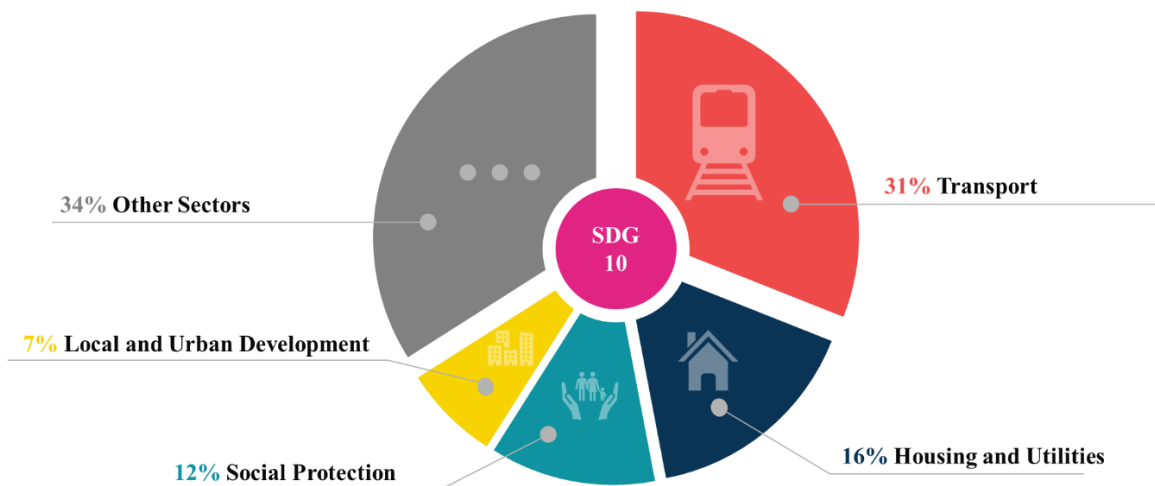
Figure 60: Multiple Mapping Approach – Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 10



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Looking at Figure 61, it is worth noting the distribution of funds across sectors. Projects in the Transportation sector, with a share of 31 percent, most frequently reported Reduced Inequalities as the target of their activities. Projects in the Transport sector are devoted to the improvement of public transport facilities. Indeed, improving and expanding transportation networks across the country acts as an enabler of economic and social development. The Housing and Utilities sector is the next highest, with 16 percent contributions to SDG 10. This sector includes social housing, upgrading slum and informal settlements and improving connectivity to potable water and wastewater services to underserved areas. Finally, projects in the Social Protection and Rural and Urban Development sectors follow with 12 percent and 7 percent, respectively.

Figure 61: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Sector to SDG 10



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Figure 62 depicts the relationship between SDG 10 and other goals. The most frequent overlap for SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) is the closely-related SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Projects that aim to reduce gender bias and increase access of women and girls to economic and social opportunities have a direct effect on reduced inequalities. Similarly, projects that aim to improve public services, as in education, healthcare, social housing, water and sanitation, transportation networks and access to finance directly improve general living conditions and provide better economic opportunities, thus reducing inequalities in all its forms. Also there is a high frequency of linkages between projects directed to SDG 1 (No Poverty) and reduced inequalities. As discussed above, under SDG 1, ending poverty in all its forms is mainly about enhancing accessibility to services and better opportunities to enhance social mobility, and ultimately contribute to reduced inequalities.

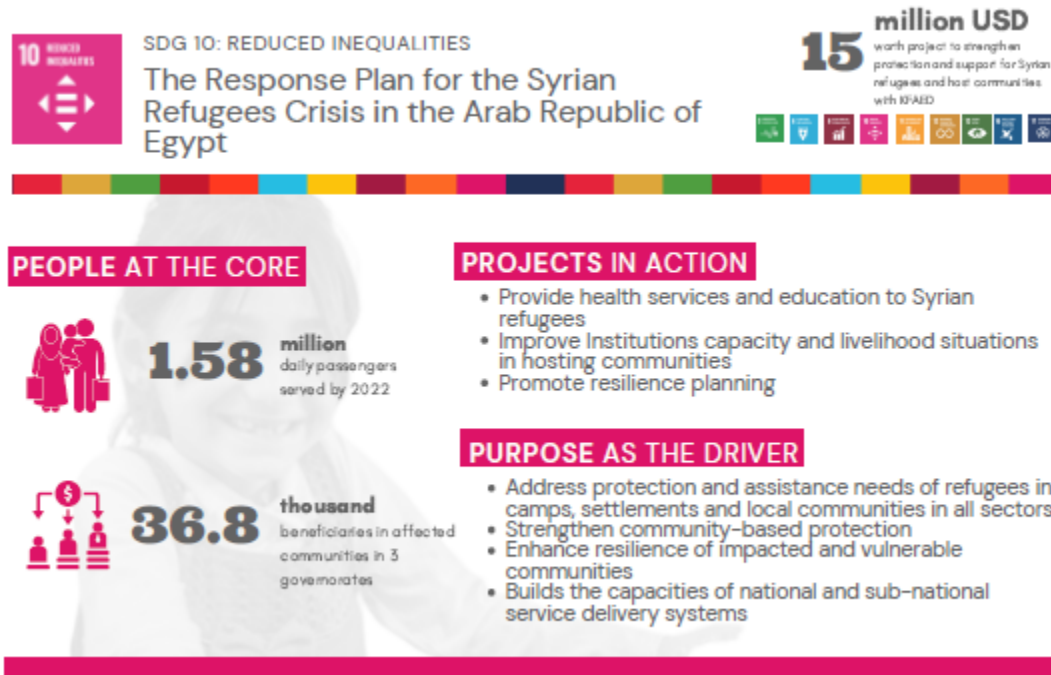
As for financial allocations to SDGs influencing Goal 10, they are mainly linked to SDGs 11, 9 and 8. Khandker, Bakht, & Koolwal (2009) suggested that investments in transportation helps improve the poor’s access to sources of production as well as markets. As another example, access to communication technology enhances connectivity to markets and economic activities at large (Calderon & Serven, 2014). Therefore, when ODA projects that target upgrading infrastructure, improving the sustainability of cities and communities and enhancing economic growth and employment opportunities link their objectives to reducing inequalities, they ensure efficient targeting to avoid unequal distribution.

Figure 62: Multiple Mapping - Relationship between SDG 10 and Other SDGs



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Box 10: The Response Plan for Syrian Refugees Project-Partnership for Goal 10



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation

1.13 Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities



Goal 11 centers on how cities and communities – urban spaces – are built and managed to meet the demands of a developing world. As rural-to-urban migration trends continue, they are anticipated to be accompanied closely by environment degradation, pressured infrastructure, and increased demands on employment and affordable housing. Put differently, a lack or lag in resilient cities and communities to cope with these pressures threatens countries performance and ability to meet many Agenda 2030 goals -- poverty, unemployment, environmental hazards such as air pollution and biodiversity, health and well-being, economic opportunity and growth. SDG 11 targets inclusive access to housing, transport and basic services, reduction in death cases related to poor access to necessary infrastructure, and minimizing the risk related to natural disasters.

Egypt is no exception to the trends of rising urbanization and industrialization. Over the last decade, the Housing and Utilities sector has received increased attention with one example being the Hayenna (Our District) project, which aims to enhance urban development through piloting innovative approaches related to urban planning and design, municipal finance and local economic development as well as urban policies and legislation.

The country’s growing population and increasing urban density have caused a deterioration in the quality of urban life and the environment. Recent data estimates for Egypt’s urban population are 42.7 percent of the country’s population with an approximate annual growth rate of 2.4 percent (World Bank Database, 2020). Informal settlements remain the dominant mode of urbanization as imbalanced regional development across Egypt has led to the migration of citizens from rural to urban areas (such as the Greater Cairo Area and Alexandria).

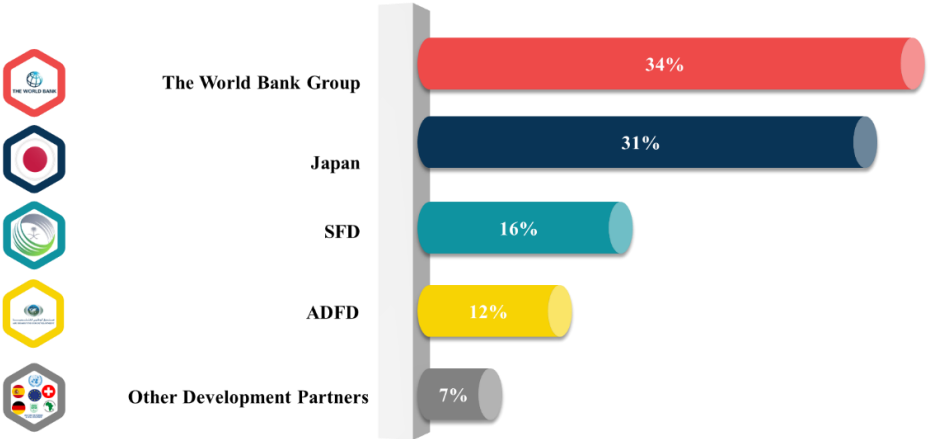
Recognizing the need for integrated and sustainable urban planning practices, the government of Egypt has set targets to increase inhabited areas, improve the quality of urban life (through efficient waste management programs and projects targeting pollution reduction) and maximize the utilization of Egypt’s strategic geographical location (Egypt Vision 2030, 2015) (Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, 2018). Egypt’s performance towards SDG 11 was moderately improving as of 2020. (United Nations, 2020)

1.13.1 Single Mapping Approach

There are 15 projects worth US\$ 1.4 billion, representing 6 percent of total ODA portfolio, which consider SDG 11 to be their main objective. The largest share of funds contributing to this goal comes from the WBG with 34 percent. Funding from Japan represents 31 percent, while SFD and ADFD represent 16 percent and 12 percent, respectively (Figure 63). It is worth noting that UN organizations, which contribute to 2 percent of the direct projects aimed at achieving this goal include 57 percent provided by the UNHABITAT, 32 percent by the UNDP and 11 percent by the UNESCO.

US\$ 1.5 billion financed **30 projects directly** contributing to **SDG 11.**

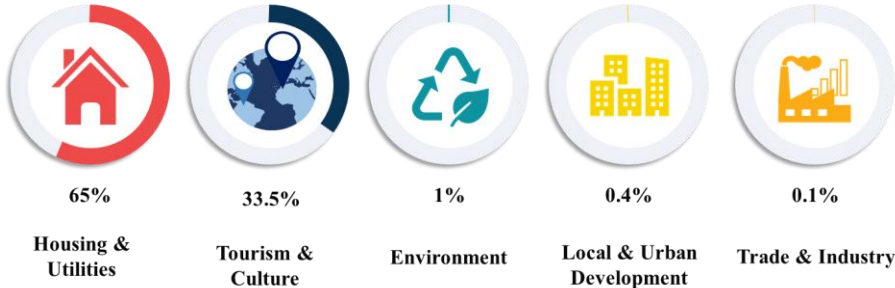
Figure 63 : Single Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 11



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Under the single mapping approach, the projects are concentrated in the Housing and Utilities, Tourism and Culture as well as the Environment sectors as shown in Figure 64. Projects directed towards upgrading slum areas and promoting urban development identified Goal 11 as their primary objective since access to “adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums” is the first target under this goal per the UN Indicators Framework (United Nations, 2020). Projects under this goal include interventions to upgrade slum areas and developing integrated urban and spatial development policies. One leading project targeting safe and sustainable communities is the Land Mine Action in the North West Coast, which aims to remove land mines planted in Egypt’s North West Coast during WWII, provide assistance to victims of landmines, educate inhabitants on risks encountered, support the economic and social development of communities and carry out advocacy campaigns to support the Action. Meanwhile, SDG 11 clearly pinpoints safeguarding culture and heritage as a primary target; these projects include the Grand Egyptian Museum; safeguarding, upgrading and supporting archeological and cultural heritage; and improving management of cultural sites. Finally, this goal incorporates projects that are aimed at reducing environmental hazards and controlling pollution. Interventions under this dimension include improving solid waste management, supporting treatment of industrial waste and enhancing green transformation policies and initiatives.

Figure 64: Single Mapping Approach –Financial Contribution by Sector to SDG 11



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

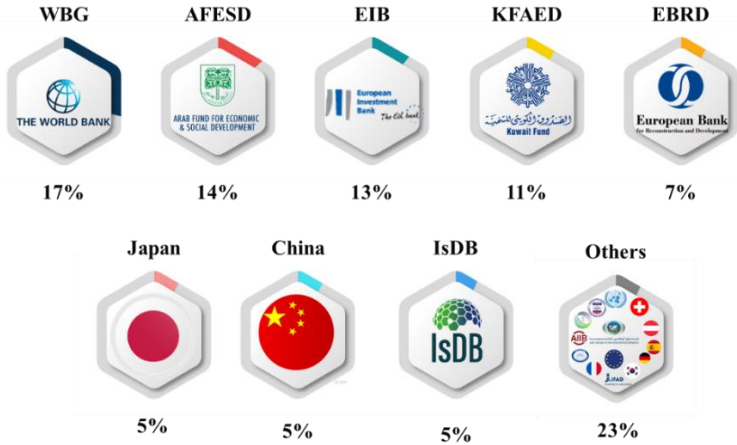
1.13.2 Multiple Mapping Approach

Under the multiple mapping approach, 117 projects worth US\$ 14 billion were recognized as contributing to SDG 11. In terms of source of funds, the largest shares come from the WBG, AFSED, EIB, KFAED and EBRD, which are responsible for 62 percent, 17 percent, 14 percent, 13 percent, 11 percent and 7 percent, respectively (Figure 65). Clearly, these development partners are the highest contributors to this SDG’s main sectors,

US\$ 14 billion financed **117 projects** contributing to **SDG 11** as a **cross-cutting theme**.

which include the Housing, Transportation and Energy sectors. UN organizations contribute to SDG 11 as a cross-cutting theme with finances equal to US\$ 68 million. The WFP ranks first, with a share of 44 percent, followed by the UN-Habitat and the UNDP, with shares of 26 percent and 19 percent, respectively.

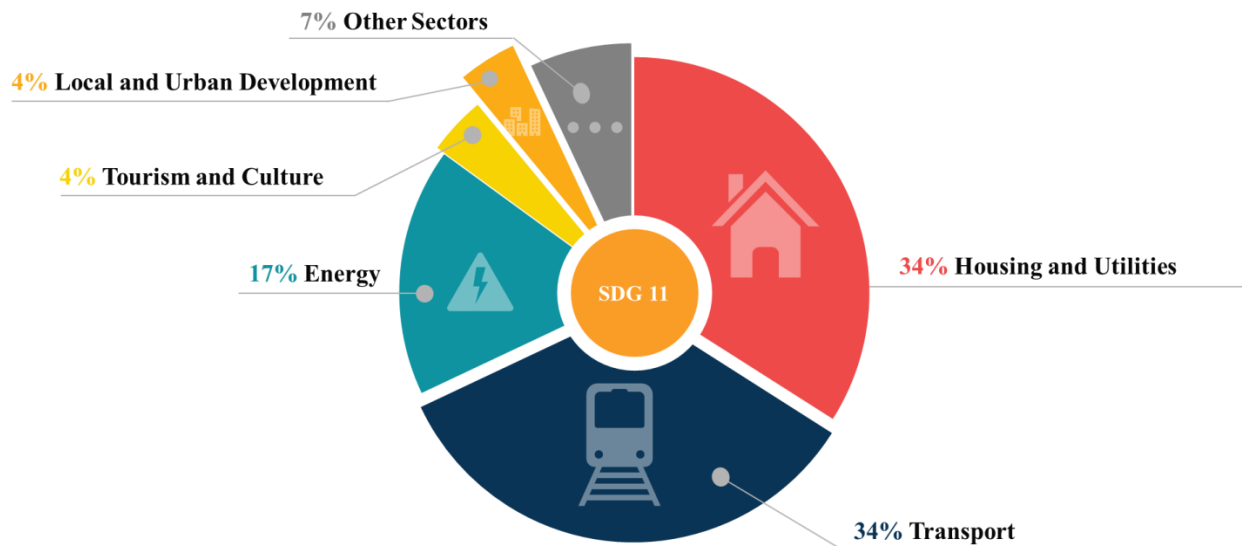
Figure 65: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 11



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

The identification of 117 projects with SDG 11 as a cross-cutting goal makes a strong statement for the relationship of this goal to other sectors, where projects vary across different sectors with direct influence on making cities and communities more sustainable and resilient. Figure 66 illustrates the share of funds devoted to various sectors for these projects. The Housing and Utilities and the Transport sectors have a combined share of 68 percent of total funds contributing to the goal, with shares of 34 percent each. Unsurprisingly, this majority concentration in both sectors reveals where opportunities lie within the SDG. Such projects ensure more inclusive, safe, resilient cities and settlements, as well as target sustainable and efficient transportation infrastructure in order to alleviate pressures and challenges of increased urbanization. A main integral part in the sustainability of cities and communities is also the availability of sufficient and reliable energy resources. Thus, the Energy sector was the third contributing sector under the multiple mapping approach, with a share of 17 percent.

Figure 66: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Sector to SDG 11



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

The relationship of SDG 11 to other Goals (Figure 67) has been strongly emphasized so far through the analysis of SDG correlations. SDG 11 is a main cross-cutting theme linked to the objectives and activities of all SDGs both in number of projects reporting it amongst their objectives, and in the financial contributions of this goal under the multiple mapping approach. The highest frequency of projects indicating SDG 11 as linked to other goals occurred with SDGs 8, 9, 12, 3, 6, 10, 15 and 17. In other words, SDG 11 directly influences, or is influenced by, eight Sustainable Development Goals. This makes sense, as cities and communities become more sustainable when economic growth and decent job opportunities are available; when production and consumption patterns are rationalized, when healthcare services are enhanced and inclusive, when water and sanitation networks are improved and accessible, when inequalities of opportunities are improved, when life on land is preserved and when partnerships to achieve all these goals are effective and efficient.

Figure 67: Multiple Mapping - Relationship between SDG 11 and Other SDGs



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Box 11: The Grand Egyptian Museum-Partnership for Goal 11



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation

1.14 Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production



The UN’s definition of sustainable consumption is to “*minimize the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations.*” (UN Environment, n.d.).

SDG 12 addresses the threat of pressures on precious and valuable resources such as energy, water, land and biodiversity as a result of consumption and production not keeping pace with the demands of the world. Targets pertaining to SDG 12 hone in on sustainable management, efficient use of resources, reduction of food waste and ensuring good practices in environmental management of chemicals (United Nations, 2020).

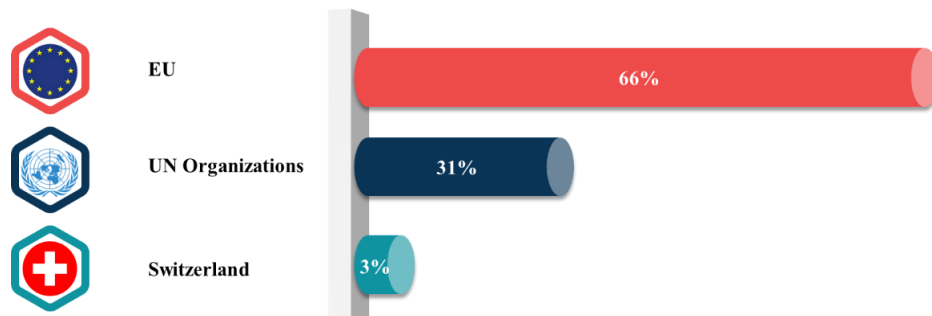
Egypt’s SDS addresses SDG 12 by promoting the efficient allocation and use of resources in key economic sectors including energy, agriculture and water. (Egypt Vision 2030, 2015) Ambitious targets in each of those sectors include a substantial reduction in a wide variety of pollution indicators by 2030, such as reducing pollution caused by airborne dust, improving waste collection efficiency by 2030, and rationalizing energy consumption (both fuel and electricity). In 2015, Egypt published its National Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 2015). The Ministry of Environment committed to priority actions that address six SCP components: policy instruments for SCP, integrated community development, sustainable agriculture, sustainable water management, sustainable and renewable energy applications, and integrated solid waste management.

1.14.1 Single Mapping Approach

ODA that is directly linked to SDG 12 represents approximately 0.2 percent of the total ODA portfolio in Egypt. These projects total US\$ 46 million and are funded by three development partners: the EU, UN organizations and Switzerland, representing 66 percent, 31 percent and 3 percent respectively (Figure 68). The UN organizations contributing a total of US\$ 14 million included UNDP with a share of 96 percent directed mainly to the environment sector, and FAO with a share of 4 percent directed to the agriculture sector.

US\$ 46 million financed
8 Projects directly
contributing to **SDG 12.**

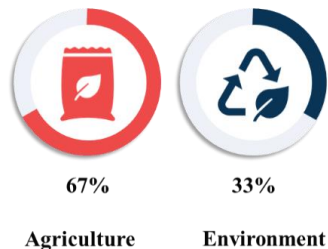
Figure 68 : Single Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 12



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

The main sectors targeted through projects under SDG 12 (see Figure 69) included Agriculture and Environment with shares of 67 percent and 33 percent, respectively. These projects promote sustainable and responsible production and consumption patterns through capacity building and technical assistance projects that aim mainly to enhance practices in agricultural production to minimize waste and improve compliance with food safety measures especially in horticulture value chains. They also target improving technical expertise in recycling industrial waste and improving health by supporting sustainable environmental practices in production.

Figure 69: Single Mapping Approach –Financial Contribution by Sector to SDG 12



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

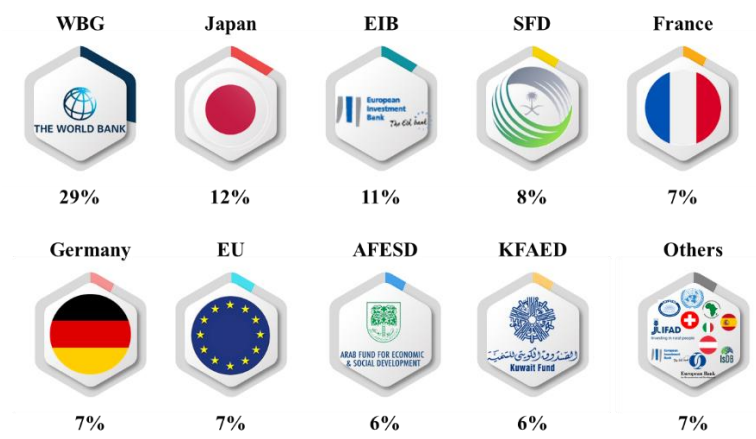
1.14.2 Multiple Mapping Approach

US\$ 9 billion financed **88 Projects** contributing to **SDG 12 as a cross-cutting theme.**

Similar to other goals that target sustainability, the multiple mapping approach brings the value of responsible consumption and production to the fore. A total of 88 projects contribute to achieving SDG 12 through their activities. An analysis of the sources of ODA funding that targets SDG 12 (Figure 70) reveals the WBG has the highest share of resources with 29 percent. Japan comes second with 12 percent, followed by the EIB with 11 percent. Many other development

partners count SDG 12 as one of their objectives across different projects, with very similar shares of total finances, including the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) with 8 percent, and then France, Germany, and the European Union (EU) with 7 percent each. The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development follow with 6 percent apiece of the total funds to this goal.

Figure 70: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 12

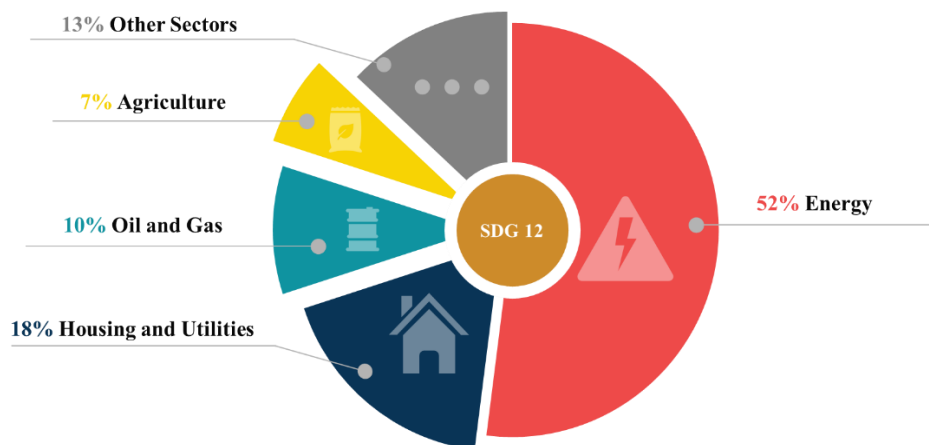


Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

The main sectors under this goal are illustrated in

Figure 71. The Energy sector has the largest share of funding with 52 percent of the total ODA funds that contribute to SDG 12. Receiving this portion of financing are projects in this sector that promote renewable energy including wind farms and solar plants, rationalization of consumption and production technologies, and improving the electricity transmission grid to reduce waste and enhance efficiency of power transmission. Other sectors that receive sizeable portions of the finances that contribute to SDG 12 are the Housing & Utilities as well as Oil & Gas sectors with 12 percent and 11 percent, respectively. The Housing and Utilities projects target improving potable as well as irrigation water networks to rationalize the use of this valuable resource. The Oil and Gas sector's main contribution to this SDG is the extension of sustainable, reliable, low cost and less polluting natural gas networks to households.

Figure 71: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Sector to SDG 12



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

In assessing the correlation of SDG 12 to other goals, Figure 72 shows high relationships with goals that represent the main sectors contributing to this SDG under the multiple mapping approach. A high frequency of projects that report SDG 12 are linked to SDGs 11, 9 and 13. This relationship is seen not only in number of projects, but also in the amount of investments affect both SDG 12 and the other goals. Regarding the relationship between SDG 11 and 12, it can be argued that sustainable “consumption and production go in line with investment in cities to have efficient use of resources and building sustainable infrastructure.

Thus, SDG 12 is of utmost importance in reconciling economic, environmental, and social objectives while at the same time disentangling greenhouse gas emissions from economic growth in the cities. In short, shifting towards sustainable practices would lead us to a more resource-efficient, low carbon and green economy (United Nations, 2020). As for SDG 13, mass production and consumption adversely affect climate change. SDG 12 emphasized rationalizing the inefficient consumption of fossil-fuel subsidies that contribute to higher greenhouse gas emissions (Filho, Azul, Brandli , Ozuyar, & Wall, 2020).

“We consume more resources than the planet can generate, and growing rates of pollution and waste only exacerbate the problem. Commercial and residential energy use is the second most rapidly growing area of global energy use after transport.” (European Commission, n.d.).


Therefore, interventions that aim to link patterns of production and consumption with climate action are well positioned to improve sustainable practices.

Figure 72: Multiple Mapping - Relationship between SDG 12 and Other SDGs



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Box 12: Sustainable Persistent Organic Pollutants-Partnership for Goal 12



SDG 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Sustainable Persistent Organic Pollutants Management Project

8.1 million USD worth project to improve the management and disposal of targeted stockpiles of obsolete pesticides with WBG

PEOPLE AT THE CORE

- Improve public health of targeted people
- Reduce hazards of persistent organic pollutants across Egypt

PURPOSE AS THE DRIVER


- Strengthen Egypt's management and technical capacities to minimize the exposure to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- Support the government of Egypt to meet its commitments to Stockholm convention

PROJECTS IN ACTION

- 

Provide successful disposal of 700 tons of polluted agricultural waste in incinerators outside the country
- 

Ensure the safe disposal of 288 tons of high-risk pesticides in the ports and stores of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- 

Deliver training and capacity building to all concerned ministries
- 

Treat 1000 tons of oils polluted by polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), used at electricity stations
- 

Transfer technologies of treating oils

Source: Ministry of International Cooperation

1.15 Goal 13: Climate Action

The realities of climate change constitute one of the single largest threats to sustainable development, as such action to halt widespread and catastrophic impacts is inherent in achieving the 2030 Agenda. SDG 13 places micro, macro and global action at the forefront of Climate Action targets, policies, measures as well as national strategies as an important means of implementation. Furthermore, the goal ensures a developing world that is equipped and resilient to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate.



In 1992, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), an International Environmental Treaty that seeks to reduce atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases with the aim of preventing dangerous anthropogenic interference with earth's climate system, was signed by 154 nations. In 2016, the landmark Paris Agreement was reached to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future. The Agreement, which builds upon the Convention, charted a new course and era in global climate action effort. It aims to:

“strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.”
(UNFCCC, n.d.)

Furthermore, the Agreement aims to:

“increase the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change, and at making finance flows consistent with a low GHG emissions and climate-resilient pathway”
(UNFCCC, n.d.)

Indeed, Egypt as an emerging economy is no stranger to the critical and pervasive impacts of climate change and its threats to social, economic and environmental sustainability. The country is particularly impacted as the Nile Delta, the main water supply, is one of the world’s top three locations with “extreme” climate change vulnerability. In fact, future projections suggest that Egypt will experience a rise in sea levels and water scarcity.

Egypt's efforts to combat climate change date back to 1982 with its institutionalization of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), and subsequently with the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs in 1997 (now Ministry of Environment). In 2015, a National Council on Climate Change was established. In 1994, the country ratified UNFCCC, followed by the Kyoto Protocol in 2005, the Paris Agreement in 2017, and finally the Doha Amendment in April 2020. As part of these commitments to the UNFCCC, Egypt has submitted three National Communication Reports (1999, 2010 and 2016), which provide regular reporting on adaptation already done under the Convention (UNFCCC, n.d.).

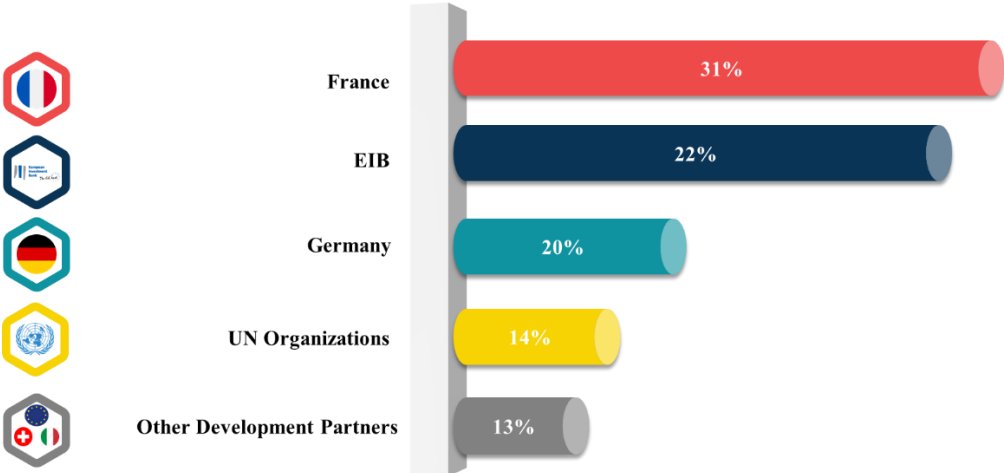
As of 2020, Egypt’s progress towards SDG 13 was stagnant (United Nations, 2020). As Egypt charts its path forward to meeting SDG 13 targets, it looks to diversify its portfolio across the Energy, Oil and Gas and Transport sectors particularly given the interlinkages with Climate Action. Noting the role of mobility and energy for the country, concerns such as greenhouse gas and CO₂ emissions vis-à-vis the aforementioned sectors will be a top priority.

1.15.1 Single Mapping Approach

A total of 11 projects were identified as directly contributing to SDG 13. The projects are worth a combined total of US\$ 31 million or 0.1 percent share of total ODA devoted to targeting this SDG. The main development partners supporting SDG 13 as their primary objective in these projects include France, EIB and Germany with 31 percent, 22 percent and 20 percent of total ODA funds to this Goal, respectively (Figure 73). UN organizations come in fourth place with 14 percent. 64 percent of the finances under UN programs come from UNDP, while the UNIDO and the WFP each represent equal contributions of 18 percent.

US\$ 0.0313 billion
financed 5 projects
directly contributing to
SDG 13.

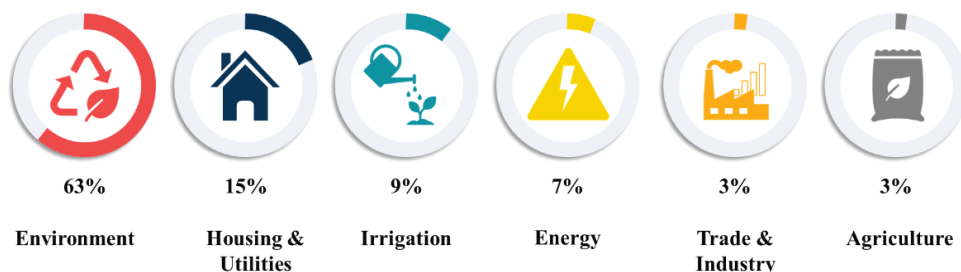
Figure 73: Single Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 13



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

The partners are mainly financing projects in the Environment Sector (Figure 74), which has 63 percent of the funds. These projects aim at supporting the National Program of Solid Waste Management and the Egyptian Pollution Abatement Program. Other projects include the Housing and Utilities sector, with a share of 15 percent, mainly aimed at wastewater treatment. This is followed by projects in the Irrigation Sector for sludge treatment with 9 percent, and projects providing technical support for Renewable Energy Sector constituting 7 percent of the finances.

Figure 74: Single Mapping Approach –Financial Contribution by Sector to SDG 13



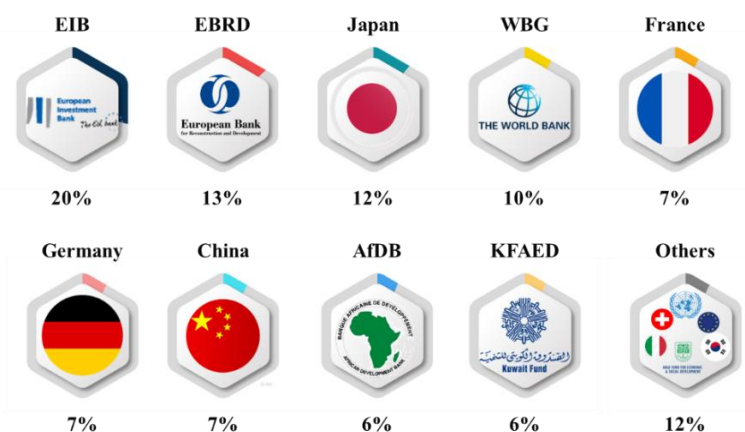
Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

1.15.2 Multiple Mapping Approach

US\$ 10 billion financed
91 projects contributing
to **SDG 13** as a **cross-cutting theme**.

A total of 91 projects contribute indirectly to meeting SDG 13. Figure 75 distills the share of total ODA funds that indirectly contribute to SDG 13 by development partner. The EIB, EBRD and WBG collectively contribute 46.08 percent of total funds, which mainly goes towards financing projects in the Transport sector. These institutions are followed by bilateral partners France, Germany and China, which contribute a share of 8 percent each towards projects in the Transport and Irrigation sectors. As for UN organizations’ support to SDG 13, which stands at 1 percent, the UNDP has the highest share with 70 percent, followed by the UNIDO and the WFP, with shares of 13 percent and 12 percent, respectively.

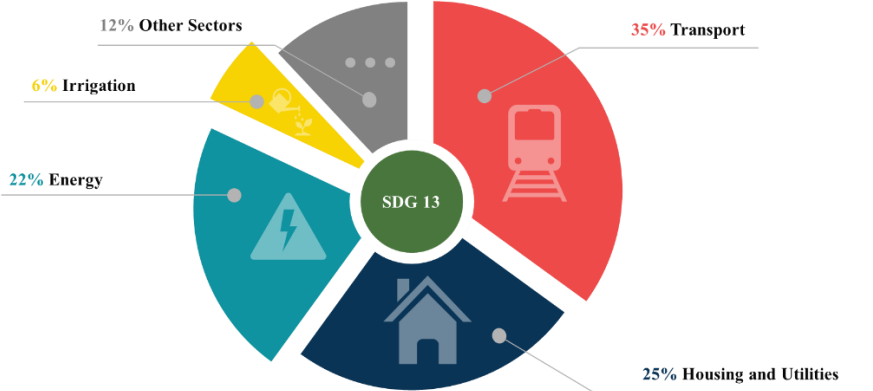
Figure 75: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 13



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

The projects, which received combined US\$ 10 billion in financing, are heavily concentrated in the Transport sector, which receives 35 percent of ODA funds contributing to SDG 13 (Figure 76). The Housing and Utilities and the Energy sectors follow suit with 25 percent and 22 percent share of funds received, respectively. The Irrigation sector follows with 6 percent of the finances, in addition to a modest share of projects within the Education and the Environment sectors, which represent 5.6 percent and 2.59 percent of total funds, respectively. Being able to consider more than one SDG under the multiple mapping approach reveals that climate action is a main priority for a number of development partners across different sectors. In transportation, projects that aim to strengthen public and environmentally friendly modes of transportation are by design putting SDG 13 to the top of their SDG agenda. Similarly, projects that upgrade slum areas, provide reliable and efficient water and sanitation networks, and reduce water and soil hazard are targeted by this Goal. The Energy sector receives high attention under SDG 13 where renewable energy projects that reduce the use of fossil fuels and provide alternative energy sources are main contributors to the Climate Action Goal. The government of Egypt, and its multilateral and bilateral development partners, promote environmental sustainability in a variety of projects and sectors.

Figure 76: Multiple Mapping Approach – Contribution by Sector to SDG 13



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Assessing the interlinkages of SDG 13 (Climate Action) with other Goals (Figure 77) showed common projects with all other 16 SDGs. The most prominent of these relationships were with SDGs 11, 12, 9 and 7. However, all the goals with strong links with SDG 13 -- both in terms of number of shared projects and amounts of finance -- were those with pronounced sustainability objectives.

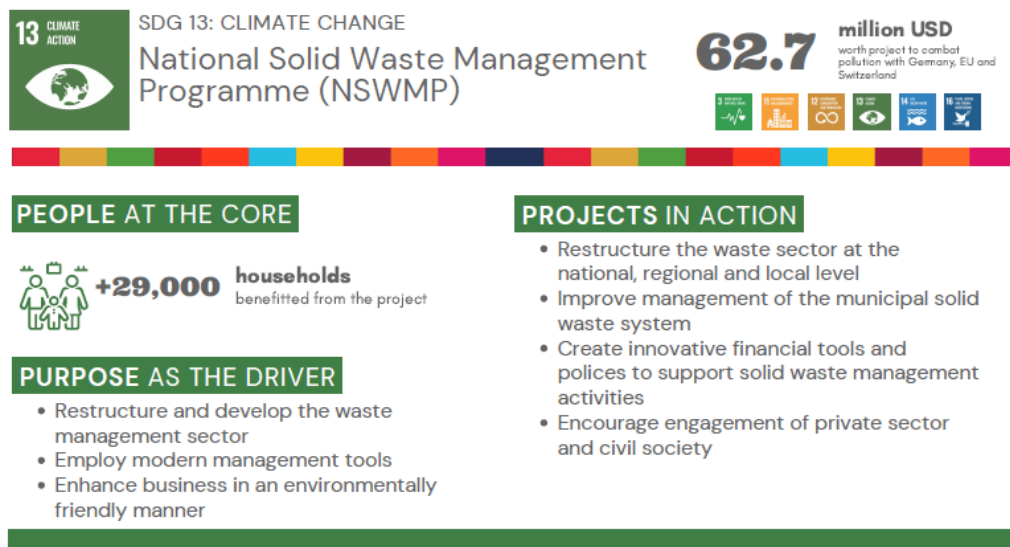
In pursuing economic growth and expanding production, developed and developing countries may contribute to adverse effects on environmental sustainability and climate change. Expanding the networks of infrastructure, advanced industrialization and high rates of urbanization increase harmful emissions and deplete natural resources. Commitment to responsible practices and climate action towards a greener and circular economy has been at the heart of international cooperation dialogues. Climate change urges policymakers to invest in low-carbon infrastructure in order to adapt and mitigate its adverse effects. This infrastructure investment should span all sectors, especially the energy sector, to ensure its sustainability (IRENA, 2019). Projects translate these commitments into actions and activities that support the government’s efforts both to push forward rapid economic growth, yet stay mindful of green transformation in projects aimed at environmentally-friendly transportation networks, conserving water resources, expanding projects in renewable energy and rationalizing production and consumption.

Figure 77: Multiple Mapping - Relationship between SDG 13 and Other SDGs



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Box 13: National Solid Waste Management Program-Partnership for Goal 13



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation

1.16 Goal 14: Life Below Water

14 LIFE BELOW WATER **14 LIFE BELOW WATER**

SDG 14 in Agenda 2030 acknowledges the importance of ecosystems to the livelihood of people around the world. Key economic benefits are derived from oceans and seas including the transportation of goods, fisheries, tourism, generation of renewable energy and the mining of materials (Schmidt, et al., 2017). The aim of SDG 14 is to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources through the prevention and reduction of marine pollution, protection of marine and coastal ecosystems, minimization of the negative impacts of ocean acidification, regulation of harvesting and destructive fishing practices, and lastly, the prohibition of fisheries' subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing (United Nations, 2020).

Egypt is enriched with a diverse marine life and coastal geography across both the Mediterranean and Red Seas measuring 3,200 km. The country's waters are also home to more than 5,000 species, including 800 different species of seaweeds and seagrasses, 209 species of coral, more than 800 species of mollusks, 600 species of crustacean, and 350 species of Echinodermata. This said, the impact of offshore oil rigs, overfishing practices, and destruction of these habitats have caused a deterioration in Egypt's marine ecosystem. (Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, 2018) Still, the country has prioritized conservation through a number of initiatives. One important example is regulating Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) – a resources management system to protect and effectively manage the country's marine and

coastal areas. This has led to a number of milestone policies and actions including the founding of a national committee for coastal conservation, the drafting of the Environmental Guidelines for Coastal Areas, and the development of the National Environmental Action Plan. In 2020, Egypt showed moderately increased progress towards meeting SDG 14 targets.

1.16.1 Single Mapping Approach

Following the single mapping approach, only one project identified SDG 14, Life Below Water, as its main objective. The project, with a value of US\$ 27 thousand, is a grant managed by UNESCO and devoted to the Tourism and Culture Sector (see Figure 78 and Figure 79).

US\$ 27 thousand financed **1 project directly** contributing to **SDG 14.**

Figure 78: Single Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 14



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

The project targets the enhancement of government capacities in conserving underwater heritage by supporting the Underwater Cultural Heritage Management for Sustainable Development. It comes as a timely intervention to support the recent discoveries of cultural heritage below water such as the ruins of the sunken city of Heraklion in 2019 in the Abi Qir district, and the discovery of extension of the city of Canopus, which resulted in the discovery of new buildings in the city and a collection of pottery vessels, gold jewelry and gold coins from the Ptolemaic and Byzantine era in Alexandria (Egypt Forward, 2019). The project thus enhances understanding of the principal guidelines on the Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) management, research and conservation of the newly discoveries underwater monuments.

Figure 79: Single Mapping Approach –Financial Contribution by Sector to SDG 14



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

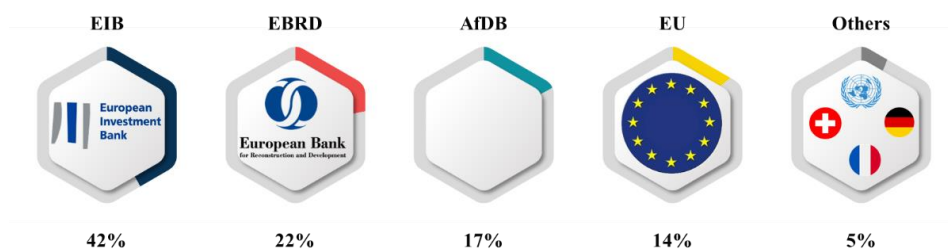
1.16.2 Multiple Mapping Approach

US\$ 1.2 billion financed **17 projects** contributing to **SDG 14 as a cross-cutting theme.**

Under the multiple mapping approach, additional ODA projects that contributed to this SDG were identified. Indeed, both the number of projects and their values were much larger. Altogether, 17 projects worth US\$ 1.2 billion contributed to SDG 14. Figure 80 sheds light on the source of ODA finances

that contribute to SDG 14 as a cross-cutting theme. The EIB is the largest contributor with a share of 42 percent of ODA funds to this goal. The EBRD follows next with 22 percent of the total funds devoted to projects for the Wastewater Expansion Program. Additional active development partners include the AfDB and EU, which contributed 17 percent and 14 percent, respectively, towards similar projects.

Figure 80: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 14

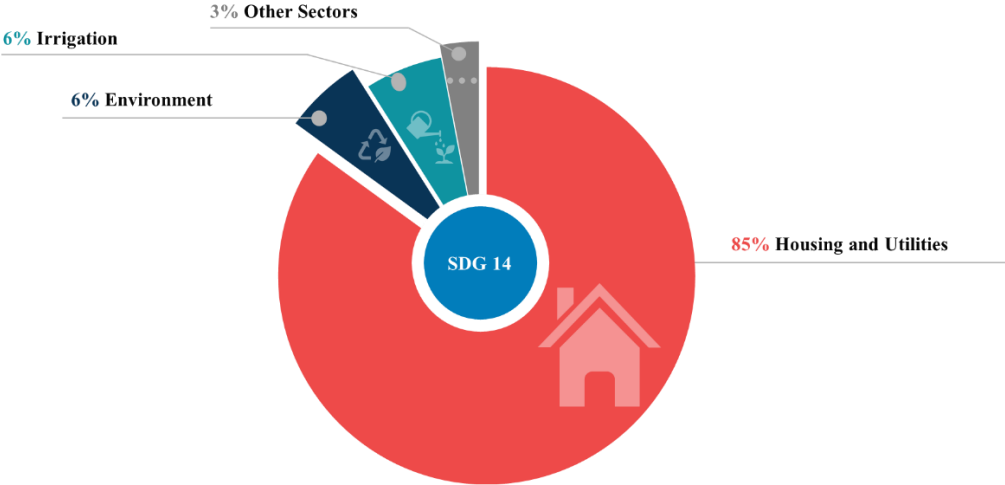


Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

The sectors that contribute to improving the SDG 14 (see Figure 81) include the Housing and Utilities sector with 85 percent of the total funds, followed by the Environment and Irrigation sectors with 6 percent each. Projects under Housing and Utilities aim mainly to treat wastewater in a number of governorates. Such projects provide sanitation services through construction of new wastewater treatment plants (WWTP), expansion and rehabilitation of existing plants,

expansion of sewage networks and installation of pumping stations. These activities contribute to reducing pollution in lakes, which consequently results in improving underwater life and fisheries activity. Fish production is an important pillar of food security in Egypt, as it provides on average 25.3 percent of a household’s protein intake (World Fish, n.d.). These projects aim, among other goals, to scale up promoting the sustainability of natural resources usage and to prevent pollution and avoid degradation of ecosystems.

Figure 81: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Sector to SDG 14



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020


The highest linkages between SDG 14 and other goals were SDGs 11 and 13, as shown in Figure 82. Pollution from urban activities such as industrial activities or disposal of cities’ waste have negative spillovers on marine life (Le Blanc & et al. , 2017). Also, trading from marine sources and trading through marine outlets result in pollution from land-based sources. (Schmidt & et al., (2017); Newton & et al., (2012); Stojanovic & Farmer, (2013)) (Schmidt, Krauth, & Wagner, 2017) (Newton, Carruthers, & Icely, 2012). Hence, promoting sustainable cities has a direct effect on sustainable life below water. Meanwhile, projects that target preserving underwater life can easily be linked to SDG 13 (Climate Action) in that protecting life below water helps mitigate some of the challenges of climate change (UNDP, n.d.).

Figure 82: Multiple Mapping - Relationship between SDG 14 and Other SDGs




Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Box 14: Kitchener Drain-Partnership for Goal 14




SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER
Kitchener Drain


292 million USD
worth project for the depollution of the Kitchener Drain in the delta region with EIB & EU



PEOPLE AT THE CORE



11 million individuals served by the increased sanitation coverage of Kitchener Drainer



182 villages benefit from the drainer in 3 governorates

PROJECTS IN ACTION

- Depollute the Kitchener drain through investments in wastewater & sanitation, solid waste, and drain infrastructure rehabilitation.
- Provide an additional 71,000 m3/d of wastewater treatment capacity
- Rehabilitating of 24 existing wastewater treatment plants.
- Provide solid waste facilities for 4,800 tons/day of solid waste from both urban and rural areas.

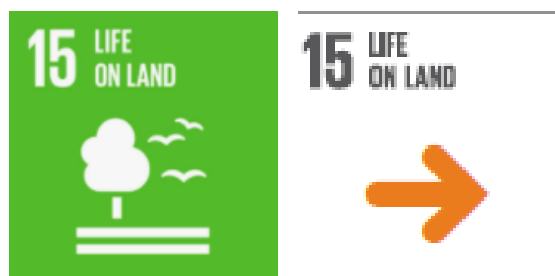
PURPOSE AS THE DRIVER

- Contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG)

Source: Ministry of International Cooperation

1.17 Goal 15: Life on Land

The protection, restoration and preservation of terrestrial ecosystems is the focus of SDG 15. Specifically, the goal targets the management and safeguard of forests, combat of desertification, and the halt or elimination of land degradation and loss of biodiversity. (The United Nations' Department of Economic and Social Affairs, n.d.)



Recognized for its unique ecological diversity and geographical location, Egypt is home to both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The country has supported and continues to commit to the protection of its natural resources. In January 2016, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was adopted to support the sustainable use of natural resources and to recognize the importance of local Egyptian communities' active involvement in the resource-management process.

The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) has also been active in adopting a number of strategies including the establishment of Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM). EEAA also implemented Egypt's Protected Areas Self-Financing Project (EPASP) as a means to develop and manage the country's natural protectorates. The EPASP aims to "weaken the persisting threats to Egypt's biodiversity, and to develop a sustainable plan to protect the country's terrestrial and marine habitats". This project has been successful in extending capacity-building programs, managing-effectiveness tracking tools, and regulating overhauls to ensure that protectorates are operated correctly. (Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, 2018)

The country has also embarked on initiatives that mainstream biodiversity in the Energy and Tourism sectors with emphasis on direct engagement between industry and the government of Egypt to fill gaps in the existing planning and regulatory landscape for these sectors. In 2020, Egypt's performance was assessed as stagnant towards meeting SDG 15 targets (United Nations, 2020).

1.17.1 Single Mapping Approach

Under the single mapping approach, 8 projects worth US\$ 15 million are directed towards achieving SDG 15. Interestingly, all these projects are financed through UN organizations, with UNDP constituting 93 percent of the finances directed to this goal as depicted in Figure 83, followed by FAO and

US\$ 15 million financed *8 projects* directly contributing to **SDG 15.**

UNESCO with shares of 7 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively.

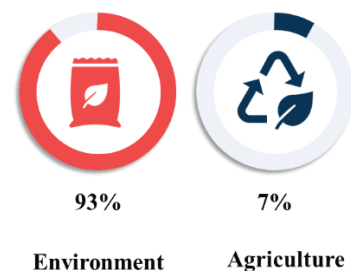
Figure 83: Single Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partners to SDG 15



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

The highest contributing sector to improving the SDG 15 is the Environment sector with a share of 93 percent, as seen in Figure 84. The sector benefits from projects that protect biodiversity, enhance the sustainable management of water resources and conserve geological resources. It also benefits from projects aiming to conserve the ecosystem, such as protecting soaring birds during their migration, mainstreaming and integrating conservation policies into the productive sectors that threaten the safety of these birds from hunting, energy, agriculture and waste management. The second sector contributing to SDG 15 is Agriculture with a share of 7 percent. It benefits from projects that aim to improve the provision of goods from agriculture, forestry and fisheries while using sustainable practices.

Figure 84: Single Mapping Approach –Financial Contribution by Sector to SDG 15



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

1.17.2 Multiple Mapping Approach

US\$ 20 million financed **13 projects** contributing to **SDG 15** as a **cross-cutting theme**.

Under the multiple mapping approach, the total funds provided to projects contributing to SDG 15 is US\$ 20 million for 13 projects. The share of each development partner in the total funds given to projects under SDG 15 in Figure 85 shows that UN organizations and the AFESD are the only two contributors to SDG 15, with shares of 95 percent and 5 percent, respectively.

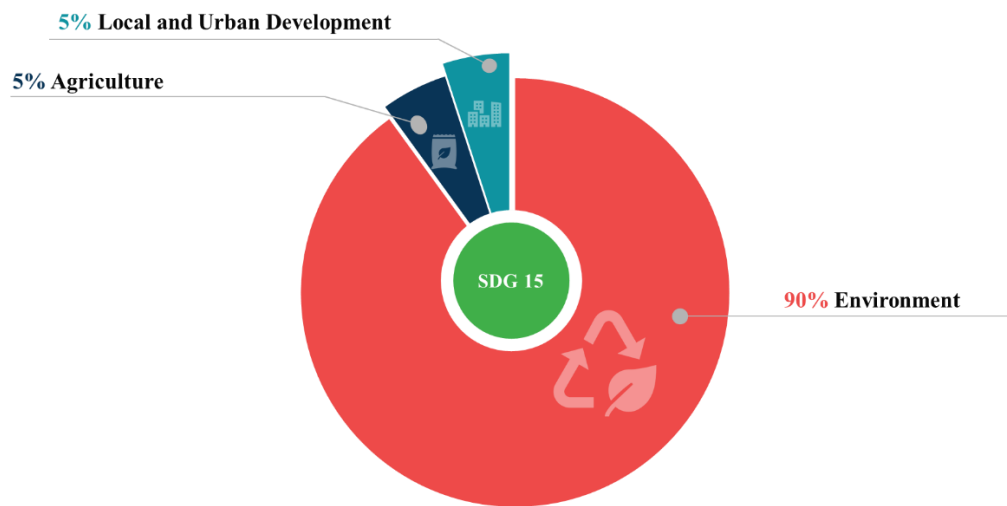
Figure 85: Multiple Mapping Approach – Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 15



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Among the sectors contributing to Life on Land as shown in Figure 86, the Environment sector comes first with a share of 90 percent, followed by the Agriculture and the Local and Urban Development sectors, with shares of 5 percent each. Projects in the Environment sector target the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems on land, while projects in Agriculture support sustainable practices in the sector. Local and Urban Development projects aim to strengthen the national capacities to address mine action through providing relevant tools to integrate mine victims into the economy as productive community members.

Figure 86: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Sector to SDG 15



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Figure 87 shows the interconnection of SDG 15 to other Goals. The preceding analysis of other SDGs clearly shows that SDG 15 has the lowest correlation. Only 6 SDGs reported linkages with SDG 15, namely: 13 (Climate Action), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 1 (No Poverty), and 2 (No Hunger). These linkages occur under the multiple mapping approach, with the highest frequency of shared projects found between SDGs

15 and 13. Climate change and preserving life on land are closely interlinked since climate could affect ecosystems in several ways: Warming may force specific species to migrate from their homelands, whether on land or in water; and such relocation would result in their death, which may cut the existing food chain and adversely affect biodiversity (EPA, n.d.).

Figure 87: Multiple Mapping - Relationship between SDG 15 and Other SDGs



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Box 15: Migratory Soaring Birds-Partnership for Goal 15



SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND


Migratory Soaring Birds II


3.6 million USD


worth project to protect soaring birds during their migration with UNDP



PEOPLE AT THE CORE

- 

2500 trainees in bird conservation and renewable energy usage
- 

1,5 million birds of 37 species and 5 globally threatened species protected
- 

50 new jobs created

PROJECTS IN ACTION

- Support wind energy usage
- Provide trainings for professionals in bird conservation and renewable energy systems
- Apply advanced radar technologies

PURPOSE AS THE DRIVER

- Conserve biodiversity and protect the environment

Source: Ministry of International Cooperation

1.18 Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions



The penultimate goal – the promotion of effective, and accountable institutions at all levels – is the very foundation of paths towards sustainable development. Put differently, this goal emphasizes transparency as governments, civil society and communities work to establish or reform institutions that are responsive and agile in their decision-making. Specifically, SDG 16 looks to the rule of law at the national and international levels to ensure equal access to justice, reduce illicit financial and arms flows, as well as bribery and corruption in its different forms.

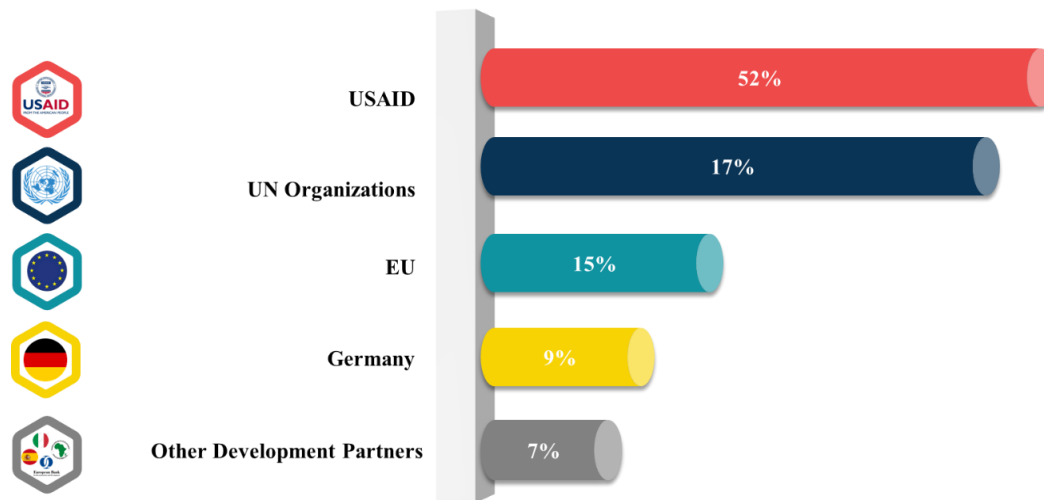
Egypt recognizes that justice is at the heart of strong institutions and that good governance and the safeguarding of human rights is a means to achieve this. The country is a longstanding and committed contributor to UN peacekeeping operations, and since 2014, the Government of Egypt has introduced a sequence of comprehensive and coordinated measures to stabilize the country's peace and security. In the past five to six years, the country has taken a number of concrete steps towards buttressing and reforming its regulatory landscape. In 2014, Egypt adopted the four-year National Anti-Corruption Strategy developed by the National Coordinating Committee for Combating Corruption (NCCCC). The strategy was the culmination of an intensive interagency effort that involved more than 80 government authorities, ministries and Governorates. In 2016, Egypt also created a ten-year National Strategy for Combatting Illegal Migration. This effort was spearheaded by the National Coordinating Committee on Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration (NCCPIM). The committee, which acts as a bridge between government as well non-government stakeholders, is aimed at the comprehensive development of anti-illegal migration by raising awareness campaigns, implementing capacity building programs and establishing a robust and responsive legislative framework to combat the issue. In 2020, Egypt's progress towards this SDG was reported as stagnant (United Nations, 2020).

1.18.1 Single Mapping Approach

There are currently 32 ODA-financed projects that target SDG 16 directly with a total amount of US\$ 240 million. Figure 88 reveals that the largest share of ODA finances directly contributing to SDG 16 comes from USAID, which provides 52 percent of total funds. The UN organizations follow with 17 percent of the finances, then the EU and Germany with 15 percent and 9 percent, respectively. These projects aim at enhancing government capacities and the rule of law in different sectors.

US\$ 240 million financed **32 projects directly** contributing to **SDG 16**.

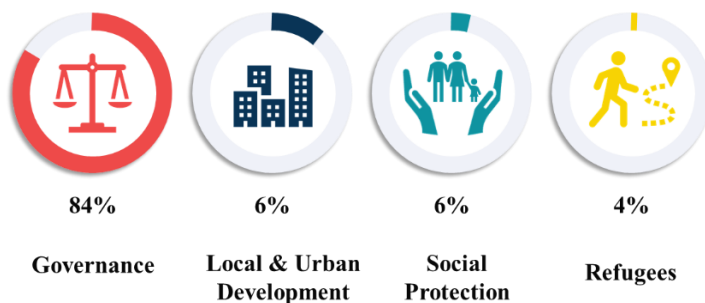
Figure 88: Single Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 16



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

As Shown in Figure 89, the Governance sector comes first with a share of 84 percent of funds directed to SDG 16. Projects under this sector contribute to institutionalizing government-wide performance management systems in Egypt, improving the quality of the economic governance-related indicators and offering anti-corruption training to Egypt’s civil servants. The Local & Urban Development and the Social Protection sectors were next with 6 percent each.

Figure 89: Single Mapping Approach –Financial Contribution by Sector to SDG 16



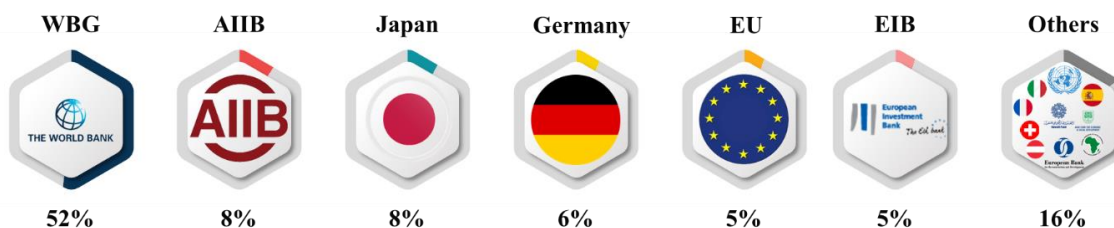
Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

1.18.2 Multiple Mapping Approach

US\$ 3.5 billion financed **78 projects** contributing to **SDG 16** as a **cross-cutting theme**.

Using the multiple mapping approach, 78 projects worth US\$ 3.5 billion include contribution to SDG 16 as one of their objectives, spanning across 14 sectors. The development partners contributing to this goal as shown in Figure 90 are the World Bank Group -- by far the largest financier of projects, accounting for 52 percent of ODA funds that identify SDG 16 as one of their objectives. This funding is allocated across projects that promote inclusiveness for vulnerable people, MSMEs and aspiring entrepreneurs. A justification for this major contribution by the WBG to SDG 16 is that most of the Bank's finances, even those directed to infrastructural projects, include an element of improving the capacities and governance of public entities that manage these services. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and Japan follow next, with each contributing 8 percent of funds. Finally, Germany and the EU come next with 6 percent and 5 percent, respectively.

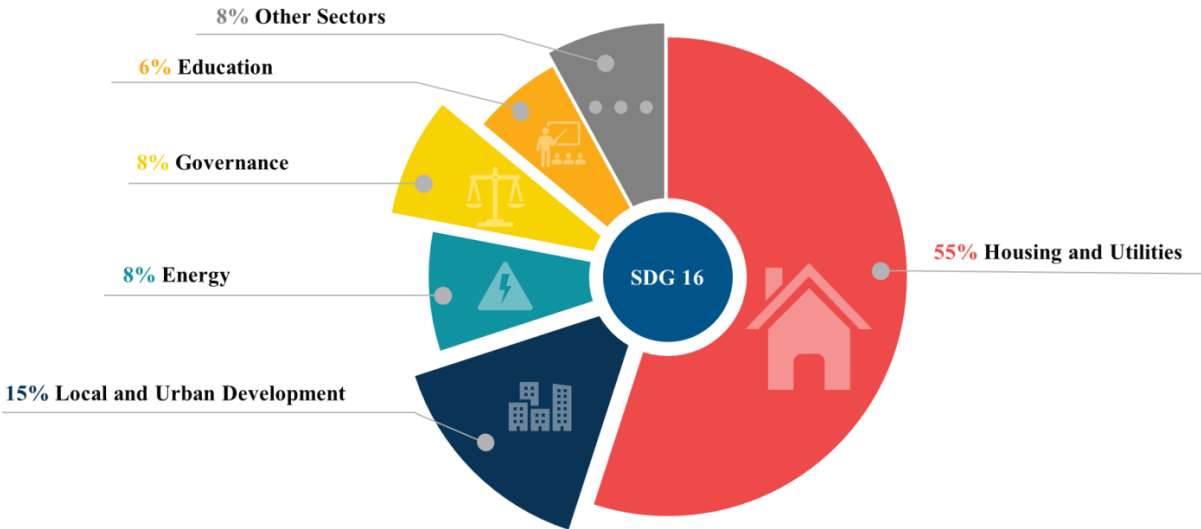
Figure 90: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 16



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

As shown in Figure 91, the Housing and Utilities sector receives 55 percent of the ODA funds contributing to SDG 16. Projects in this sector target effective, accountable and inclusive management and accountable governance in public service providing entities. The Local & Urban Development sector receives 15 percent of funds, followed by the Energy and Governance sectors, which receive 8 percent each.

Figure 91: Multiple Mapping Approach – Contribution by Sector to SDG 16



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

In assessing its relationship with other goals (see Figure 92), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) is clearly connected to all goals. ODA finances projects across all SDGs that benefit from technical support and capacity-building activities aimed at enhancing institutional capacities in targeted sectors. SDG 16 is a goal that is identified as an outcome and as an enabler of sustainable development. It is often considered an ‘enabling’ goal since concepts such as peace, justice, and inclusion are essential, that is they enable achievement of any other SDGs by ensuring effective and transparent implementation practices and transparency in the implementing institutions. Without SDG 16, achieving other SDGs might be very difficult or even impossible. According to SDG 16, transparent, effective, inclusive, and accountable institutions are essential to achieving sustainable development (SDG 16 Hub, (2019); HLPF (2019)).

Figure 92: Multiple Mapping - Relationship between SDG 16 and Other SDGs



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Box 16: Governance and Participation Program-Partnership for Goal 16



SDG16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Governance and Participation Program initiative

124.344 million USD

worth project to ensure inclusive growth paired with reduced corruption and promoted transparency in the government. with USAID.



PEOPLE AT THE CORE



Access to improved public services, especially to women and youth

PROJECTS IN ACTION

- Support institutional reforms to enhance the administrative performance and governance of public institutions and the civil service.
- Strengthen the principles of transparency and integrity in the workplace.
- Upgrade public e-services provided to Egyptian investors and citizens

PURPOSE AS THE DRIVER

- Institutionalize the government-wide performance management system
- Improve the quality of the economic governance-related indicators
- Offer anti-corruption training to civil servants to identify and curb corruption

Source: Ministry of International Cooperation

1.19 Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals



SDG 17 is the broadest of the SDGs because it aims to mobilize global resources by means of cross-sector and cross-country collaboration to optimize limited resources -- be they financial, natural or human -- to ensure the realization of the SDGs by 2030. The final SDG, as such, aims to support developing countries to achieve their development strategies by promoting efficient international cooperation through a number of vectors such as technology, capacity building and trade. Moreover, SDG 17 targets the strengthening of long-term debt sustainability and macroeconomic stability, particularly for developing countries. One means of achieving this is the mandate that requires developed countries to implement their official development assistance commitments, including meeting the target of 0.7 percent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 percent of ODA/GNI to least-developed countries (United Nations, 2020). As a middle-income developing country, Egypt aims to strengthen economic cooperation with the international community, both financial and technical. Congruently, the government of Egypt has pursued a responsibility-sharing approach among all stakeholders including the private sector and development partners. Given the dimensionality and cross-cutting nature of SDG 17, the Ministry's analysis reveals that all projects that contribute to meeting its targets come indirectly by way of the goal being a secondary or tertiary objective. For its part, in 2020, there was no reported progress or lack thereof towards SDG 17 (United Nations, 2020).

1.19.1 Single Mapping Approach

The total ODA targeting SDG 17 is worth US\$ 20 million, financing 5 projects. Those projects are all financed by grants through UN organizations. As seen in Figure 93, the UNDP represents more than 95 percent of total funds provided by UN organizations that are directed to enhancing development and providing policy support.

US\$ 0.02 billion financed **5 projects** directly contributing to **SDG 17**.

Figure 93: Single Mapping Approach –Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 17



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Under the single mapping approach, projects that identified SDG 17 as their main objectives all targeted good governance, as seen in Figure 94. These projects target strengthening national capacities and providing policy support to the government.

Figure 94: Single Mapping Approach –Financial Contribution by Sector to SDG 17



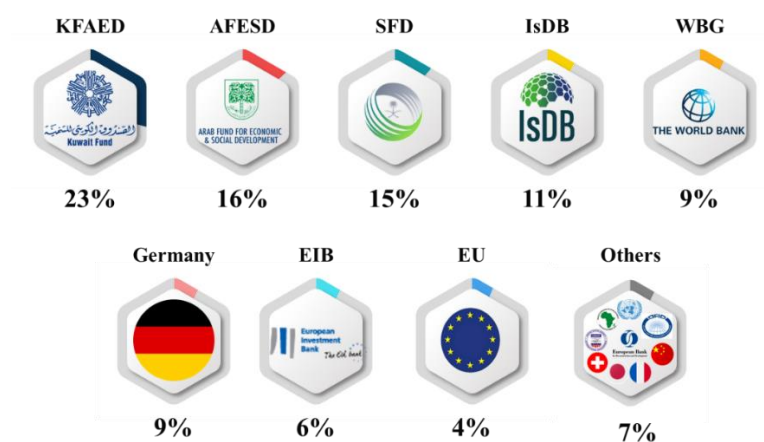
Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

1.19.2 Multiple Mapping Approach

US\$ 7.8 billion financed **58 projects** contributing to **SDG 17 as a cross-cutting theme**.

A total of 58 projects that contribute to SDG 17 as a cross-cutting theme received a combined total funds of US\$ 7.8 billion. As shown in Figure 95, KFAED was the highest contributor of finances targeting SDG 17 with a share of 23 percent, followed by AFESD with a share of 16 percent, and SFD and IsDB with shares of 15 percent and 11 percent, respectively.

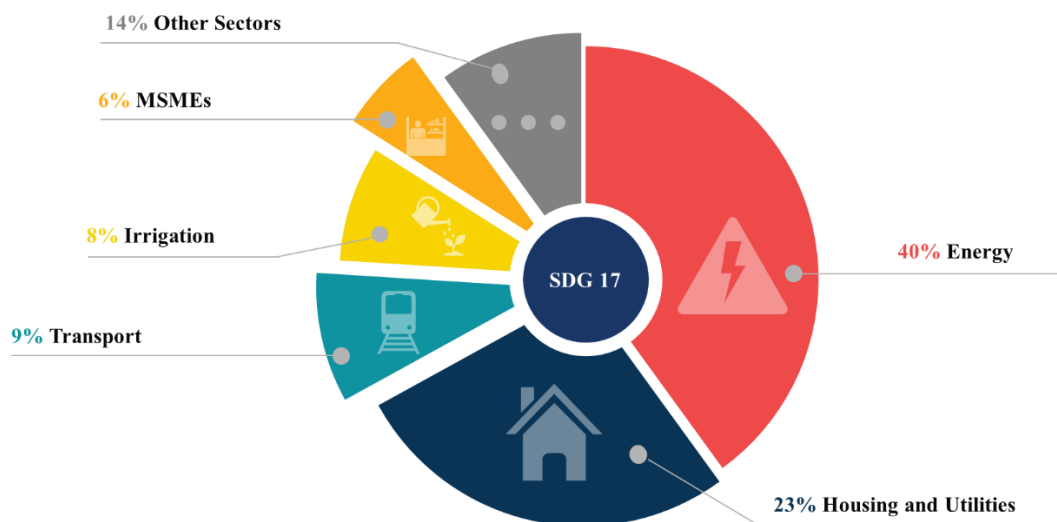
Figure 95: Multiple Mapping Approach – Contribution by Development Partner to SDG 17



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Distribution of ODA towards these projects *inter alia* indicates the priority sectors (a total of 15) for development partners. As illustrated by Figure 96, the Energy sector received 40 percent of the finances that target SDG 17. The Housing and Utilities sector received 23 percent of funds while the Transport sector received 9 percent of funds. While most development partners argued that all ODA projects could be listed as contributors to this goal, it was agreed to only consider projects that included one or more of the targets identified by the UN Indicators Framework in supporting policy development and technical support.

Figure 96: Multiple Mapping Approach –Contribution by Sector to SDG 17



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Finally, assessing the interaction of Goal 17 with other SDGs, Figure 97 shows that it is linked to all of them. Following the Addis Agenda for Action (AAA), strong and inclusive partnerships were recognized as the ultimate way to expedite the achievement of sustainable development. The role of international cooperation is emphasized under SDG 17 as a main catalyst for achieving all SDGs.


“A successful development agenda requires inclusive partnerships — at the global, regional, national and local levels — built upon principles and values, and upon a shared vision and shared goals placing people and the planet at the centre.” (United Nations, n.d.)

Figure 97: Multiple Mapping - Relationship between SDG 17 and Other SDGs




Source: Ministry of International Cooperation Database, June 2020

Box 17: Sustainable Persistent Organic Pollutants-Partnership for Goal 17




SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
 Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST)
 Gas-Solar Energy Power Plant

36 million USD
 worth project to support higher education and renewable energy with Japan



PEOPLE AT THE CORE

 **500** enrolled students
 in the new programs

 **2** thousand students
 to graduate in 2021

PROJECTS IN ACTION

- Establish the foundation to become a world class leading university
- Strengthen the university’s academic research and management
- Establish a solar electricity generation system in the university
- Introduce high standard education to a governmentally owned university

PURPOSE AS THE DRIVER

- Promote human development in the region and worldwide
- Support innovation, research and development in advanced technology

Source: Ministry of International Cooperation

The Intertwined Goals

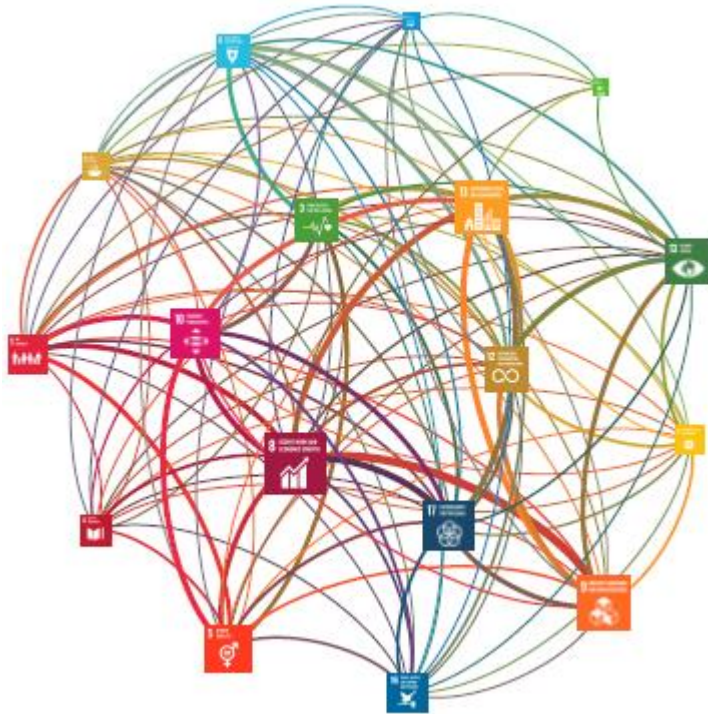
After conducting the individual analyses for each SDG, the Ministry then studied the goals' interrelations based on current and active ODA project data for Egypt. Future cooperation interventions and action plans for achieving the SDGs should be informed by the findings of this mapping process. There is indeed *“growing evidence that substantial economic, social and environmental benefits can be obtained from well-coordinated actions that capitalize on synergies between multiple SDGs. For example, targeting energy security (SDG 7), climate change (SDG 13) and air pollution (SDG 3, 11, 12) simultaneously in energy systems could achieve all three goals for only slightly greater cost than achieving the climate change goal alone (c. 1 percent of global GDP vs c. 1.6 percent; McCollum et al. 2011). Phasing out solid fuel cooking stoves could reduce global warming by 0.08 °C by 2050 at the same time as avoiding 260,000 premature deaths per year from local pollution (Lacey et al. 2017) progressing SDGs 13 and 3.”* (Scharlemann, et al., 2020)

The current findings of the relationships amongst SDGs through this analysis reflect the value of crafting well intertwined development interventions that are able to create multiplier effects on economic, social and environmental dimensions of the national and international development agenda. Sharing these findings with all stakeholders in the development process -- policy makers, development partners, private sector, civil society, think tanks and academia -- presents a base for informed future interactive dialogues and policies that can promote, guide and influence more inclusive and multidimensional development activities.

“Given that only 10 years remain to achieve all SDGs globally and progress has been insufficient so far (Independent Group of Scientists Appointed by the Secretary-General 2019), there is a growing need to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of action by targeting multiple SDGs.” (Scharlemann, et al., 2020)

Figure 98 shows how all 17 goals have complex relations with each other, especially as financial and/or technical activities that are aimed at affecting one SDG indeed do influence many others. Capturing and documenting these relationships using real-time data and implemented activities informs future decisions on optimal allocations of funds and designs of development action plans.

Figure 98: Interconnection of SDGs in Egypt's ODA Projects



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation, SDG Mapping

The size of SDG icons in Figure 98 depicts how frequently each SDG was reported to be interlinked with others, whilst the thickness of the connecting lines shows the strength of interrelationships amongst the goals. SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) recorded the highest frequency as it was reported as an objective for 138 projects, representing almost 37 percent of all ODA projects in Egypt. This reflects the importance of the economic dimension of many development interventions that contribute to promoting economic growth and creating job opportunities across several sectors. The next most frequent goals were SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) with 118 and 117 projects, respectively. It is worth noting that many projects targeting enhanced infrastructure reported a direct connection with SDGs 8 and 11, which is reflected in the chart through lines connecting these goals together.

Interestingly, the multiple mapping approach revealed that goals representing cross-cutting themes were more frequently reported amongst projects' objectives than were goals directly connected to sectoral development. Among the goals showing the least commonalities are SDG2 (No Hunger), which are mainly confined to projects in the Agriculture and Irrigation sectors; SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), which relate largely to projects in electricity and renewable energy; SDG4 (Quality Education), which represents interventions targeting primary, secondary

and higher education; and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), which is focused on extending and upgrading potable water and sanitation networks. These goals reflect specific defined sectoral objectives, and thus their projects, although showing links with other cross-cutting themes, are not themselves mapped against interventions away from their direct sectors. This finding affirms the rationale of the multiple mapping approach, as it reflects the multidimensionality of development cooperation interventions and the interlinkages that are diluted by single mapping and sectoral mapping.

The mapping exercise for the full ODA portfolio across the SDGs have reflected prominent relations between certain Goals, such as:

- **SDG 1 has direct correlation with all SDGs.** This is not surprising as “No Poverty” can be described as the motive and ultimate goal of all development interventions through ODA. Different project interventions in different sectors target infrastructure, provision of services or promoting sustainability, which influence the lives of people and arguably reduce one or more of the multiple dimensions of poverty. Therefore, sustainability measures and improved infrastructure are preconditions to eradicating poverty in all its forms.
- **Data show that enhancing women’s and girls’ access to financial, economic and social services directly reduces poverty,** thus establishing a positive correlation between SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Most of the projects that aimed mainly at either one of these SDGs considered the other as one of their targets.
- **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) recorded the highest frequency in relation to other SDGs,** under the multiple mapping approach, as it was reported as an objective for 138 projects, representing almost 37 percent of all ODA projects in Egypt. This reflects the importance of the economic dimension of many development interventions that contribute to promoting economic growth and creating job opportunities across several sectors.
- **The next most frequently reported goals were SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)** with 118 and 117 projects, respectively. It is worth noting that many projects targeting enhanced infrastructure reported a direct connection with SDGs 8 and 11.
- **During SDG consultations with development partners, there was consensus on the strong relations between SDG 7 (Affordable and clean Energy) and SDG 9 (Industry Innovation and Infrastructure)** as the latter emphasizes the development and accessibility to reliable, resilient and sustainable infrastructure among its targets, one of which is energy. Some DPs developed coding systems that automatically map projects under the Energy sector to both SDG 7 and SDG 9.

- **Projects directly aiming at financial inclusion were debatable during consultations with development partners to whether they would be linked to SDG 8 or SDG 9.** Projects that provided direct finances for MSMEs contributed to job creation which makes them relevant to SDG 8; however, SDG 9 specifies increasing access to finance as a main target. Using the single mapping approach, a tradeoff was necessary to map the projects, while under the multiple mapping approach, these projects were linked to both goals.

Mapping Official Development Assistance-Sustainable Development Goals to Promote Good Governance

The mapping of ODA projects to the SDGs is aimed at supporting development cooperation decision making by highlighting opportunities and gaps in financial and technical assistance to Egypt. The mapping exercise clearly displays the current situation and gives insight to the direction of future partnerships. Prior to COVID-19, the world has marked the path towards the 2030 Agenda as the “Decade of Action”, where all development stakeholders need to be cognizant of what has been achieved, take stock of successful experiences and highlight pitfalls to make evidence-based choices that help maximize the benefits of available resources, and channel future cooperation towards realizing the SDGs. The coronavirus pandemic added challenges to the path ahead, yet equally magnified the need for collective action to overcome hurdles in both developed and developing countries.

The rapidly growing development needs, and increased overseas financial flows, make transparency and accountability predominant measures in international cooperation. Since the announcement of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in 2005, the two stated principles have been at the forefront of the international development agenda. The principles were repeatedly affirmed in all agreements of effective development cooperation, namely: Accra 2008, Busan 2011, Mexico 2014, Nairobi 2016 and during the UN High-Level Political Forum in 2019. With the realization that Official Development Assistance is a valuable resource for achieving the 2030 goals and targets, the Ministry embarked on restructuring efforts of its Monitoring Department. The department’s functions and activities are essential to ensuring the optimal management of ODA to achieve desired objectives through embracing the internationally agreed principles of effective development cooperation and results-based management. Amina Mohamed, UN Deputy Secretary General, particularly stressed the importance of government institutions to the achievement of the SDGs:

“Promoting government institutions that are effective, accountable and inclusive will be critical for every one of the goals, and bringing various government institutions together to develop and implement integrated policies will be key to their success.” (OECD, 2017b)

As such, improvement and effectiveness of governance arrangements has direct influence on the implementation of the SDGs. The different aspects of governance -- namely participation, policy coherence, reflexivity, adaptation and democratic institutions -- were tested using multiple regression to verify effects on SDG achievement at the national level. The results confirmed that the enhancement of democratic institutions and participation leads to greater progress in SDG implementation by ensuring accountability and transparency in policy-making as well as in political responsiveness (Glass & Newig, 2019).

With this understanding, the Ministry formed sectoral committees with the objective of regularly monitoring the progress of all ongoing ODA projects within each specific sector, coordinating with line ministries and implementing institutions, and validating disbursement rates with all related parties including the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE). This reform institutionalized a robust system for transparency, accountability and enabled the good governance essential for tracking ODA projects' progress towards the SDGs. This step was crucial as the OECD recognizes that:

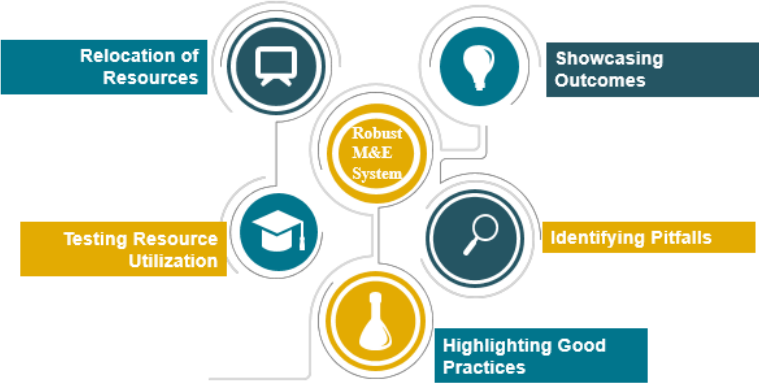
“One of the many challenges facing countries in the implementation of the SDGs is in ensuring appropriate governance and coordination structures across ministries and levels of government. The implementation of the SDGs will necessarily... the involvement of different ministries, departments, agencies and centres of government to find the balance between at times competing goals” (OECD, 2017b).

Therefore, the sectoral committees ensured the inclusive participation of all relevant parties on the national level in reviewing the objectives, activities and implementation of all projects on a quarterly basis and disseminating this data to all involved stakeholders. Through these interactions, the committees provided guidance, proactive problem solving and intermediation amongst implementing agencies, when needed, to ensure smooth operation as well as timely and accurate updates and dissemination of ODA data to provide proper feedback and allow for corrective actions. Since the institutionalization of this process, substantial progress was achieved throughout the year. Comprehensive reports were produced on the progress of all projects, detecting those with major bottle necks, and addressing and resolving their obstacles. The Ministry also managed to create a common platform for follow-up and communication with line ministries and produced quarterly updates to the Cabinet.

This marks a significant milestone as Egypt enjoys strong active partnerships with more than 25 development partners operating in almost 20 social, economic and environmental sectors and contributing to all 17 SDGs. It is thus necessary to ensure that all operations are guided by the principles of transparency and accountability, and that development results are aligned with the national strategy, Vision 2030, and consistent with the UN SDG Agenda to set a positive trajectory for an effective action plan. ODA-SDG mapping is thus a timely and crucial step to set performance indicators that can capture the results of ODA finances towards the SDGs.

Studies have noted the reciprocity of the relationship between monitoring processes and good governance, as each of them directly influences and enhances the other in an upward spiral. As noted earlier, transparent and regular monitoring practices improve the efficiency of government institutions and enhance good governance. Likewise, commitment to governance principles leverages the magnitude of monitoring results in improving performance. Ensuring that monitoring is inclusive and that the results and outcomes will directly influence decision making creates demand for commitment to good governance. Good governance creates an enabling environment for monitoring, and consequently monitoring results contribute to good governance.

“(good governance) includes a keen desire on the part of the system to assess its own performance from time to time, to learn from experience, and to improve the outputs, outcomes, and impacts of the policies and programs it is pursuing. This is achieved through better planning, management, and implementation: and this in turn creates a demand and an enabling environment for M&E.” (Agrawal, Kalugampitiya, Rinzin, & Hashim, 2017)

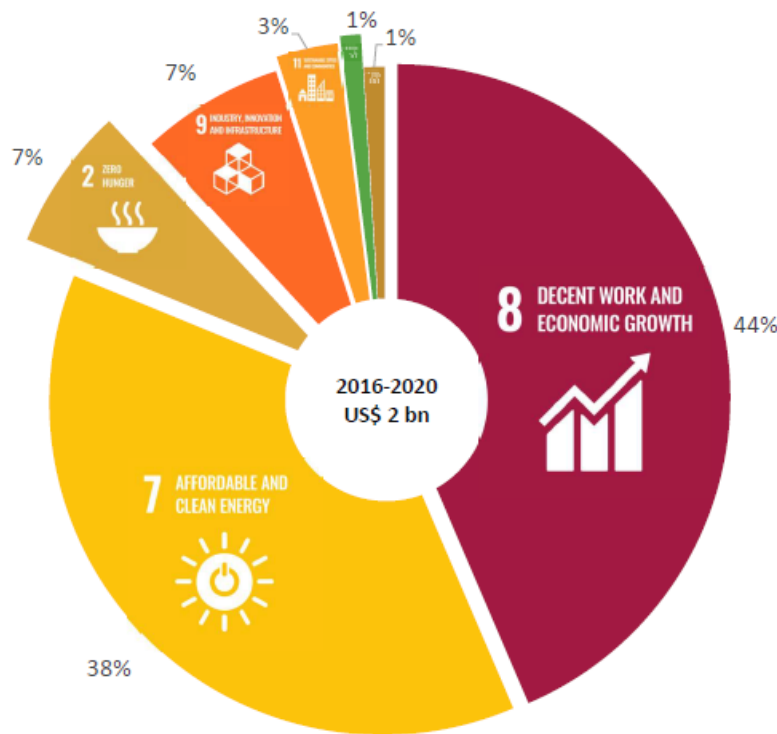


Now that ODA project linkages to SDGs have been established, and an institutional monitoring framework for projects and program results has been set, the way forward entails linking the indicators of the ODA projects and programs to the relevant SDG indicators that track and assess the contributions of these interventions to the realization of the 2030 Agenda. As explained in the methodology section, the OECD Creditors Reporting System (CRS) is working to add SDG fields to enhance visibility of contributions to the SDG. Adopting this system, when completed, may provide an internationally acknowledged mechanism for effective linkages that can support ODA-SDG tracking and monitoring. The Ministry is closely following the development of this system so as to align its efforts with the international development community in improving ODA-SDG monitoring and reporting (OECD, 2017).

2. Mapping Egypt-IFC Private Sector Financing to Sustainable Development Goals

Underscoring Principle I of Economic Diplomacy (Multi-Stakeholder Platforms), financing the development agenda requires collaboration among all stakeholders involved. Private sector engagement in development through development cooperation financing has been recognized internationally as a main contributor to achieving the SDGs. To that end, and in tandem with mapping ODA sovereign finance to the SDGs, the Ministry and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) mapped current IFC financing in Egypt directed to the private sector to the SDGs.

Figure 99: Mapping International Finance Corporation’s Private Sector Financing to the SDGs



Source: Foreign Direct Investment Intelligence, (Rania Al-Mashat, 2020)

This mapping revealed that the extent to which international finance institutions (IFIs) support to private sector does actually play a significant role in contributing to the realization of the SDGs. For IFC Egypt, 44% of private sector financing was directed to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) as supporting expansion of economic activities creates more job opportunities and contributes positively to the economy. SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) followed in second place with around 38% of IFC’s funds to the private sector. SDG 2 (No Hunger) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) were third and fourth, each receiving 7% of the finances.

Mapping revealed the role of IFC finance to Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), especially in regards to Egypt’s flagship project, “Benban” Solar Power Plant, which received the WBG’s 2019 annual award for best project. This exemplary project shows the potential for IFIs to mobilize private sector engagement in development in partnership with national governments to push forward the SDG agenda. The reforms on feed-in tariffs, which were adopted by the Egyptian government through the “Renewable Energy Law (Decree Law 203/2014)”, encourage private sector investors to partake in the production of renewable energy and ultimately contribute to the global development agenda.

FDI Intelligence, a specialized division of *The Financial Times*, deemed the successful collaboration between IFC and Egypt in supporting renewable energy as a model for multi-stakeholder collaboration for achieving SDGs.

“In 2019, Egypt unveiled its flagship Benban Solar Park, the world’s largest solar installation. Spanning 36 square kilometres of desert, in 32 plots developed by over 40 companies from 12 countries, it generates over 1500mW of power (and) is the biggest signal yet of Egypt’s commitment to clean, sustainable energy, and a testament to the power of partnership between the public and private sectors... the park is optimising the price of energy, strengthening Egypt’s energy mix, adding more local resources and will help avoid millions of tons of greenhouse gas emissions; it also created thousands of jobs, boosting Egypt’s economy”. (Rania Al-Mashat, 2020)

Mapping also provided evidence that many contributions to SDGs may go unnoticed if they are not measured or at least mapped against the 2030 Agenda. The success of this initiative encourages more future cooperation with IFIs to map and measure the volume of finances directed to private sector engagement for achieving the SDGs.

The Ministry announced 2021 as the year of private sector engagement in development, hence more collaboration with IFIs, DFIs and development partners is expected to strengthen the role of private sector engagement in development. Meanwhile, the mapping exercise will be expanded to all development finances that support the private sector to acknowledge successful initiatives and encourage further cooperation.

3. Key Findings

- **Different goals in the 2030 Agenda overlap and share similar targets and indicators**, making it difficult to disentangle them when mapping projects’ objectives to SDGs. Meanwhile, ODA-financed projects’ outcomes and results usually contribute to the realization of more than one SDG.

- **Mapping ODA-financed projects to more than one SDG reflects the complex and reciprocal relationships that exist among SDGs** in reality, captures the nature and purpose of development cooperation projects and creates the synergies that reflect the multidimensionality of goals and sectors. Thus, the Multiple SDG Mapping approach was embraced by the Ministry to account for all the SDGs that are targeted by ODA-financed projects. This paves the way for the harmonization and policy coherence across sectors, making it more reflective and informative of the Ministry's partnership model through well-coordinated actions.
- **Development Partners endorsed the rationale of the multiple mapping approach, yet expressed reservation regarding distributing each project's budget among its relevant SDGs. They expressed comfort with the single mapping approach**, which avoids the complexity and subjectivity that may be encountered in distributing the financial allocations of each project to more than one SDG on the one hand, and the double counting that may occur if the same project's total budget was recorded as contributions for more than one SDG.
- **The Ministry and partners reached consensus that there is merit to both methodologies:** the single mapping approach gives insight towards the initial financial distribution across the SDGs, while the multiple mapping approach elucidates the interlinked objectives of development interventions. Still willingness to explore the results of the multiple approach to account for the intended results and impact of the projects across various areas, and to utilize international approaches aimed at tracking SDG allocations.
- **The multiple mapping approach revealed that goals representing cross-cutting themes were more frequently reported amongst projects' objectives than were goals directly connected to sectoral development.** Projects aiming at goals which reflect specific defined sectoral objectives included other cross-cutting thematic SDGs in their targets. Yet, the sectoral SDGs were not themselves mapped against interventions away from their direct sectors.
- **SDG 16 is a goal that is identified as both an outcome and as an enabler of sustainable development**, since concepts such as peace, justice, and inclusion are essential, that is they enable achievement of any other SDGs by ensuring effective and transparent implementation practices and transparency in the implementing institutions.
- **The role of international cooperation is emphasized under SDG 17 as a main catalyst for achieving all SDGs**, since strong and inclusive partnerships are the ultimate way to expedite the achievement of sustainable development. However, during the mapping exercise, although most development partners argued that all ODA projects could be listed as contributors to this goal, it was agreed to only map projects which supported policy development and technical assistance.

- **The Ministry's initiative with the IFC in mapping private sector projects to the SDGs provides evidence that many contributions to SDGs may go unnoticed if they are not measured or at least mapped against the 2030 Agenda.** ODA and private sector projects' SDG mapping is thus a timely and crucial step to encourage setting performance indicators that can capture the results of ODA and private sector contributions towards the SDGs, not only financial flows.
- **Improvement and effectiveness of governance arrangements have direct influence on the implementation of the SDGs.** Robust monitoring and evaluation systems for tracking ODA projects' progress towards the SDGs are requisites for transparency and accountability.

4. Going Forward

- **The current findings of the relationships amongst SDGs reflect the value of crafting well intertwined development interventions that are able to create multiplier effects on economic, social and environmental dimensions** of the national and international development agenda. Capturing and documenting these relationships using real-time data and sharing these findings with all stakeholders in the development process presents a base for informed future interactive dialogues and policies that can promote, guide and influence more inclusive and multidimensional development activities, and informs future decisions on optimal allocations of funds and designs of development action plans.
- **Sustainability measures need to be mainstreamed across development interventions to avoid conflicting outcomes of different Goals.** Pursuing economic growth and expanding production, may adversely affect environmental sustainability and climate change. For instance, expanding the networks of infrastructure, advanced industrialization and high rates of urbanization increase harmful emissions and deplete natural resources.
- **Further research is needed to investigate ways to assess financial contributions of projects to multiple SDGs,** especially the contributions to cross-cutting themes which represent outcomes and impact of different interventions directed to other SDGs.

Principle III: The Global Partnerships Narrative

The third principle of the Ministry's economic diplomacy is the Global Partnerships Narrative, which aims to mobilize national and international efforts towards the achievement of development goals through sharing a common language of communication to push the agenda forward. As the world is currently facing unprecedented crises that threaten humanity as a whole, from food insecurity to climate change, more concerted efforts are needed for development cooperation. The Global Partnerships Narrative emphasizes the values of solidarity and humanity by focusing on the three elements that contribute to the success of development interventions: People, Projects and Purpose (P&P&P).

People at the Core: Egypt has made investment in people a top priority, as contributing to human capital is integral to the country's overall development. Committed to improving the Egyptian people's lives, every partnership identifies existing gaps and provides multi-sectoral assistance to millions of beneficiaries encouraging individuals and societies to realize their full potential.

Projects in Action: Projects have been implemented across multiple sectors that serve social, economic and environmental dimensions including education, transportation, water desalination, renewable energy, entrepreneurship, and women's empowerment, among others. The several projects completed and the many currently in progress address each of the 17 SDGs. Through its communication framework, the Ministry aims to transparently showcase projects and their impact on communities as a means to promote SDGs and bolster credibility.

Purpose as the Driver: Partnerships with purpose have been a driver to generate sustained and inclusive growth, stay agile in a rapidly changing world, and deepen ties with stakeholders. Purpose in projects serves important strategic roles, both defining the playing field through collaboration with multilateral and bilateral partners, and shaping growth potential.

Despite the huge efforts of development cooperation stakeholders, the diversity of implemented projects and programs, the wide scale of their influence and impact as well as the resources employed for its operation, little is known by these countries' publics, as well as constituencies within developed countries. Official Development Assistance is a vital source for financial and technical cooperation for transition economies and for least developed countries. It not only supports recipient countries in bridging financial and knowledge gaps on domestic levels, but is also their means for achieving the SDGs.

"ODA is critical to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, filling key financing gaps where no alternatives exist. Given the unprecedented volume of public and

private resources to be mobilised in order to achieve the ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ODA must evolve and be used as effectively as possible within the broader development finance landscape.” (OECD, 2017)⁸

International cooperation among all development stakeholders is thus recognized, in and of itself, as SDG 17, “Partnerships for the goals”. The indicators under this goal further emphasize the commitment of developed countries to fulfill their agreed upon pledge to contribute a specific percentage of their countries’ Gross National Income (GNI) to both developing and least developed countries as a way of ensuring that they have fair chance for enhancing their people’s livelihood in line with the UN objective of “Leaving No One Behind”.

“17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries.” (UN Indicators Framework, 2020)

With a powerful narrative, mobilization towards the achievement of development goals occurs. Successful communication of development results and values of humanity and solidarity entice people’s support to development cooperation.

1. Public Opinion and Official Development Assistance

The Global Partnerships Narrative focuses on mobilizing efforts towards achieving development goals. The narrative targets showcasing real-life experiences and successful practices of collaborations among development stakeholders that are able to transform peoples’ lives and stimulate social, economic and environmental advancements.

Over the past years, there have been rising calls questioning the value and significance of international bilateral and multilateral development cooperation systems. These calls raise concerns and skepticism about development cooperation dynamics and sustainability. They reflect the need to mobilize strong popular support for the international cooperation system that is based on evidence drawn from long practices, measurable achievements and continuous evolution. They further highlight the imminent need for raising awareness and engaging the public through sharing basic principles about development cooperation, publicizing

⁸ <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/dcr-2017-12-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/dcr-2017-12-en>

achievements, showing the scale of interventions to advance the international system and to protect it against changes that may compromise future cooperation.

Juan David Gómez-Quintero, Pilar Gargallo Valero and Jesús Miguel Álvarez assessed public opinion in rural areas of Spain to gauge their awareness of development cooperation needs in foreign countries and pinpoint the criteria that influence this understanding. They concluded that the level of education, the age of individuals and size of cities affect their perception and support of international cooperation (Gomez-Quintero, Valero, & Alvarez, 2019).⁹ Similarly, Jennifer van Heerde and David Hudson found that people's support to ODA in other countries can be dependent on "moral judgements" and "self-interest." Their most notable finding was that public opinion to a great extent was affected by the way media portrays poverty and development needs in foreign communities (Heerde & Hudson, 2010).¹

Only a few studies have tackled the modalities of strategic communication and stressed the importance and impact of development cooperation. Filling this void is urgent given the countdown towards fulfilling the 2030 Development Agenda. With the modern modes of communication, a real opportunity presents itself to inform and engage all stakeholders involved in the development cooperation process. Of particular importance is communication's impact as a compelling message to help influence public opinion in the field of development cooperation.

Egypt's Global Partnerships Narrative

The Global Partnerships Narrative advances future collaboration efforts based on up-to-date and consistent account between the government of Egypt and its multilateral and bilateral development partners. Cooperation connections and engagements are fostered through strategic communication to drive complex cooperative processes forward, facilitate advice, gather support, ensure coordination, build consensus among divergent opinions and interests, and exchange information and knowledge. For its part, the Global Partnerships Narrative creates legitimacy and resolves inherent complexity within the milieu of sustainable development.

Strategy processes for sustainable development are a complex task that put people right at the center of attention: their analyses, dialogue, images, competences, planning, investments and actions are to define a society's joint economic, social and ecological goals. Strategic Communication in this context is supposed to be a pre-requisite and an instrument of effective policy making and public participation: from formulating a vision,

⁹ [file:///C:/Users/Administrator/Downloads/sustainability-11-02027_percent20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Administrator/Downloads/sustainability-11-02027_percent20(1).pdf)

Juan David Gómez-Quintero 1,* , Pilar Gargallo Valero 2 and Jesús Miguel Álvarez. Who Supports International Development Cooperation in Times of Crisis? Public Opinion in Rural Spain

¹ <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-9248.2009.00800.x>

negotiating and decision making, developing and implementing plans to monitoring impacts. (GTZ, 2006)

Against this background, the Ministry launched the narrative during one of the most vulnerable eras the world has ever witnessed. The sweeping impacts of Covid-19 have stifled the world through massive economic disruptions and destructive spillovers. Still, what is perhaps lost in the fog and urgency of tending to and resolving present and near-term challenges, are the opportunities. One specific opportunity is reimagining a renewed sustainable development narrative. Not only is this narrative timely, it also leverages the crossroads of the Decade of Action from the 2030 Agenda perspective and the ongoing global crisis, alongside available contemporary tools and resources, to bring inclusivity back at the forefront.

Figure 100: The Ministry's Global Partnerships Narrative and Principles of Economic Diplomacy



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation

Thus, at a time where meeting development challenges necessitates user-centric, problem-driven and targeted collaboration, innovative communication is vital. As this is not a novel concept, this chapter focuses less on the importance of communication for sustainable development and more on *how* contemporary demands require an enhanced and evolved model for communication – a model that is nuanced, precise, adaptable and dynamic.

2.1. Models of Communication

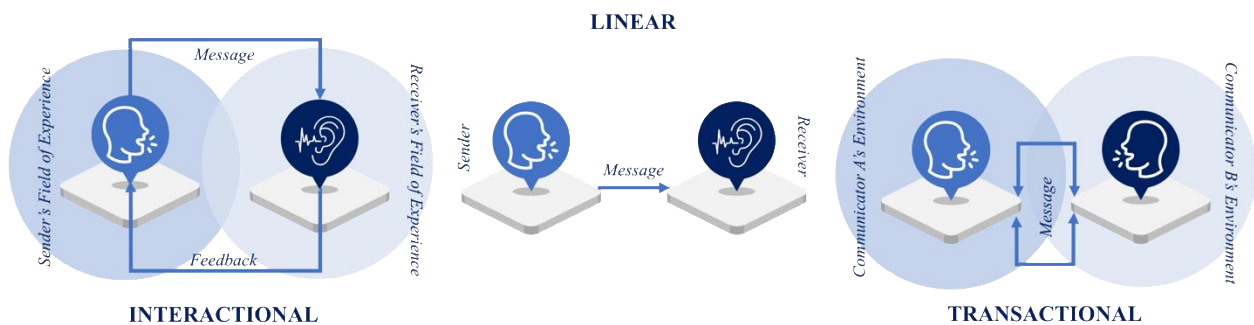
To contextualize the Ministry’s communication model, better understand what sets it apart, and refine how it activates the third principle of economic diplomacy, it is first important to ensure a common understanding of terms and the distinctive meaning of each, followed by a brief overview of traditional models of communication to support sustainable development. Building

on this foundation, the Ministry has been able to develop a model that extends beyond routes offered through these conventional models.

A **mode of communication** refers to the manner in which a message is expressed that makes senders' messaging tangible to the receiver. For some communication channels, modes can be a default of the channels structure, but this is not always necessary as modes can also be shaped and designed by the user. Therefore, when assessing the way traditional communication models enable communication within the existing context of sustainable development, it is important to be cognizant not only of how messages are delivered but also of the mechanisms at work that impact the way they are received, understood, and the extent to which they enable negotiations of meaning, feedback, build consensus and engagement. In other words, measuring the impact of traditional models within the milieu of sustainable development comes down to the degree to which they permit strategic communication – that is, in the way they actively solicit stakeholders' perspectives.

The most common traditional models of communication the linear, interactional and transactional models. The **Linear Model** (also known as the action model or one-way model of communication) is where the speaker occupies the central focus, explained by Harold D. Lasswell as: “Who, said what, in which channel, to whom, with what effect?” A more effective communication between sender and receiver was developed in the Osgood-Schramm **Interactional Model** (also known as the circular model). This model emphasized the role of feedback channels and each respective party's field of experience to assimilate a mutual understanding. Barnlund's **Transactional Model** brought reciprocity into frame and highlighted the idea that communication is an engaged practice of two communicators (the sender and the receiver), who are equally responsible for the development of shared meaning and effectiveness of dialogue. (Barnlund, 1970) Integrating three models, Frank Dance's **Helical Model** perceives communication as a dynamic model emulating a helix in its dimensionality. (McQuail, 2008)

Figure 101: Traditional Communication Models



The aforementioned models are hardly exhaustive, but they are indicative of the evolution of the collective practice and theory of communication, and how meaning is derived from it. The

common thread of these models is that communication is triggered, instigated and activated, emphasizing that it is learned and nurtured. (Craig, 2006) The framework within which the process of (human) communication works has also been a core topic of scholarly literature. Approached from different disciplines with various models, each emphasizes particular features, channels and components of the communication process.

The three primary communication models have long been part of how governments communicate. Linear models can be seen in practice through formal speeches, news articles and press releases. Transactional models encompass phone calls or face-to-face interviews. And, interactive models can be exemplified by meetings in which all attendees participate by sharing ideas and comments. Still the limitations of these models are palpable -- not just as they have become associated over time with stilted, formal and excessively structured messaging but even as the channels and modes of communications activated through them remain inadequate in today's world. First, these models only partially permit communication that is able to breakdown *"complex information into understandable elements in a socio-culturally relevant way for different audiences"* (GTZ, 2006). Second, there is deficient scope in efficiently and effectively communicating with audience segments or gathering their input. Lastly, not only is accessibility often not feasible but mobilization of civil society is less of a focus and often becomes an afterthought. In order to give sustainable development meaning – a well-defined vision of where to go and how to get there – while contextualizing economic, social and ecological dimensions, *strategic* communication is necessary.

2.2. Communications Framework for Effective Development

In 2007, *"Defining Strategic Communication"* defined strategic communication generally as an organization *"communicating purposefully to advance its mission"*.

Strategic communication examines organizational communication from an integrated, multidisciplinary perspective by extending ideas and issues grounded in various traditional communications disciplines. (Hallahan, Holtzhausen, Betteke, & Vercic, 2007)

The authors argued that strategic communication has emerged *"as a unifying paradigm for studying purposeful communications"* because: (1) the differentiation between traditional communications and impacts is *"rapidly disappearing"*; (2) the role of technology is redirecting the trajectory of public communications; (3) the variety of modes and channels of communication have expanded and thus behaviors of *"constituencies"* have evolved; and (4) *"influence has become a fundamental goal"* of communication. (Hallahan, Holtzhausen, Betteke, & Vercic, 2007). Since its publication, these trends have only become more evident and the vital role of strategic communication has only heightened.

The purpose of communication is to establish common understanding and build consensus among divergent *"opinions and interests"*, and to *"facilitate(s) the building of know-how, decision*

making and action capacities at the heart of the delicate cooperation between government, civil society groups and the private sector”. However, doing so successfully – that is, strategically – requires keeping the future at the forefront of the conversation and for the “*diffusion of innovation*” to be the catalyst.

The overall goal of (strategic) innovation communication related to early phases of an innovation process, such as the generation of ideas, research, and development, is to strengthen an organization’s ability to innovate. The overall goal of innovation communication related to later phases of innovation processes is to facilitate the successful diffusion of innovations into social systems, that is, to facilitate their adoption and sustained implementation. (Weber, 2019)

Within the context of sustainable development, more than ever, the importance of mobilizing stakeholders to transform siloed resources into collective assets is crucial. Development cooperation rests heavily on the ability to initiate structural change in a given community by elevating how resources are used and distributed. Specifically, the Ministry has committed to using innovative tools, through channels and modes of communication within its reach, to underscore the importance of mapping and connecting the diverse range of these collective assets alongside its partners and stakeholders. These assets include skills, knowledge and resources that can accentuate the development and maintenance of social capital to support the storytelling of international cooperation.

Against this background, building a collective repository of knowledge, skills and resources would be ineffective without novel and innovative thinking. This type of thinking is even more critical when it comes to sustainable development that aims to foster meaningful and lasting behavioral change. There is therefore a tangible return on investment when it comes to “social listening”. This helps expand the possibilities of how information can be collected, dissected, pieced together, and delivered to an audience in order to deliver a desired impact. It is how information owners can hypothesize, draw inferences and formulate valuable content to engage stakeholders across as many domains as possible.

Moreover, behavior segmentation becomes crucial across three variables: psychographic (opinions, interests, values and attitudes); demographic (age, gender, income, and education); and geographic. Utilizing qualitative and quantitative variables in each of these variables ensures that the Ministry has the necessary data to broaden its reach and heighten its accessibility to its audience. Not only does this empower the Ministry to act more strategically, it elevates the very ability of the Ministry to meet its mandate with the latest digital and social trends and technological innovation. The Ministry’s outcomes include: (1) strengthening economic cooperation and multilateral engagement between Egypt and other countries, international and regional finance institutions as well as specialized agencies of the United Nations; (2) following up and monitoring national agencies that benefit from ODA financing within the framework of

achieving the SDGs; and (3) fostering trust and interest in human development through showcasing real human stories and include all voices in Egypt's development journey.

Furthermore, the digitization of communication is omnipresent. Not only has this reconfigured the demarcation between private and public domains, it has also altered how organizations build stakeholder relationships. As discussed in Chapter 1, stakeholder theory is interconnected with sustainability management. As stakeholders have evolved from shareholders in the cooperation dialogue, this has stipulated a new value-based model. For the Ministry, this model means a clear focus on stakeholders' experience and engagement, and on how can the Ministry ensure that its communication contributes to magnifying value creation. Doing so requires using communication tools that go beyond traditional tools and modes such as press releases, annual reports, and corporate publications. Thus, not only is it important for the Ministry to create the blueprint on how to fulfill the ethos of making stakeholders more valuable, more importantly is how the Ministry can be more valuable to them.

2.3. Agile Communications for Development Cooperation

When the Ministry set up its strategic roadmap in the first quarter of 2020, it recognized that rather than maintaining a strict communication plan as the focal point, the aforementioned strategy would provide the guiding principles. How well one embraces this opportunity and uses it to prompt a continuum of dialogue reveals how effective development cooperation is. Long gone are the days of standardized processes and "single-mode" or "one-shot" pathways. The needs of today's digital world require a new currency of nimbleness of "reach", dexterity of "tongues" and responsiveness to "feedback". And, in place of agents who adopt swiftly to always-expanding modes, channels and mediums of communication, is a more vigorous and expansive change dialogue that can in turn yield sustainable development.

In April 2020, the Ministry unveiled its new narrative aimed at highlighting Egypt's successful cooperation story with its development partners. The new narrative aims to contribute to ensuring that the promotion of future collaborations is based on an up-to-date, consistent and complete cooperation between the government of Egypt and its multilateral and bilateral development partners, generated through strong connections and engagement¹ .

Sharing Egypt's story, or how it has helped foster inclusive growth in line with the UN SDGs, required an integrated brand story and revived communication strategy. The reality of the digital era has paved way for multiple touchpoints across every audience journey. As such, in 2020, the

¹ The Ministry of International Cooperation's Annual Report describes in details the narrative taskforce and the communication framework that guided its operation including content co-creation, knowledge hub, SDG mapping framework and activation of the ongoing communication plans.

Ministry underscored the importance of an agile model of communication where it remained steadfast in building and communicating impactful narratives surrounding the 2030 Agenda. In building its model and communication framework, the Ministry was mindful of keeping the circular economy at the forefront and maintaining (if not further buttressing) the merit of its ODA financing in a creative manner that is accessible and adaptable. Furthermore, it prioritized collaborative dialogue that is dynamic through the use of innovative tools.

The Ministry's agile communication model prioritized the engagement of its stakeholders and audience through multi-stakeholder platforms to create credibility around ODA through: (1) sharing evocative and relevant content, (2) using contemporary modes, (3) using modern channels, (4) being in line with changing demographics at the national and global stage. The model is designed such that the Ministry is able to communicate in a manner that is empathetic and user/audience centric, collaborative and asset-driven, iterative and adaptive, and tolerant of ambiguity and learning.

1.1.1 Audience

One of the key questions in designing any communication model is: who will it serve? After all, if the ambition is to reach an audience, then this question should be answered with great focus and specificity because it shapes the communicator's positioning thereafter in a multitude of ways. Even beyond the scope of development cooperation, communication for all government institutions is burdened by a number of complexities particularly as they grapple with issues that are of varying degrees of importance to stakeholders in the public as well as private spheres. Consequently, for an institution to embark on the daunting task of extending itself to its audience, it first needs to stratify who gets engaged in messaging and how this can be accomplished to arrive at the necessary understanding, awareness and advocacy.

Dividing a communicator's audience into meaningful groups – segments-- can ensure the delivery of information and data to each respective segment based on its priorities. It can also allow the tailoring and delivery of information through the modes and channels most preferable to that segment. The Ministry's communications model canvassed a wider following with audience segmentation playing an instrumental role in enabling the institution to become more agile in terms of its delivery and engagement.

Domestic and National

One of the common challenges in development cooperation is communicating to a domestic and national audience. This is because there is a deeper sense of self and collective interest for the internal public than an external one. As such, the delivery of timely, transparent and reliable

information to their local population is of inherent interest to government institutions as they aim to achieve effective public administration. Indeed, apprising the public is not a one-way road where the citizen bears the bulk of the responsibility in obtaining relevant information. Forming mutual definitions and understanding begins with government institutions being mindful of the need to adapt to evolving communication pathways and acclimatize to changing demographics.

One of the key priorities in reforming a communication model is the way in which a government institution approaches communication with domestic and national audience. Even preceding the delineation of the content, modes and channels with which it can connect with its stakeholders, the Ministry recognized that it was first important to explore the central question(s) of who does Egypt's story matter to? And who does the government of Egypt need to engage, through the Ministry's reach, to achieve its development cooperation mandate? Perhaps it is a citizen who is specifically interested in how the government is ensuring impact on people to boost inclusive growth in the Egyptian governorates of Damietta or Kafr ElSheikh, specifically for rural female farmers. Or it could be a small business owner or local investor who is trying to anticipate how the domestic infrastructure landscape will evolve over the next few years and what projects are currently ongoing in the country.

In answering these questions, the Ministry recognized that there was and is continuous scope to expand its stakeholders, in this case, to domestic and national ones. Egypt's development narrative was not only relevant and of value to decision making entities but also to the everyday Egyptian citizen no matter their age, gender, geographic placement and social status. This encompasses local businesses, media, public authorities, non-governmental organizations, research institutions and many more segments of domestic society. In realizing the breadth of its listeners and co-communicators, it was important to reframe the conversations and dialogue with permutations of this audience within a specific context, for specific target and in a manner, which can be most easily accessed to that particular segment.

Development Partners

The pivotal role of development partners – be they bilateral or multilateral -- and their partnerships in realizing the 2030 Agenda has been discussed in the Ministry's reports, such as *"Multi-Stakeholder Platforms and Partnerships for Sustainable Development"* and *"ODA-SDG Mapping: Official Development Assistance to Sustainable Development Goals"*. The very nature of finite resources has fortuitously imposed that inclusive development cooperation is fostered by creating and strengthening regional platforms and partnerships for dialogue and peer-to-peer learning. The role of strategic communication (in sustainable development) is thus to move interventions from projects to processes; to transform understandings from abstract and theoretical themes to dynamic practices; and to do so by progressing from a mindset of shareholders to that of stakeholders. Consequently, agile communication with development

partners can enhance the legitimacy of and strengthen buy-in as to what works in order to achieve these three evolutions.

The Ministry's communication model is designed such that its iterative circular process of establishing dynamic and multi-way dialogue operates as a vibrant knowledge-sharing base. This harmonizes how information is collected, analyzed, monitored and translated into a credible "transmission belt" between "dissemination and action planning" (GTZ, 2006). In other words, communication with stakeholders is not just about a rigid strategy cycle, with a start and end point or a sequence to intently serve existing alliances. Instead, it is a continuous feedback loop that elevates the way in which resources are mobilized and how spillovers are activated beyond current commitments. To do so, and in light of current global circumstances, the Ministry has taken advantage of its stage to engage with development partners through a number of forums.

Global

Looking to the world stage, the Ministry has included multinational institutions and international corporations, non-governmental organizations, non-partner economies, public agencies and global civil society. While the reasons to engage a global audience are less palpable than those for development partners and national stakeholders, to "leave no one behind" requires the inclusion of even the most indirect or marginalized actors in all interventions and processes pertaining to development cooperation in formal or informal dialogue.

1.1.2 Content

Whether encompassed under the "globalization of flows" or more simply acknowledged as the advent and emergence of internet-based social media, it has vastly altered the way the world communicates. Social media has become an *"integral part of everyday life with large economic, political, and societal implications"* (McCay-Peet & Quan-Haase). Social media plays a crucial role in today's world not only in fostering connection but in enabling users to engage at much more proximal distance. At the onset, it is important to define what is meant by social media. There is no set or commonly accepted definition of what social media is/are and what *"tools, platforms and social phenomena are included within its scope"* (McCay-Peet & Quan-Haase), both functionally and theoretically, or within the realm of communication studies. Correa et. al. define it as the *"particular consumption of digital media or Internet that has little to do with traditional informational media use. Rather, it provides a mechanism for the audience to connect, communicate, and interact with each other and their mutual friends through instant messaging or social networking sites"* (Correa, Hinsley, & Zúñiga, 2009). Hayes et al. describe it as

internet-based, disentrained, and persistent channels of mass personal communication facilitating perceptions of interactions among users, deriving value primarily from user-

generated content". Another perspective comes by way of Xiang et al. who deduced that "social media can be generally understood as Internet-based applications that carry consumer-generated content which encompasses "media impressions created by consumers, typically informed by relevant experience, and archived or shared online for easy access by other impressionable consumers (Blackshaw, 2006)" (Xiang & Gretzel, 2009).

The dimensions of social media and how much space it takes up is continuously changing. What is more definitive is the way this phenomenon has and continues to transform the universal practice of communication. One common explanation for the nebulous term "social media" might be due to its nascence and continuous fluid nature -- what it enables, how it facilitates it, and the breadth of content included. In the context of purposeful strategic and innovative communication, content is perhaps one of the most powerful forces of social media in the way that it adds "multivocality" and in turn simultaneously enables the consumption and production of value and productivity of communication practices. (Linders, 2012) (Skaržauskienė, Tamošiūnaitė, & Žalėnienė, 2013) (Hayes, Carr, & Wohn, 2016)

Social media has elements that utilize traditional communication models, whereby a communicator can deliver or transmit a message to a specific audience. Still, the complexities of social media come by way of nontraditional communication pathways and how it has reoriented traditional communication models. A communicator's message and permutations of it, as well as new ones, are transmitted by way of one's audience and their networks. It is thus, through branded content, that this web must be meticulously managed, controlled, and consciously shaped in a way that aligns with one's mission and mandates. The Ministry has recognized the untapped potential for creating content that is not only actively sought by but also reciprocally engages its collective audience using social media assets. Employing its channels and modes of communication, broadening its toolkit, the Ministry has diversified and delineated the ways it can authentically build awareness, advocacy and loyalty.

Social media in government is a game changer. After all, not many things have changed the way the public interacts with governments more than social media. (Tran,T.; Bar-Tur, Y. (Hootsuite), 2020)

Published by the Dubai School of Government's Governance and Innovation Program since 2010, the annual Arab Social Media Report (ASMR) provides an analysis of regional social networking trends across 22 Arab countries in addition to Iran, Turkey and Israel. According to the 2016 ASMR "Citizen Engagement and Public Services in the Arab World: The Potential of Social Media", "people in the Arab region have adopted social media applications in all aspects of their lives, including interacting with their governments regarding public services" (Salem, F., 2016).

Socio-technological transformations have flattened informational hierarchies, changed trust models both in society and between citizens and government, re-defined many leadership characteristics, altered power structures and transformed the landscape of public service and policy making cycles significantly. Many governments in the Arab region realize today that they need to proactively engage citizens and partner with civil society structures as well as with businesses, to find innovative ways for delivering public services that are inclusive, citizen-centric, responsive, timely and cost-effective. With regards to service delivery, the unintended side-effects of the 'new public management' era and the documented limitations in the 'electronic government' era provide invaluable lessons for policy makers in the ongoing 'open government' and 'social media' era. (Salem, F., 2016)

Another study, published in 2019, “*Social Media in the Middle East: 2019 in Review Key Developments, Stories and Research Findings from The Past 12 Months*”, states that “*half of Arab Youth say they get their news on Facebook on a daily basis, some way ahead of other channels, such as online portals (39 percent), TV (34 percent) and newspapers (4 percent)*”. A key reason for this was that young Arabs between 18-24 years of age shared they trusted “social media ‘to do the right thing’ more than traditional (TV, newspapers etc.) with 60 percent stating compared to the latter with 55 percent of respondents”. (Radcliffe & Abuhmaid, 2019)

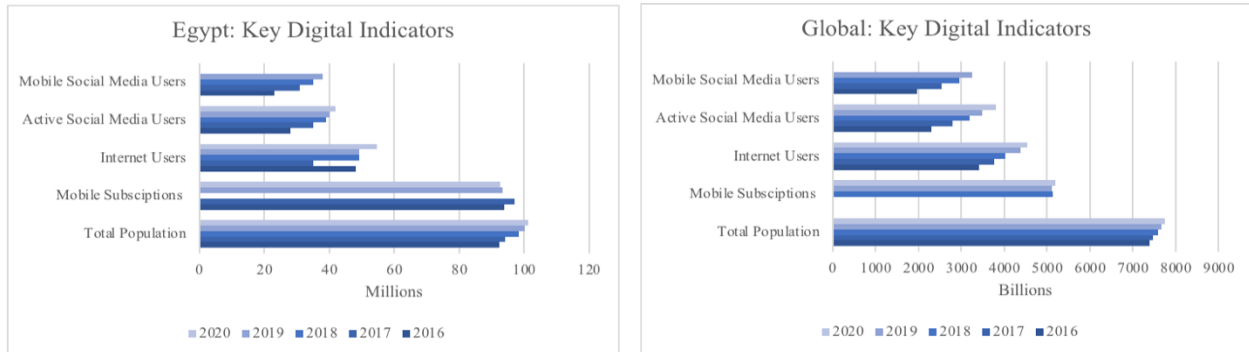
Traditional communication content includes multi-page press releases, newspaper articles, TV interviews and campaigns. However, in stratifying its audience, the Ministry recognized that relying on such traditional mediums, modes and channels was not sufficiently responsive to evolving audience culture -- where user attention is more dispersed, fluency in social language is becoming an indispensable commodity, and presence across mediums is a necessity for survival. As such, the Ministry’s communication model prioritized ongoing curation and innovative editorial presence by retaining ownership of its communication. The Ministry has used social media to deliver high quality, compelling, high frequency, and quick-turnaround content. Not to mention that this model was activated at a time where virtual online presence was taking on a whole new meaning due to current global circumstances.

1.1.3 Channels

Since 2011, Hootsuite (a renowned social media management platform) and We Are Social (a global creative agency which boasts over 800 social experts across 15 offices) have published Digital Overviews and Reports. The annual overviews provide insightful data on social, e-commerce, internet and mobile around the world at a global, regional as well as national level. What the data reveal, unsurprisingly, is that over the past of five years alone (from 2016 to 2020), mobile social media users and active social media users have grown both in Egypt and the world.

For government agencies, social media is the new frontline for rebuilding trust. (Hootsuite, 2019)

Figure 102: Key Digital Indicators in Egypt & the World



Data Source: Hootsuite & We Are Social, 2016-2020 Egypt Digital Reports and Overviews

The report notes that globally, social media adoption has “jumped by more than 12 percent in the past 12 months alone” and the “the time we spend using connected devices continues to rise”. Specifically, “more than two-thirds (67 percent) of the world now uses a mobile phone while almost 60 percent of the world’s population use the internet”. Meanwhile, the number of people using “social media around the world has grown to 4.14 [billion] in October 2020”, which represents penetration of 53 percent of the total world population (7.81 billion). Within Egypt alone, the number of internet users has grown by approximately 13 percent from 2016 to 2020, outpacing the country’s population growth during the same period (which was approximately 9.6 percent). Even more noteworthy is the growth of active social media users by 50 percent between 2016 and 2020 and mobile social media users by 65 percent between 2016 and 2019. The Reports also provide data on time spent with social media in Egypt. While it is important to note that data collected for the report are based on surveys and vary slightly over the years according to user self-reporting, it is clear that the numbers indicate that on average Egyptians spend 32 percent of their daily time using the internet via any device, approximately 13 percent on average of their daily time using social media, and approximately 12 percent on average of their daily time on viewing TV (Broadcast, Streaming, and Video on Demand) online. The Reports also present global data on daily time spent using social media as of July 2020 (see Figure 103) and use of social media for brand research as of October 2020 (Figure 104). Egypt’s place on both is striking, with the country not only exceeding worldwide averages for the former but, for the latter, falling in the top one-third of surveyed economies: In Egypt, 60 percent of national internet users aged 16 to 64 turn to “social media when they’re looking for information about brands”. This presents massive strategic communication opportunities. (Hootsuite & We Are Social, 2016-2020)

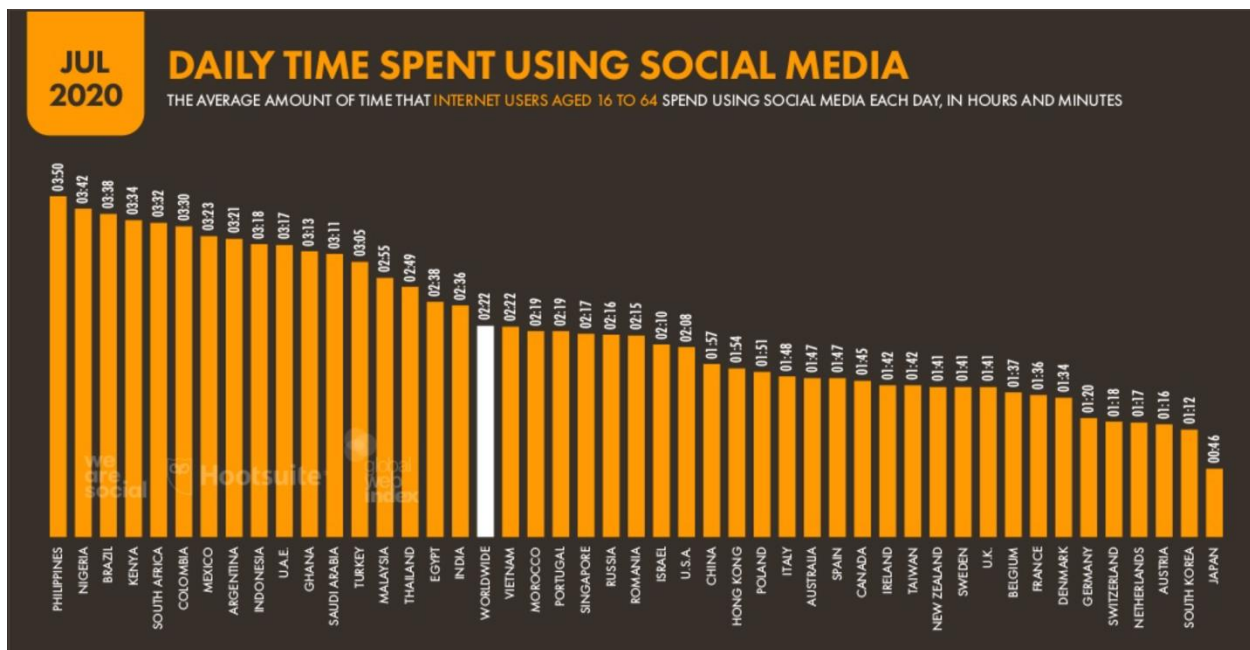
For governments tasked with communicating and engaging with citizens, social media is a vital but increasingly noisy place to fulfill this mandate. The right social advertising strategy can begin to fill this gap, complementing organic reach and increasing audience

size over time. The need for government agencies to invest in this space has become more pressing as traditional community news sources fall by the wayside. (Hootsuite, 2019)

The Ministry has therefore ensured that its social media reach is a fundamental component of its communication model and strategy, not just through the reach of its own accounts but of its leadership as well. There are four core social media channels where the Ministry is most active: Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter. The Ministry communicates through these channels in both English and Arabic. More important than absolute aggregates of its audience on these platforms is *how* the Ministry’s engagement of those followers has proven effective and compared favorably to global benchmark metrics, particularly looking at data from the past year when the Ministry activated its agile communication strategy and model. This process of “*social listening*” has allowed rich insights on the highest yield communication channels and modes.

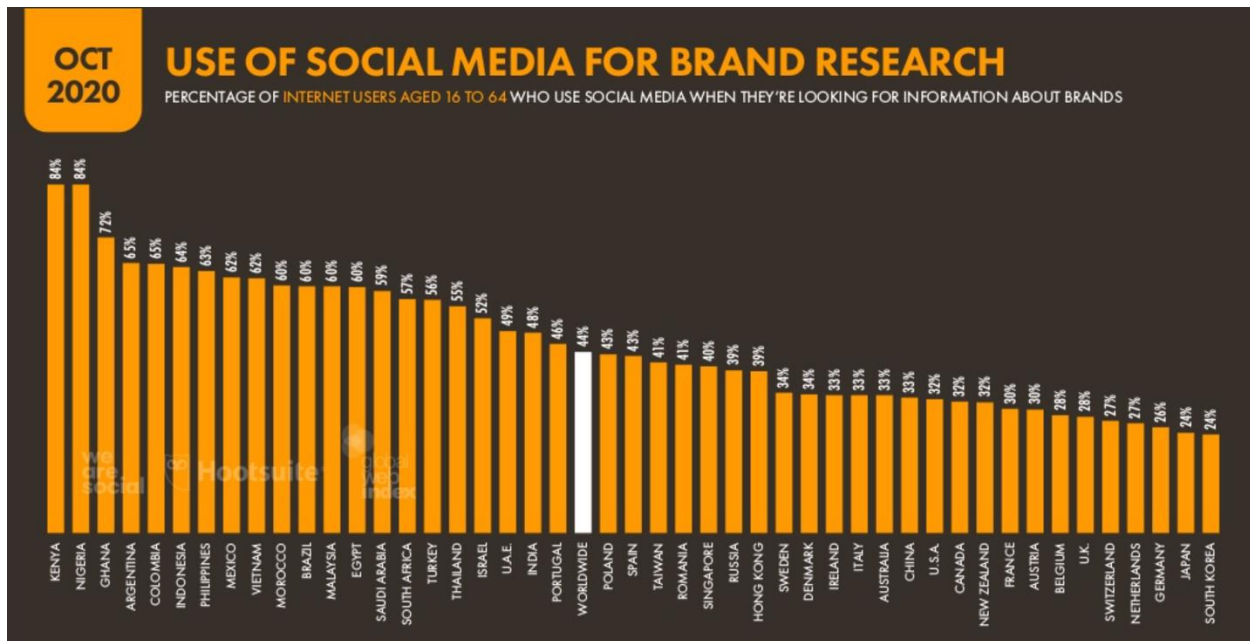
Government agencies that are successfully measuring performance do so by setting direction from the top down and connecting social media activity to broader agency missions. Whether it’s engaging with citizens, promoting events and services, or using social listening to better understand communities, agencies are starting to contextualize their efforts so they can measure success as a component of broader campaigns and objectives. (Hootsuite, 2019)

Figure 103: Daily Time Spent Using Social Media (World)



Source: Hootsuite & We Are Social, 2016-2020 Egypt Digital Reports and Overviews

Figure 104: Use of Social Media for Brand Research (World)



Source: Hootsuite & We Are Social, 2016-2020 Egypt Digital Reports and Overviews

While it is easy to lump social media under one broad channel, what makes social media unique is their ability to function as both social networks as well as media sharing networks. Each platform offers a myriad of communication modes to engage specific demographics and audience segments. Even more, the pace at which platforms continuously evolve, the manner in which communities are formed, and the ways that audiences interact with the principal communicator or sender (as well as each other) varies. As such, in activating its agile communication model, the Ministry has further refined its existing presence on main social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn—by capitalizing on each’s attributes through the curation of authentic, thoughtful, interesting and relevant content. Differentiation and selectivity are top priorities for the Ministry, particularly as it looks to make its voice heard through these different channels. Each platform has enabled the Ministry to access specific segments of its audience. For instance, on LinkedIn, the Ministry engages with audiences across professional industries beyond international affairs and government administration including Banking, Information Technology and Services, Higher Education, Management Consulting, Financial Services, Accounting and Oil and Energy. The messaging is centered mostly around thought leadership. Particularly, as the majority of visitors and followers of the Ministry’s account come from outside of Egypt, it has focused on honing technical and trend-related insights and linking its messaging with that of other local, global and regional entities, leaders across multiple sectors and industries, in addition to its bilateral and multilateral partners. In contrast, the Ministry uses platforms such as

Facebook and Instagram where the audience is likely broader, and attention is directed towards palatable visual and aural messaging by energetic and dynamic sharing of short videos, infographics, and imagery.

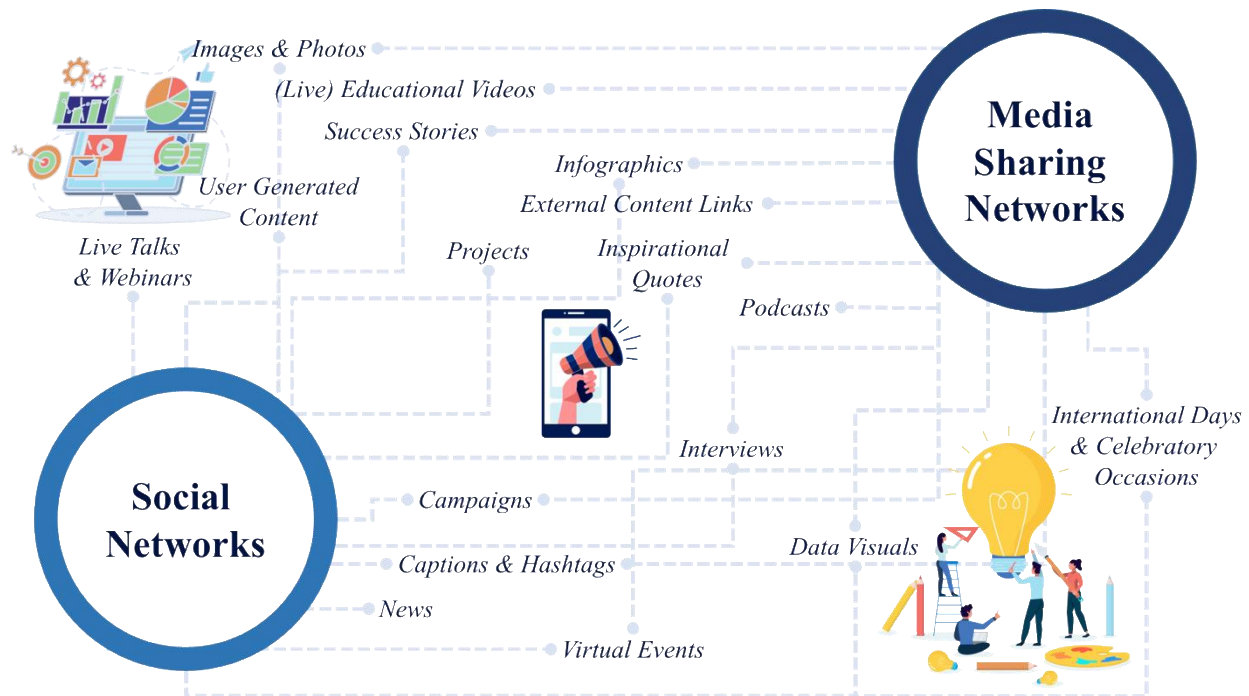


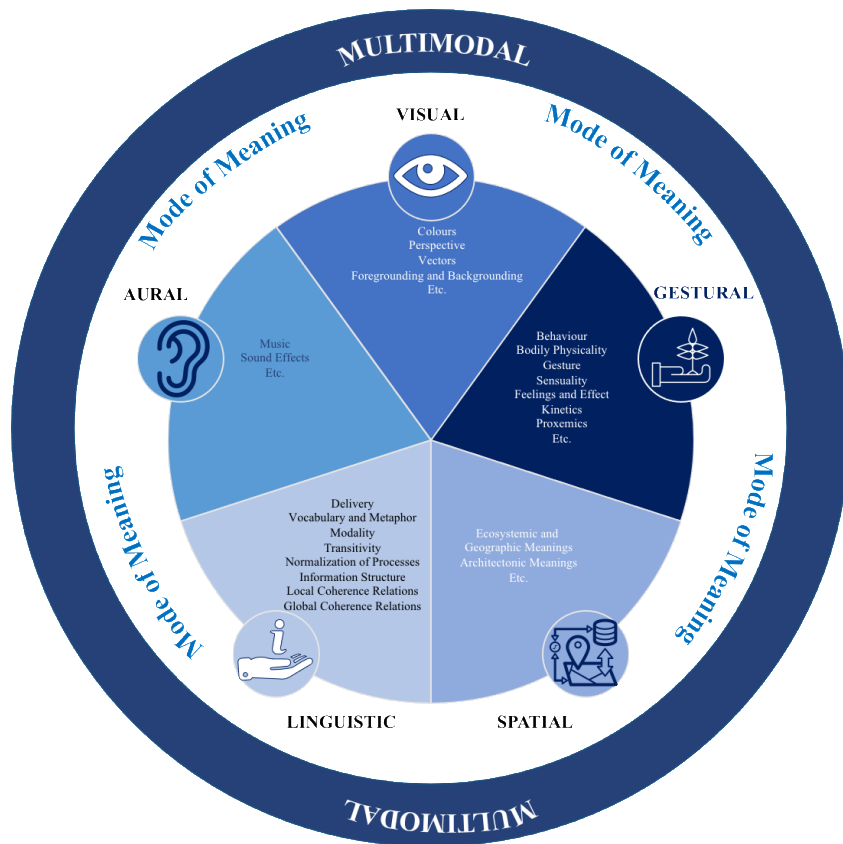
Figure 105: Social and Media Sharing Networks

1.1.4 Modes

At the onset of building its agile communication strategy and model, the Ministry recognized that multiple social profiles were not necessarily a telling factor of success. Rather, the Ministry’s focus was how it can continue elevating its content using existing channels. This has been done by refining its social media vernacular and honing its fluency in each channel’s most effective language(s) to directly reach its audience segments.

Indeed, much of the Ministry’s positive performance described in the previous section across its social communication channels, is attributable to the way in which the Ministry has leveraged multi-modal and multi-literal communication to simultaneously engage existing audience as well as attract and expand additional segments previously identified as critical to its mandate. These modes, which align with the New London Group’s 1996 “*Pedagogy of Multiliteracies*”, are: Visual, Aural, Gestural, Spatial and Linguistic/Alphabetic. A recreation of their model “*Multiliteracies: Metalanguages to Describe and Interpret the Design Elements of Different Modes of Meaning*” distills these concepts further.

Figure 106: Recreation of New London Group's Multi-literacies: Metalanguages to Describe and Interpret the Design Elements of Different modes of Meaning

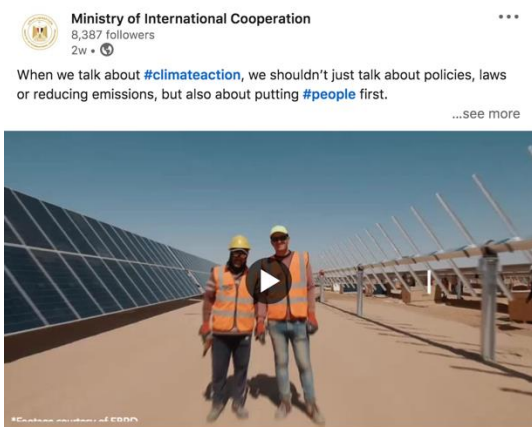


Source: (New London Group , 1996)

1.1.4.1 Visual and Spatial

Social media is pivoting from text-based platforms originally designed for desktop use towards bite-sized, visual content that is captured on mobile and meant to be consumed on the fly—and Stories embody that pivot. (Hootsuite, 2019)

Visual communication is one of the most commanding modes that the Ministry has utilized across its social media platforms over the past year. This encompasses any graphical representation of information to efficiently and effectively create meaning. The Ministry has been able to utilize



P&P&P narrative featuring development projects; carousel image galleries capturing 'People at the Core, Projects in Action and Purpose as the Driver'; and an active and consistent visibility across a number of regional and international fora, sessions, conferences, events, campaigns and meetings.

Carousels lead to high engagement across all industries, so brands should look for opportunities to combine photos into carousels. (Rival IQ, 2020)

Another spillover stimulated through visual communication is that of memory. Research on the Picture Superiority Effect phenomena suggests that imagery is more memorable and familiar than text. (Curran & Doyle, 2011)

this mode through potent, bright and colorful images and photographs, infographics, videos, virtual interviews, live broadcasts, storybooks as well as other multimedia language to convey information in an easily digestible and accessible manner. The Ministry has also remained mindful of delivering this content in a timely, contextual and relevant manner, for instance in keeping with national or global celebratory occasions or significant milestones. (See Box 19: USAID Projects Supporting Farmers with Climate-Resilient Water and Food Security)

The rise of Stories indicates a growing appetite among audiences for video content that is "snackable," posted regularly, and increasingly personal and authentic in style and tone. (Hootsuite, 2019)

In a world where attention spans are constrained and easily shifted, visual content has commanded the Ministry's audiences in a prompter and passionate way. Even more, the agile communication model has insured that the Ministry remains mindful of its mandate to secure advocacy and buy-in by transcending inevitable language or socio-economic barriers amongst its current as well as potential audience. Examples of the Ministry's visual content include: thoughtfully curated short videos on its

Human beings have evolved to remember stories more effectively than any other content structure. Character-driven stories with emotional content result in a better understanding of the key points a speaker wishes to make and enable better recall of these points weeks later. (PWC, 2017)

1.1.4.2 Aural and Linguistic

Sight isolates, sound incorporates. Whereas sight situates the observer outside what he views, at a distance, sound pours into the hearer. (Ong, 2007)



Audio and voice communication have been used as a standalone by way of radio, sound recording and podcasting as well as to complement visual communication such as music and vocal narration both through its own voice or via those impacted by the Ministry's work. This is the mark of a formidable storyteller. Certainly, as part of creating more "experiential stories and narratives", this mode has ensured that the Ministry is heightening its audiences' experience.

The popularity and accessibility of the audio storytelling genre make(s) it an ideal format for communities to use to tell their own stories, unmediated by outsiders or professionals, who inevitably bring external values and traditions.

In addition to the use of precise audio narration and emotive sound with its video content, particular attention has been paid to the clarity and nuance of its verbal messaging. With current



technology, the ability for a communicator to leave a lasting record has also paved the way for the Ministry to consciously use its voice, both literally and figuratively, in transmitting stories from the source to the target. The power of this mode of communication is also elevated by the steady iteration of messaging through available audiovisual platforms.

One of the most familiar, concrete and tangible modes of



communication is linguistic/alphabetic; what is referred to as the systematic use of words to deliver meaning. While it can perhaps be confusing when integrated with other modes of communication, this mode focuses on written verbal communications such as captions, official press releases, statements, presentations, reports, quantitative or qualitative data, etc. This area has also been expanded and added to the Ministry's dialectical toolkit, especially as social media allows for additional dimensions of diction, tone and style to come to surface beyond traditional communication. In addition to streamlining its headlines and captions to pair with its other communication modes, there is a consistent effort to be selective with written content.

BY EXAMPLE: PROLIFERATING IMPACT THROUGH (SOCIAL) LEADERSHIP

Having a person of authority engage in an open platform has a positive effect on the public's relationship with your brand. Executive social media presence, if done right, makes the brand more approachable, authentic, and transparent. - (Devgan, 2019)

In 2016, a survey conducted by BrandFog revealed that “93 percent of survey respondents view socially engaged CEOs as a means to build better connections with customers, employees, and investors” (BrandFog, 2016). For years, stakeholders have reinforced “brand” loyalty by following organizations’ executives across social media platforms. In today’s world, social leadership has become an invaluable currency in fostering trust, reputation and inspiration. In simple terms, social leadership is consensual and contextual influence granted by communities on these platforms based on one’s ability to utilize social capital and skills to inspire, motivate and lead an audience. While this has been mostly embodied in commercial and private sector presentation, government entities have an opportunity to reinvent public dialogue using social media tools and channels. The Ministry’s progressive Narrative is particularly distinctive in the manner in which it has also been magnified through its social leadership. In addition to the Ministry’s official social media platform accounts, much of the Ministry’s engagement has been stimulated by the Minister’s social media direct presence, active visibility and approachable persona. In addition to wielding authority through reframing the social contract that typically exists between high profile public figures, the impact of the leadership’s presence has not only expanded the scope of authenticity and ability to be more connected with its audience through a reliable face— to curate more relevant stories, better understand what generates most impact and what projects/activities illicit responsiveness and action.



Source: Ministry of International Cooperation

Specifically, the Ministry works to ensure that its verbal format is informative but poignant, comprehensible but rich, actionable but also gives meaningful opportunity for reflection.

Examples of this are templating quotes so the most salient points speak for themselves and are shared regularly, which further fortifies the narrative and gives the audience a sense of proximity to the Ministry; leveraging first-hand and third-party data to reveal impact, share output and add to the “Egypt story”; and mirroring and integrating feedback to echo the Ministry’s commitment to an inclusive dialogue.



1.1.4.3 Gestural

Gesture is “the original form of the disclosive power proper to speech” (Engelland, 2014, p. 207). Gesture is the meaningful movement that generates relation and defines the space of potential interaction. Social scientist Gregory Bateson (1972) argued long ago that “we have to start all over again from the beginning and assume that language is first and foremost a system of gestures” (Schandorf, 2019)

While not as overt, alongside the Ministry’s increased visibility is the use of gestural communication to reinforce its active messaging. Examples such as participation in a variety of public fora and field visits where the Ministry’s leadership can interact with the projects



personally has ensured that the Ministry’s communication includes matching verbal with the appropriate non-verbal and expressive means to its audience. It is important to note that while dimensions of gestural communication include well-known cues, in an era of increased digitization, there are new motions and signals of “virtuality” -- gestural dimensions that play an important role in

virtual dialogue. In this sense, digital body language has also been important as part of the Ministry’s agile communication model. A concept made first well known by Steve Woods and Paul Teshima, digital body language is defined by the “aggregate of all the digital activity you see from an individual”. This can be exemplified by the Ministry’s choice of branded content to further fortify its messaging, in everything from the way the Ministry utilizes features of technology to engage individuals and understand them such as answering questions in an open and transparent manner; being mindful of what and how content is relayed; highlighting



How Can We Change the Narrative on Egypt’s Development?

pertinent information in a deep, meaningful and positive way while tackling challenging topics constructively; to the alignment of branded content with its messaging falls under the scope of digital body language.

1.1.4.4 Building and Communicating Narratives

The last component of its agile communication model is that which transmutes and ties the aggregate of its audience, content, channels and modes together into evocative narratives.



Particularly in a time where social media users expect content to be empathetic and clever in the way that it reads the room, it is no longer effective to tell stories that center around the communicator. People are more likely to show up and respond to see plots unfold that speak on issues they care about, plots that maintain their value throughout the arc, that remain consistent and accountable in an authentic way.

Furthermore, against this background is the very reality that today’s audience has at its disposal access to more “ambient news” than ever before. The ubiquity of discontinuous headlines that do not “connect the dots” means that attention to any single entity is fleeting and leaves little

room for advocacy and sustainable awareness. This is why fundamental to the Ministry's model is the ability to create stories that contextualize time and add meaning that keeps listeners around. It ensures that as they are included in the development of the narratives in real time -- the settings, the plots, the conflicts, and the resolutions -- they have a front-row seat experience that they feel vested in and can continue to follow.

USAID PROJECTS SUPPORTING FARMERS WITH CLIMATE-RESILIENT WATER AND FOOD SECURITY

In September 2020, the Minister alongside members of the Ministry’s core team visited a number of development programs in partnership with USAID and WFP supporting farmers, women and youth in Upper Egypt. The visit oversaw ten projects, which come within the ministry’s ‘Global Partnerships Narrative’, and are implemented across several sectors in agriculture, women empowerment, and economic growth. Putting people at the core, the projects target over one million farmers, women, and youth through 2030, which include the USAID-funded “*Advanced Marketing and Agribusiness Logistics*” (AMAL) Horticultural Pack House, which has helped provide 78,000 job opportunities and link 9 markets to farmers in Sohag, Qena, Al Qasr, and Aswan. The AMAL project will help farmers increase their productivity through applying smart farming technologies. All projects included on the visit have been targeting the following sustainable development goals: Goal 1 for no poverty through unlocking human potential, Goal 2 for zero hunger through ending all forms of malnutrition, Goal 4 for quality education through providing training and life skills for the future, Goal 5 for gender equality through promoting women empowerment, Goal 8 for decent work and economic growth, Goal 11 for sustainable cities and communities, and Goal 17 for partnerships to achieve the goals.

الزراعة وبرنامج الأغذية العالمي يدعمان صغار الزراع في صعيد مصر

السبت، 19 سبتمبر 2020 - 03:47 م

Al Mashat Visits USAID Projects Supporting Farmers with Climate-resilient Water and Food Security in Egypt's Luxor

Egypt's International cooperation min. overseas projects to back 1 million farmers, women in Luxor

egypt today

الفكرة رائتيا المشاط تؤكد توسيع الشراكة مع برنامج الأغذية العالمي لدعم قدرات مليون مزارع

اليوم السابع

DAILY NEWS EGYPT

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US provides over \$1bn to improve Egypt's agricultural productivity, marketability

Egypt's International Cooperation Minister visits USAID projects improving Luxor farmers climate resilience, boosting water, food security

Ministry of International Cooperation

September 19

Al Mashat Visits USAID Projects Supporting Farmers with Climate-resilient Water and Food Security in Luxor

Minister of International Cooperation, Dr. Rania Al Mashat, visits a number of development programmes in partnership with USAID - US Agency for International Development targeting farmers, women and youth in the Governorate of Luxor, which will aim to support them with climate-resilient water and food security and provide job opportunities for youth.

Al Mashat notes ... See More

«ما وراء الغذاء»

6 weeks ago · 9.3K Views

Together, we go beyond.

6 weeks ago · 667 Views

2,471 likes

raniaalmashat Celebrating the United Nations 75th Anniversary in Upper #Egypt: Transforming the world through Sustainable Development.

Another beautiful day in #Luxor, as we visit the @WorldFoodProgramme funded projects in El Boghdadi village, one of the 53 communities targeted to increase crop yields for farmers and increase their income through land consolidation, build their resilience against climate change and empower women to transform communities.

Agriculture and food security is crucial to successful economic transformation. The path forward to a green

This was shared by the Ministry on a number of social media platforms in addition to traditional press releases in both Arabic and English. As the trip also coincided with the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the Ministry used powerful photos, videos, captions, linking stories gathered from the projects to respective development partner pages on LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook to its almost half a million followers either through official Ministry or the Minister’s official accounts, the Ministry engaged their audience.

Conclusion

Egypt's Ministry of International Cooperation (the Ministry) develops, strengthens and manages economic cooperation with other countries as well as international and regional organizations, including financial institutions and specialized UN agencies. Realizing that sustainable development is only attainable through the collective integrated efforts of various stakeholders, and in keeping with the UN 2030 Agenda's inclusive mandate to "leave no one behind", the Ministry has designed an Economic Diplomacy Framework to push the frontiers of multilateralism and international cooperation. These principles strengthen inclusive and impactful engagement with development partners, governments, global policymakers, the private sector and civil society to realize development objectives consistent with the UN 17 SDGs. While the year 2020 ushered in the UN's Decade of Action for achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic further emphasized the role of international cooperation to overcome monetary and non-monetary constraints. This has been possible through the three **Principles of Economic Diplomacy** as outlined in the three chapters in the book.

The first chapter covers principle I, **Multi-Stakeholder Platforms**, which creates an institutionalized, transparent and inclusive country-led framework to facilitate constructive dialogue among various stakeholders. International partnerships were strengthened through such platforms and thereby projects supporting the SDGs were streamlined and coordinated. Amidst the height of the pandemic's initial wave in April 2020, Egypt's first Multi-Stakeholder Platform was inaugurated, assembling 120 representatives from 45 stakeholders ranging from multilateral and bilateral development partners to the UN and associated agencies as well as private sector representatives. Throughout 2020, more Multi-Stakeholder Platforms were organized, focusing on areas impacted by the pandemic as well as on various economic sectors. These platforms maximized the engagement and commitment of participants, and also provided opportunity to capitalize on previous successes, learn from pitfalls, and harness the power of group interaction.

The second chapter highlights principle II, **Mapping Official Development Assistance to UN-SDGs**, that provides methodologies to align the results of international development cooperation projects in the country with the objectives of the UN SDGs through a practical toolkit that can be replicated by other countries and development institutions. General criteria of the UN Global Indicator Framework and the OECD's Creditors Reporting System were utilized as references in the mapping exercise. Two main mapping methodologies were implemented in order to link ODA projects to the relevant SDGs: (1) a broad Sectoral Mapping Methodology, and (2) a more detailed Project-Based Mapping Methodology. Within project mapping, two distinct but related

approaches were used: (a) single SDG mapping, which identified the primary SDG towards which each project contributed, and (b) multiple SDG mapping, which accounted for the multidimensional linkages projects may have to different SDGs. The mapping exercise was carried out on the total ODA portfolio of US\$ 25.6 billion that represents 377 ongoing projects. All methodologies and approaches made significant contributions towards advancing learning and knowledge of the interrelations and connectivity of the SDGs. The ODA-SDG mapping exercise for all 17 SDGs, using both sectoral and project mapping methodologies, as well as single and multiple mapping approaches underscored the following results:

- Different goals in the 2030 Agenda overlap and share similar targets and indicators, making it difficult to disentangle them when mapping projects' objectives to SDGs. Meanwhile, ODA-financed projects' outcomes and results usually contribute to the realization of more than one SDG.
- Mapping ODA-financed projects to more than one SDG reflects the complex and reciprocal relationships that exist among SDGs in reality, captures the nature and purpose of development cooperation projects and creates the synergies that reflect the multidimensionality of goals and sectors. Thus, the multiple SDG mapping approach was embraced to account for all the SDGs that are targeted by ODA-financed projects. This paves the way for the harmonization and policy coherence across sectors, making it more reflective and informative of the partnerships' model through well-coordinated actions.
- The rationale of the multiple mapping approach was endorsed, yet reservations were expressed by development partners regarding distributing each project's budget among its relevant SDGs. They expressed comfort with the single mapping approach, which avoids the complexity and subjectivity that may be encountered in distributing the financial allocations of each project to more than one SDG on the one hand, and the double counting that may occur if the same project's total budget was recorded as contributions for more than one SDG.
- A consensus was reached that there is merit to both approaches: the single mapping approach gives insight towards the initial financial distribution across the SDGs, while the multiple mapping approach elucidates the interlinked objectives of development interventions. The willingness to explore the results of the multiple approach to account for the intended results and impact of the projects across various areas, and to utilize international approaches aimed at tracking SDG allocations encouraged stakeholders to explore both.
- The multiple mapping approach revealed that goals representing cross-cutting themes were more frequently reported amongst projects' objectives than were goals directly connected to sectoral development. Projects aiming at goals which reflect specific defined sectoral objectives included other cross-cutting thematic SDGs in their targets. Yet, the sectoral SDGs were not themselves mapped against interventions away from their direct sectors.

- SDG 16 is a goal that is identified as both an outcome and as an enabler of sustainable development, since concepts such as peace, justice, and inclusion are essential, that is they enable achievement of any other SDGs by ensuring effective and transparent implementation practices and transparency in the implementing institutions.
- The role of international cooperation is emphasized under SDG 17 as a main catalyst for achieving all SDGs, since strong and inclusive partnerships are the ultimate way to expedite the achievement of sustainable development. However, during the mapping exercise, although most development partners argued that all ODA projects could be listed as contributors to this goal, it was agreed to only map projects which supported policy development and technical assistance.
- Improvement and effectiveness of governance arrangements have direct influence on the implementation of the SDGs. Robust monitoring and evaluation systems for tracking ODA projects' progress towards the SDGs are requisites for transparency and accountability.

These results would advise future activities and coordination with different stakeholders as follows:

- The current findings of the relationships among SDGs reflect the value of crafting well intertwined development interventions that are able to create multiplier effects on economic, social and environmental dimensions. Capturing and documenting these relationships using real-time data and sharing these findings with all stakeholders in the development process presents a base for informed future interactive dialogues and policies that can promote, guide and influence more inclusive and multidimensional development activities, and informs future decisions on optimal allocations of funds and designs of development action plans.
- Sustainability measures need to be mainstreamed across development interventions to avoid conflicting outcomes of different Goals. Pursuing economic growth and expanding production, may adversely affect environmental sustainability and climate change. For instance, expanding the networks of infrastructure, advanced industrialization and high rates of urbanization increase harmful emissions and deplete natural resources.
- Further research is needed to investigate ways to assess financial contributions of projects to multiple SDGs, especially the contributions to cross-cutting themes which represent outcomes and impact of different interventions directed to other SDGs.

Building on the findings of the SDG mapping exercise, and to connect with the wider audience who include policy makers as well as beneficiaries of international cooperation projects, the third principle of the Economic Diplomacy Framework is the **Global Partnerships Narrative**, which aims to offer a common language of communication to unify development efforts between Egypt

and its development partners by putting People at the Core & Projects in Action & Purpose as a Driver.

The Global Partnerships Narrative emphasizes the values of solidarity and humanity by focusing on three elements that contribute to the success of development interventions. The first element, **People** at the core, reflects Egypt's priority in investing in human capital and improving the Egyptian people's lives. Thus, Egypt works with every bilateral and multilateral partner to identify existing gaps and provide multi-sectoral assistance to millions of beneficiaries encouraging individuals and societies to realize their full potential. The second "P" represents **Projects** in action, implemented across multiple sectors that serve social, economic and environmental dimensions. Through this communication framework, the Ministry aims to transparently showcase these projects and their impact on communities as a means to bolster credibility. The final "P" stands for **Purpose**, which drives partnerships to generate sustained and inclusive growth, remain agile in a rapidly changing world and deepen ties with stakeholders towards achieving the 17 SDGs.

Given modern modes of communication, a real opportunity presented itself to inform and engage all stakeholders involved in the development cooperation process through a strategic communication model that fosters connections and stakeholder engagement with content aimed at diverse audiences, and leveraging new channels and modes. At a time where meeting development challenges necessitates user-centric, problem-driven and targeted collaboration, innovative communication is vital. As this is not a novel concept, Chapter 3 of the book focuses less on the importance of communication for sustainable development and more on *how* contemporary demands require an enhanced and evolved model for communication – a model that is nuanced, precise, adaptable and dynamic.

The outcomes from creating and implementing this Global Partnerships Narrative include: (1) strengthening economic cooperation and multilateral engagement between Egypt and other countries, international and regional financial institutions as well as specialized agencies of the United Nations; (2) following up and monitoring national agencies that benefit from ODA financing within the framework of achieving the SDGs; and (3) fostering trust and interest in human development through showcasing real human stories and include all voices in Egypt's development journey.

In conclusion, the book provides the opportunity to capture and document the successful country practices, where findings and insights with all stakeholders offer a base for future interventions and inform decisions on optimal allocations of funds towards fulfilling the 2030 Agenda.

Author's Profile



Dr. Rania Al Mashat is Egypt's Minister of International Cooperation since December 2019, and previously served as the country's first female Minister of Tourism. Prior to that, she was Advisor to the Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington DC. She specialized in central banking issues and designing monetary policy frameworks. Her other former roles include serving as Sub-Governor for Monetary Policy at the Central Bank of Egypt, Senior Economist at the IMF, Deputy Project Director for the Institutional Reform and Informal Sector Center at the University of Maryland, and Adjunct Professor of Economics at the American

University in Cairo (AUC). Al-Mashat has several publications on monetary policy, macro-economic stability and institutional reforms in transition and emerging markets.

She is Co-Chair of the MENA Stewardship Board at the World Economic Forum (WEF); and had several board affiliations, including the Egyptian Stock Exchange, the Egyptian General Authority for Free Zones and Investment, the Arab International Bank, the Arab Investment Bank, and the Middle East Economic Association. She is the recipient of several awards, including the Economic Leaders for Tomorrow in Africa from the Institute Choiseul, International Visitor Leadership Program from the Government of France; named 2014 Young Global Leaders by the World Economic Forum, and the Distinguished Alumni Award from AUC's School of Business. She was named among most powerful women in the Egyptian Banking Sector in 2015.

Al-Mashat received a number of international and domestic awards; the "2019 Global Champion Award" from the World Tourism and Travel Council; the "2019 Global Leader's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Industry". She was selected among the top 50 most influential women in the Egyptian economy in 2015 and 2020; the 2014 and 2015 "Choiseul Institute 100 Africa: Economic Leaders for Tomorrow"; and 2014 Young Global Leaders by WEF. Al-Mashat received her PhD and MA in Economics from the University of Maryland, College Park, USA, and BA in Economics from AUC. She completed executive education at Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and Saïd Business School, Oxford University.

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