



The Egyptian Cabinet
Information and Decision Support Center

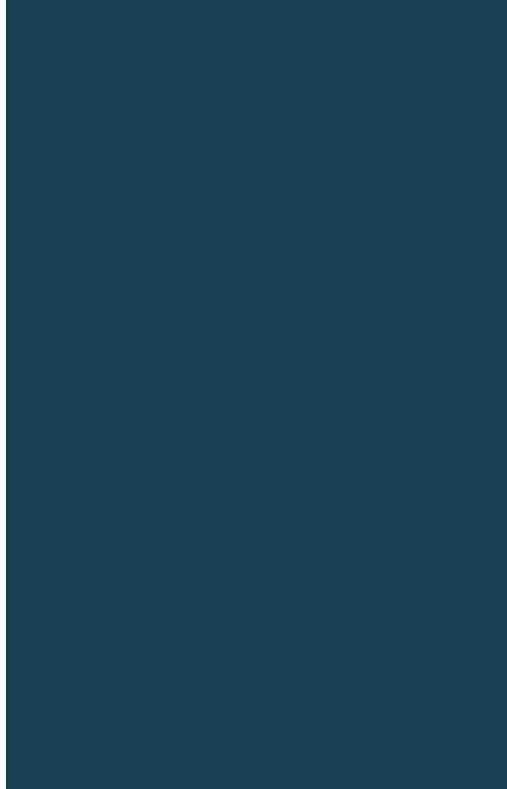


EGYPT

**FOSTERING ECONOMIC RESILIENCE
AMID CONSECUTIVE GLOBAL CRISES**

**ISSUE
TWO**

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ABOUT US



The Egyptian Cabinet's Information and Decision Center (IDSC) is the leading Egyptian governmental think tank, which is entitled with the responsibility of conducting high quality policy research through utilizing and disseminating information to support the decision – making process in Egypt.

IDSC has a diversified working agenda which tackles several economic, social and political issues related to the development process.

IDSC relies on highly qualified staff and experts, with distinguished academic backgrounds who are able – at the same time – to creatively think ahead for realizing prosperity nation – wide.



PREFACE



The publication “Fostering Economic Resilience Amid Consecutive Global Crises ”is divided into 6 main sections tackling Egypt’s vision and efforts towards various Economic and international issues. The first section "On The Radar“ sheds light on some of the Government’s notable efforts and achievements in various sectors during the period (April-June 2023). The second section "Business Environment" highlights the Egyptian Government’s efforts to create a more enabling business environment , tackling all the obstacles that hinder the investment process, thus boosting domestic and foreign investments while enhancing the private sector’s role in the economy. The third section discusses the sectoral achievements. In this issue, we cover two main crucial sectors in Egypt’s economy, namely Health and tourism. The fourth section tackles the leading role of the Egyptian Food Bank in achieving food security. While the fifth section "A step closer towards the SDGs" sheds light on the Egyptian efforts regarding sustainable growth, clean water and sanitation, infrastructure plans, and urban expansion. The publication ends with a section entitled "Economic Diplomacy", which discusses Egypt’s efforts to maintain strong bilateral and multilateral relationships to achieve sustainable development.





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Table of Contents

Section

1

On the Radar

A Fruitful Opportunity: Africa Health Excon 2023	3
Easing The Burden: Social Solidarity	5
First Meeting of Supreme Council for Investment after Re-formation	6
Consolidating Relations with the Asian Continent	8
Empowering startups: A specialized Unit at the Egyptian Cabinet	9
Launching the New Country Partnership Framework (CPF) between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the World Bank Group for FY 2023-2027	10
Tourism Renaissance: Egypt Ranks Among top countries in Global Muslim Travel Index 2023	11
A New Milestone Achieved: Egypt Is Vice Chairman of UN Plant Protection Convention for The First Time.	12

Section

2

Business Environment

Egypt's FDI Insights: UNCTAD World Investment Report 2023	15
The Supreme Council for Investment	17
Facilitating the Process of Establishing Companies	23
Set Up and Operation Permits: The Golden License	25
Easing Down Financial and Tax Burdens	27
Resolving Disputes	29
Developing a State Investment Strategy	30
Supporting Startup Growth	31
Launching A New Sectoral Incentive Package	32



Section 3

Sectoral highlights

Part 1: Health	47
Enhancing Health Sector	49
Part 2: Tourism	59
Tourism in Egypt	61
CNN Travel Ranks Egypt as: One of the Top Tourist Destinations for 2023	63
Newsletter :Egypt and China to Boost Cooperation in Tourism	65
Yacht Tourism: Egypt To Be Global Yacht Tourism Destination	67

Section 4

The Leading Role of The Egyptian Food Bank in Achieving Food Security

Can Nonprofit Organizations Help with Food Security?	82
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Section 5

A step closer towards SDGs

Goal 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	101
The infrastructure industry in Egypt	103
Goal 8: Decent work and Economic Growth	107
Citizen investment Plan: A path towards providing decent work for all Egyptians in all governorates by 2030	110
Goal 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	113
New Egyptian cities	115
Housing projects	123

Section 6

Economic Diplomacy

Economic Diplomacy	129
IFC Appointed as Strategic Advisor to the Egyptian government for its Asset Monetization Program	134



SECTION ONE

ON THE RADAR





AFRICA HEALTH ExCon

Your Gate
To Innovation and Trade

A Fruitful Opportunity: Africa Health Excon 2023

The second edition of Africa Health EXCon 2023 took place in Egypt on 6-9 June under the auspices of H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. The Conference was hosted at Al Manara International Conference Center in New Cairo under the slogan "Your Gate to Innovation and Trade." To clarify, Africa Health Excon 2023 is considered the largest hub held in Africa, aiming at attracting medical investments through gathering several companies working in health industries in the Middle East and Africa. It is worth mentioning that it was mainly coordinated by the Egyptian Unified Procurement Authority (UPA) and the Arab Hospital Federation, with speakers from 90 countries and about 36 workshops and 316 sessions.

Furthermore, the inauguration ceremony of the second edition was attended by the President, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Health and Population, and other high-level Egyptian figures. The purpose of this event is to "attract medical investments in the fields of healthcare and create competitiveness among major companies to compete in Africa." Additionally, it aims at boosting Africa's capacity in the field of manufacturing medicines and vaccines. This happens annually through gathering African and International companies operating in the pharma and health business. Hence, Africa Health Excon's second edition demonstrates the Egyptian State's willingness to improve the health sector.



JEAN KASEYA

Director of Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (AfricaCDC)

Kaseya said that this ExCon aimed at creating a sustainable platform connecting the world's healthcare buyers and suppliers under one common roof, giving a chance for all healthcare partners to interact together, as well as supporting the flow of trade business.

He added that the event also aimed at attracting medical investments in the health sector and creating competitiveness among major health companies to compete in Africa.

He highlighted that the conference represented a great opportunity to exchange experiences and knowledge in healthcare



Easing The Burden: Social Solidarity

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi announced a substantial increase in social protection programs for the FY 2023/2024 budget. Worthy to mention, the social protection and subsidy budget would increase by 48.8 percent, from EGP 358.4 billion in FY 2022/2023 to EGP 529.7 billion in FY 2023/2024. This is a relief for citizens considering the current global inflation, which resulted in pressing economic conditions. Hence, this social protection budget reflects the Egyptian State's earnest directives to improve the living conditions of Egyptians, especially the most vulnerable groups in society.



First Meeting of Supreme Council for Investment after Re-formation

On Tuesday, 16/5/2023, H.E. President Abdel Fattah El Sisi chaired the first meeting of the restructured Supreme Council for Investment. The Supreme Council for Investment was established according to Presidential Decree No. 141 of 2023. It was established as a replacement for the old one established in July 2016. The first meeting witnessed the issuance of 22 decrees targeting reinforcing the business environment in Egypt as well as eliminating bureaucracy that hinders development. As a result, all state institutions must abide by the Council's resolutions and implement procedures that serve these resolutions. Notably, these resolutions mainly aim at empowering private companies in all sectors by addressing the obstacles faced in the business environment, such as establishment restrictions, lengthy processes of getting approvals, land ownership, and taxes.

Regarding the Council's formation, it will convene monthly or every two months —maximum— to monitor its performance. It is worth noting that 13 decrees have already been executed, including Decrees No. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 17, and 21, as well as 3 sub-decrees of decree No. 22. These decrees are the following:

- **Decree No. 1:** Amending some articles of the Investment Law's Executive Regulations (Articles No. 4 & 76).
- **Decree No. 2:** Amending Article No. 34 of Investment Law No. 72 of 2017 to allow petrochemical refining projects to operate under the free zones system.
- **Decree No. 3:** Limiting the time for issuing all approvals and permits to 10 working days and for each approval to be issued only once upon establishment.
- **Decree No. 5:** Issuing a set of legislative amendments to ease down the restrictions related to land and real estate foreign ownership.
- **Decree No. 6:** Expanding the issuance of the Golden License and not limiting its approval to companies establishing strategic or national projects only.
 - Amending Articles No. 40, 41 and 42 of the Investment Law's Executive Regulations to allow companies established before issuing the Investment Law of 2017 to be granted the Golden License.
- **Decree No. 8:** Amending some legal articles that grant preferential treatment to state-owned companies and entities.
- **Decree No. 10:** Publishing several reports to enhance governance and transparency.
- **Decree No. 11:** Amending Law No. 7 of 2017 to allow foreign investors to be registered in the Importers Register, even if he/she has not held Egyptian nationality for 10 years.
- **Decree No. 17:** Amending the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law No. 13 of 1968 to raise the value of commercial cases assigned to the economic and partial courts, expand the scope of their substantive jurisdiction to resolve commercial disputes, and raise the quorum for non-appeal.
- **Decree No. 21:** Establishing a permanent unit affiliated to the Egyptian Cabinet, specialized in setting appropriate policies, laws, and regulations for the growth and prosperity of start-ups in Egypt.

The Three Sub-decrees of Decree No. 22 are:

- **(22.3) Housing and Real Estate Development:** Approving a package of incentives for real estate developers operating in new cities.
- **(22.9) Industrial Sector:** Extending the term of the operating license to five years, similar to the industrial register.
- **(22.10) Green Hydrogen:** Approving a package of incentives for green hydrogen.



Consolidating Relations with the Asian Continent

Egypt launched its first direct flight to Bangladesh on May 14, 2023. This direct flight between Cairo and Dhaka aims at strengthening relations with the Asian Continent. Additionally, Egypt Air offered a 50% discount for travelers on the first day, celebrating the new flight. Notably, Minister of Civil Aviation, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Abbas Helmy, stated, "Launching the Cairo-Dhaka route reflects the distinguished cooperation between Egypt and Bangladesh over the past half century." Regarding Egyptian citizens, visas to visit Bangladesh for Egyptians can be acquired in less than 48 hours.



Empowering startups: A specialized Unit at the Egyptian Cabinet

Globally, startups have recently emerged as a booming notion realizing their necessity to the economy. As a result, Egypt has taken several steps in order to improve the business environment for startups. For instance, the Egyptian Prime Minister, H.E. Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, directed to found a permanent unit at the Egyptian Cabinet on June 4, 2023, mainly concerned with supporting startups and eliminating issues encountered. In other words, this unit is designed to pass laws, regulations, and policies that guarantee improving startup conditions in Egypt. Furthermore, this unit is headed by the CEO of the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), and the membership of representatives of each of the council of Ministries in addition to the Ministry of Supply and International Trade, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Central Bank of Egypt, the Financial Regulatory Authority, and the Egyptian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (MSMEDA). Additionally, this newly established unit should submit quarterly-issued reports listing all the outcomes and recommendations to be delivered to the Prime Minister. Thus, establishing the Egyptian Cabinet's new unit is a firm action emphasizing Egypt's efforts in empowering startups and overcoming struggles.

Egypt—World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework 2023-2027



Launching the New Country Partnership Framework (CPF) between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the World Bank Group for FY 2023-2027

The New Country Framework (CPF), launched in May 2023, between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the World Bank Group for FY 2023-2027, is worth “USD 7 billion, in loans of USD 1 billion per year from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and about USD 2 billion from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) during the entire CPF period and guarantees from Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)”.

This New Country Partnership targets the three high-level outcomes (HLOs): “More and Better Private Sector Jobs, Enhanced Human Capital Outcomes, and Improved Resilience to Shocks.” Besides, this partnership presents various measures that aim at achieving resilient, green, and inclusive development. For instance, assisting Egypt with improving citizens’ conditions through service delivery such as sanitation, housing, water, and household gas connections, ensuring the implementation of Country Climate Development Report recommendations, and supporting Egypt's initiatives and reforms in the renewable energy sector are some of the other goals of the New Country Partnership. This new partnership is a promising venture of collaboration that serves Egypt's Vision 2030 and the National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS) 2050.



Tourism Renaissance: Egypt Ranks Among Top Countries in Global Muslim Travel Index 2023

Egypt has achieved an outstanding ranking according to the Mastercard-Crescent rating Global Muslim Travel Index in June 2023. Among 138 countries, Egypt's rank rose 3 spots from 12th to 9th, a testament to Egypt's continued progress and improvement of the tourism sector.

The Global Muslim Travel Index encompasses four criteria: access, communications, services, and environment. According to Mastercard Economics Institute's 2023 Travel Industry Trends Report, Egypt is ranked "among the top ten traveler destinations in 2023". In conclusion, Egypt —during this quarter in 2023— demonstrated outstanding performance in the tourism sector and proved a speedy recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), the revenue generated from tourism in H1 of FY 2022/2023 increased by 25.7 percent, to reach USD 7.3 billion compared to USD 5.8 billion in H1 of FY 2021/2022.



A New Milestone Achieved: Egypt Is Vice Chairman of UN Plant Protection Convention for The First Time.

Egypt has been elected for a two-year term as a Vice Chairman of the United Nations International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). IPPC is a multilateral treaty signed in 1951 that “aims at protecting cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests”. IPPC Egypt has been elected to this position among 184 countries in IPPC. This decision was announced during the 17th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-17) at the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Headquarters. After this two-year period, Egypt will be the main candidate for the position of the CPM Chairperson.

It is worth mentioning that this position will actually empower Egypt in many aspects. For instance, it will contribute to reducing the obstacles in the field of agricultural exports as well as assisting in exchanging experiences with other countries. According to the Head of the Central Administration for Plant Quarantine at the Ministry of Agriculture, Ahmed El-Attar, "This accomplishment strengthens Egypt's international profile in phytosanitary and agricultural quarantine and facilitates entry to many key export markets that are difficult to enter".

Section Two

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT



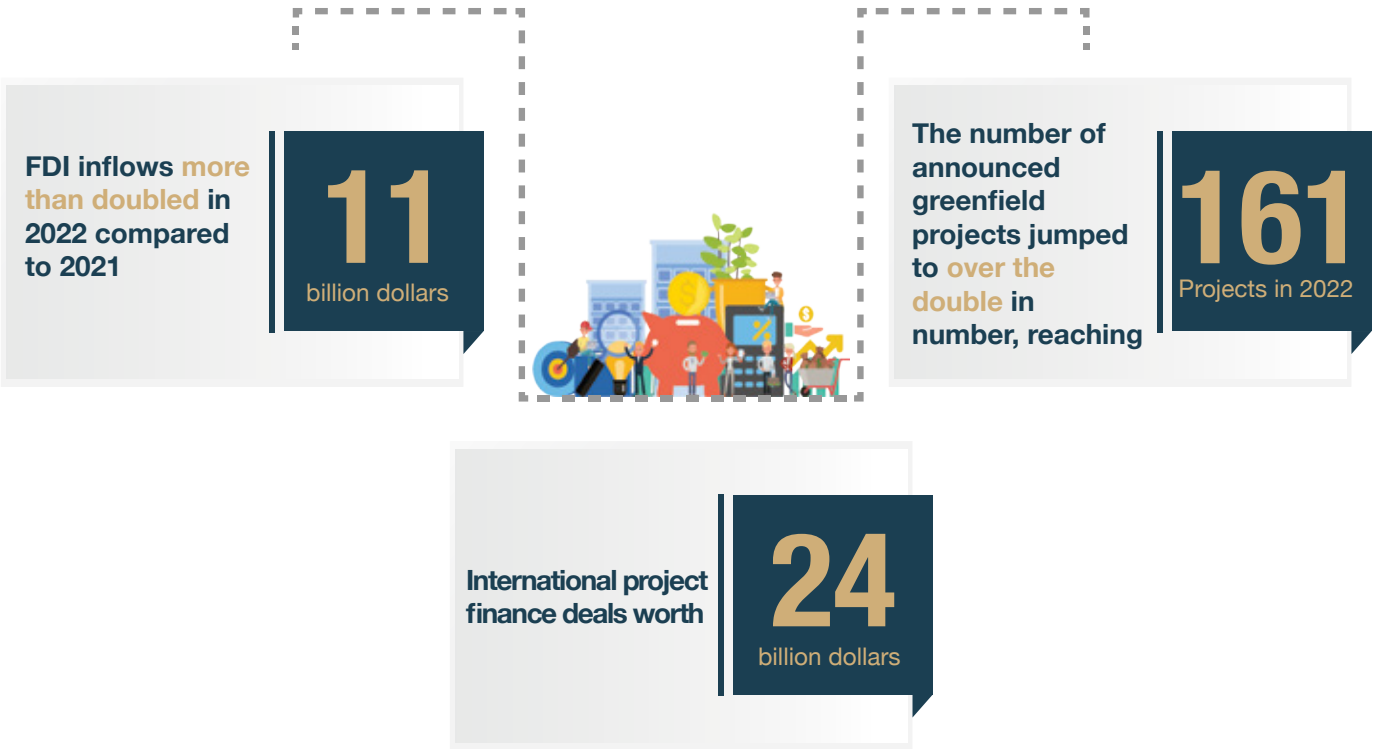


Egypt's FDI Insights

UNCTAD World Investment Report 2023

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) publishes its annual World Investment Report highlighting trends and figures of foreign direct investment (FDI) worldwide, at the regional and national levels, in addition to providing emerging measures to improve its contribution to development. The report also conducts an analysis of global value chains and the operations of multinational enterprises, with a special focus on their development implications. It aims at supporting policymakers by showing where investment is on track and where more is needed. The report's recommendations represent an important guide to boosting investment and finance in developing countries.

This year, the World Investment Report, published in July 2023, showed positive trends for Egypt’s FDI inflows in 2022. They reached more than double, recording USD 11 billion due to increased cross-border Merger & Acquisition sales, compared to USD 5.12 billion in 2021. The number of announced greenfield projects in Egypt also reached more than double in 2022, reaching 161 projects. Moreover, international project finance deals increased by about 67% compared to 2021, recording USD 24 billion in 2022. This year’s edition also tackled an in-depth analysis of investments in sustainable energy, declaring the ReNew Suez Canal Economic Zone Green Hydrogen Plant Project and a 400-MW Solar-Powered Desalination Plant Project in Egypt as top projects among various SDG sectors projects announced in developing countries in 2022. This comes as a result of the tremendous efforts exerted by the GoE to create a favorable investment climate and attract foreign direct investments.





The Supreme Council for Investment

22 Decrees to Promote the Investment Climate in Egypt

Established by presidential decree No. 141 of 2023, the newly formed Supreme Council for Investment held its inaugural meeting on May 16, 2023, chaired by H.E. President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi. This timely move comes as part of the ongoing reform program adopted by the Egyptian Government to boost domestic and foreign investments, encourage industrialization and production, and enhance the private sector's role in the economy, considering global uncertainties due to consecutive economic turmoil.

Establishment of Companies

1

Amending some articles of the Investment Law's Executive Regulations to ensure a higher degree of freedom in the establishment of companies under the free zones system and to grant foreign investors a temporary residency during the establishment period.

2

Amending article No. 34 of Investment Law No. 72 of 2017 to allow for petrochemical refining projects to operate under the free zones system.

3

Limiting the time for issuing all approvals and permits to 10 working days and for each approval to be issued only once upon establishment.

4

Establishing a "unified electronic platform for the establishment, operation, and liquidation of projects" in addition to approving the amendments to the Electronic Signature Law (Law No. 15 of 2004).

Land Allocation

5

Issuing a set of legislative amendments to ease down the restrictions related to land and real estate foreign ownership.

Set Up & Operation Permits

6

Expanding the issuance of the golden license and not limiting its approval to companies establishing strategic or national projects only.

Amending Articles No. 40, 41, and 42 of the Investment Law's Executive Regulations to allow companies established before the Investment Law of 2017 to be granted the Golden License.

Operation

7

Evaluating the mechanisms needed to transfer the affiliation of the utility sector's regulating bodies to ensure their independence and strengthen the separation between ownership and control in a number of sectors.

8

Amending some legal articles that grant preferential treatment to state-owned companies and entities.

9

Establishing a unit affiliated to the Egyptian Cabinet to collect data on state-owned companies to be granted the power to issue binding decisions on the means of restructuring of the SOEs,

10

Binding the Unified Procurement Authority to publish periodic reports on tenders and auctions.

Binding the Ministry of Finance to publish an integrated report on the benefits and tax exemptions granted to SOEs.

Binding the Ministry of Finance to publish, in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Business Sector, an annual report on the profits' distribution policy of state-owned companies.

11

Amending Law No. 7 of 2017 to allow foreign investors to be registered in the Importers Register even if he/she has not held Egyptian nationality for 10 years.

12

Prohibiting all entities from issuing regulatory decisions that add financial or procedural burdens related to the establishment or operation of projects, as well as imposing fees or charges for services, except after obtaining the opinion and the approval of the Board of Directors of the General Investment Authority and the approval of the Egyptian Cabinet and the Supreme Council for Investment.

13

Issuing a binding regulatory decision with clear mechanisms and controls on imposing improvement fees.

14

Introducing a clearing system between the dues of investors and their burdens.

Putting a time limit (45 days) to ensure the swift refund of value-added tax to investors.

15

Accelerating the completion of the State's tax policy document to overcome the instability of tax legislation.

16

Finalizing the amendments of the Profit Transfer Law to ease down tax burdens and lessen the cases of double taxation.

17

Amending the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law No. 13 of 1968 to raise the value of commercial cases assigned to the economic and partial courts, expand the scope of their substantive jurisdiction to resolve commercial disputes, and increase the quorum for non-appeal.

18

Issuing a binding regulatory decision to limit the time taken to disburse investors' compensation in cases of expropriation to 3 months and obligate the administrative authorities to intensify negotiations with investors on the amount of the appropriate compensation.

Promotion Strategies and Attraction

19

Developing a clear investment strategy in Egypt in cooperation with the International Finance Corporation.

20

Amending 9 articles of the Economic Zones Law No. 83 of 2005 to grant additional privileges and exemptions to the economic zone.

21

Establishing a permanent unit affiliated to the Egyptian Cabinet, headed by the Executive Director of the General Authority for Investment, specialized in setting appropriate policies, laws, and regulations for the growth and prosperity of start-up companies in Egypt.

Approval of an Incentive Package at The Sectoral Level

■ Agriculture Sector

Allowing the rest of the crops to be traded under the commodity exchange mechanism through the Egyptian Stock Exchange (EGX).

Expanding the use of contract farming mechanisms to include all strategic and important crops.

■ Housing and Real Estate Development

Granting real estate developers and projects in other fields (real estate, agriculture, industry, tourism, etc.) operating in the new cities the following:

- Applying an interest of 10% on installments instead of the interest declared by the Central Bank of Egypt
- Extending the time period for the implementation of all projects by 20%
- Reducing the percentage of project completion from 90% to 85%

■ Industrial sector

Exempting industrial zones in the new cities (fourth generation) and East Port Said and industrial projects —aiming for deepening the local industry all over the State— from customs duties and any other administrative fees, in addition to other incentives to be agreed upon during the upcoming meetings.

Granting industrial investors operating in any part of the state a grace period of two years to establish the project, provided that he/she begins to pay the installments.

Extending the term of the operating license to five years, similar to the industrial register.

■ Green Hydrogen

Announcing cash incentives of not less than 33% and not more than 55% of the incurred tax value to be disbursed within a maximum of 45 days.

Exempting equipment, machinery, and raw materials required for the project from value-added tax.

Exempting the project's exports and derivatives from value-added tax.

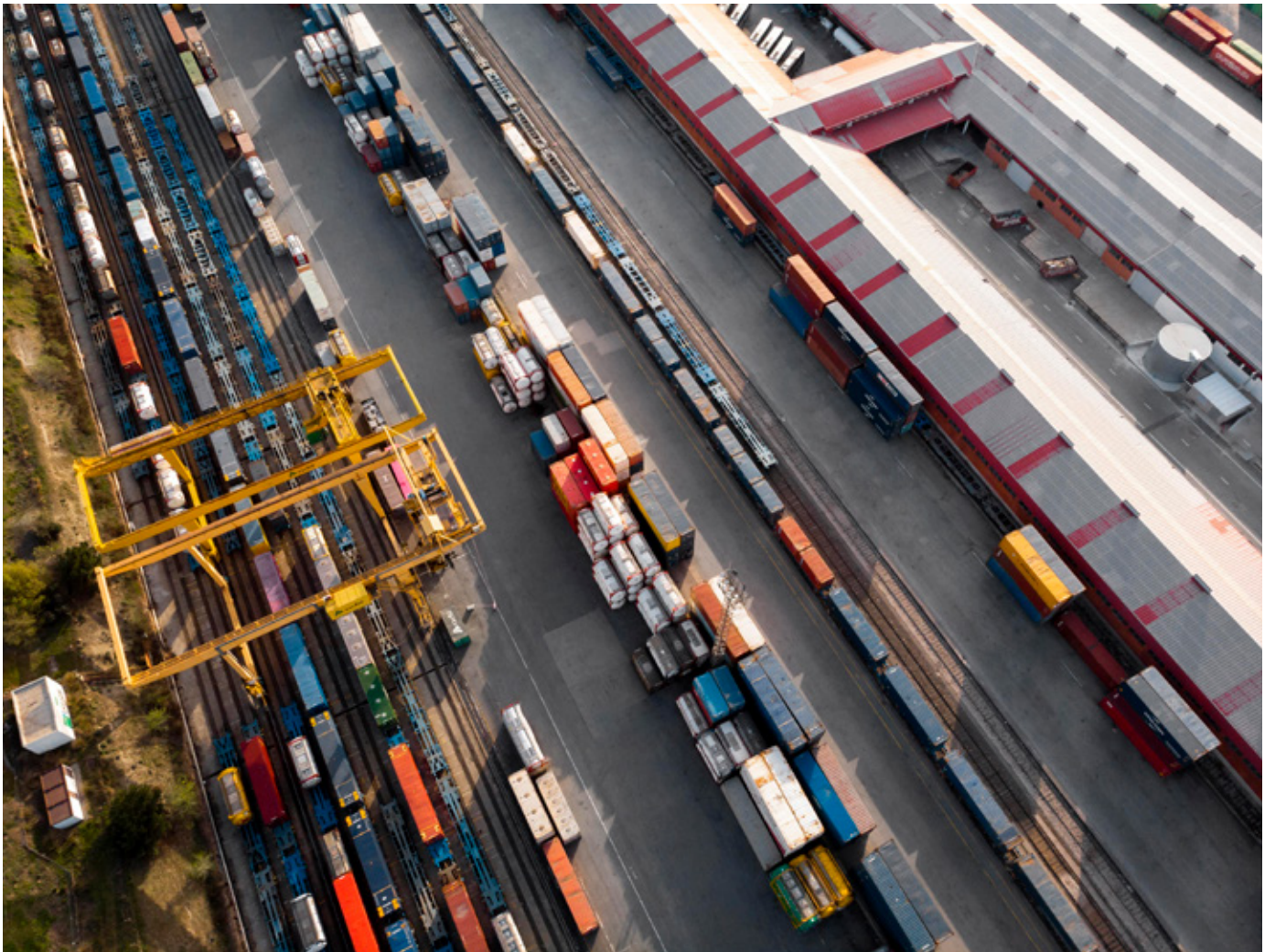
■ Transport sector

Treating the logistical zones within the planned logistical hubs as economic zones of a special nature, thus, allowing for benefiting from investment incentives within the investment law.

Reducing export/customs fees for a specific period (one/two years).

Activating the whitelist and the authorized economic operator system completely within the new customs system.

Amending the executive regulations of the Customs Law in accordance with the accurate definitions and concepts of transit trade, thus, reducing transportation costs and allowing the movement of goods.





Facilitating the Process of Establishing Companies

This comes as

- **Decree No. (1): Amending some articles of the Investment Law's Executive Regulations to ensure a higher degree of freedom in the establishment of companies under the free zones system and grant foreign investors a temporary residency during the establishment period.**

The implementation of these amendments is anticipated to facilitate the growth and establishment of enterprises within the private free zones' framework. It will enable foreign investors to engage in prompt transactions with banks upon submitting their companies' applications, effectively addressing prior concerns related to the prolonged waiting period necessary for the completion of all procedural formalities essential for establishing the company.

- **Decree No. (3): Limiting the time for issuing all approvals and permits to 10 working days and for each approval to be issued only once upon establishment**

Addressing prior conditions of lengthy procedures of obtaining approvals from all relevant entities. Hence, setting a timeframe of 10 working days will simplify the process of conducting business in the country and boost investors' confidence.

- **Decree No. (4): Establishing a "unified electronic platform for the establishment, operation, and liquidation of projects" in addition to approving the amendments to the Electronic Signature Law (Law No. 15 of 2004).**

This platform will be launched by the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI) in collaboration with the relevant authorities to make it easier for investors to apply and obtain the necessary approvals and permits online. As for the Electronic Signature Law, it will allow businesses to use electronic signatures. This step will further streamline the business process.





Set Up and Operation Permits: The Golden License

- **Decree No. (6), related to the Golden License, constitutes two sub-decrees:**

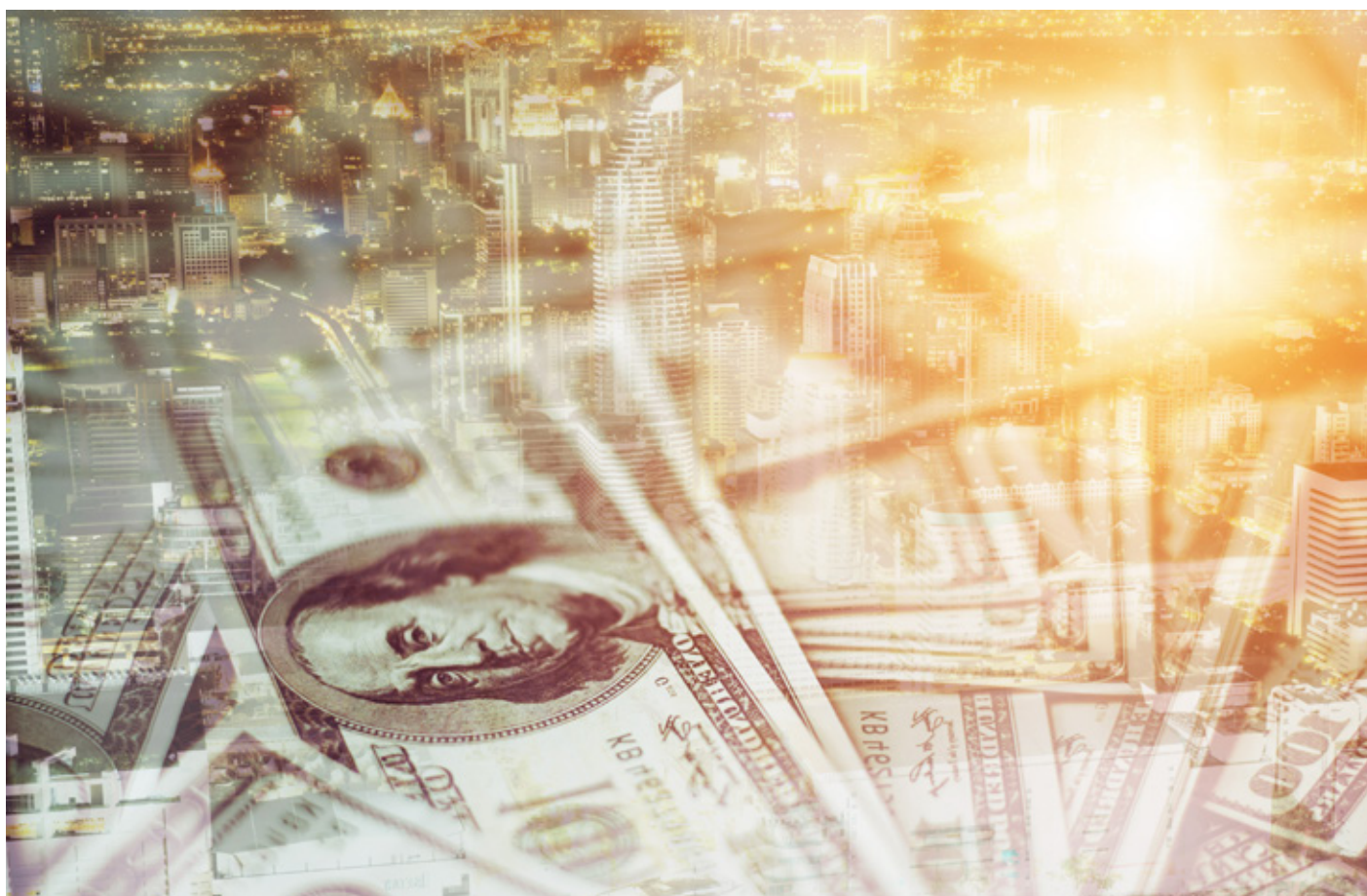
Expanding the issuance of the golden license and not limiting its approval to companies establishing strategic or national projects only.

1

Expanding the issuance of the Golden License and not limiting its approval to companies establishing strategic or national projects only.

Amending Articles No. 40, 41, 42 of the Investment Law's Executive Regulations to allow companies established before the Investment Law of 2017 to be granted the Golden License.

In compliance with the demands of the Egyptian business community and investors, it has been decided that the Golden License shall be conferred upon projects in any sector deemed significant by the State —encompassing all investors—whether local or foreign. Moreover, any enterprise, irrespective of its date of establishment, is authorized to submit an application for Golden License's benefits, provided that it fulfills the stipulated criteria.





Easing Down Financial and Tax Burdens

- **Decree No. (12): "Prohibiting all entities from issuing regulatory decisions which add financial or procedural burdens to the establishment or operation of projects, or imposing fees or service charges, except after obtaining the opinion and approval of the Board of Directors of the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), as well as the approval of the Egyptian Cabinet, and the Supreme Council for Investment".**

The above decree aims at avoiding issuing any decisions that would increase financial burdens on investors, **whereas Decree No. 13: "Issuing a binding regulatory decision with clear mechanisms and controls on imposing improvement fees"**, addresses the issue of multiple entities imposing improvement fees on investors, which results in investors paying the same fees to several authorities over and over.

- **Decree No. 14: "Introducing a set-off (clearing) system between investors' receivables and their taxes or other obligations to government entities"**, allowing them to offset their receivables from the Government against taxes or other obligations they owe to the Government. This step aims at expediting the repayment of value-added tax (VAT) within a specified timeframe of 45 days. Therefore, the issue of tax imposition on investors will be resolved while already having outstanding dues owed to the State.
- To create a stable tax legislative environment, **Decree No. 15: "Accelerating the completion of the State's tax policy document for the next five years" was approved** to provide a clear understanding of the country's tax policies for the next five years, including relevant authorities and tax law amendments, thus, promoting transparency.
- The issue of double payment of taxes was also tackled, as **Decree No. 16: " Finalizing the amendments of the law on transferring profits between holding companies and their subsidiaries"**, aims at easing down tax burdens and avoiding double taxation, which encourages both domestic and foreign investment.





Resolving Disputes

- **Decree No. (17): "Amending the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law No. 13 of 1968, to raise the value of commercial cases assigned to the economic and partial courts"**

This measure aims at fostering the role of economic and partial courts, as it entails expanding their substantive jurisdiction to resolve commercial disputes and raise the quorum for non-appeal. Previously, the Economic Courts Act was responsible for resolving such disputes but imposed a maximum limit on the value of the dispute; any dispute exceeding such value would be referred to the general judiciary, which resulted in extended time frames. Therefore, these amendments are to enhance commercial dispute resolution mechanisms and expedite contract enforcement.



Developing a State Investment Strategy

- **Decree No. (19): "Developing a clear investment strategy in Egypt, in cooperation with the International Finance Corporation".**

In collaboration with the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank, the GoE will develop a comprehensive vision and strategy for investment in Egypt, aiming at promoting investment opportunities in Egypt and achieving the national target of raising investment rates to range between 25 percent and 30 percent.



Supporting Startup Growth

- Due to the huge potential of startups as drivers of private investment in the economy, **Decree No. (21) came to establish a permanent unit affiliated to the Egyptian Cabinet, headed by the Executive Director of the General Authority for Investment, to be specialized in setting appropriate policies, laws, and regulations for promoting the growth and prosperity of start-ups in Egypt.** This unit will also be responsible for facilitating the procedures required for establishing startups, as well as receiving their complaints in coordination with the Investor Problem-Solving Unit to develop appropriate solutions in coordination with relevant entities.



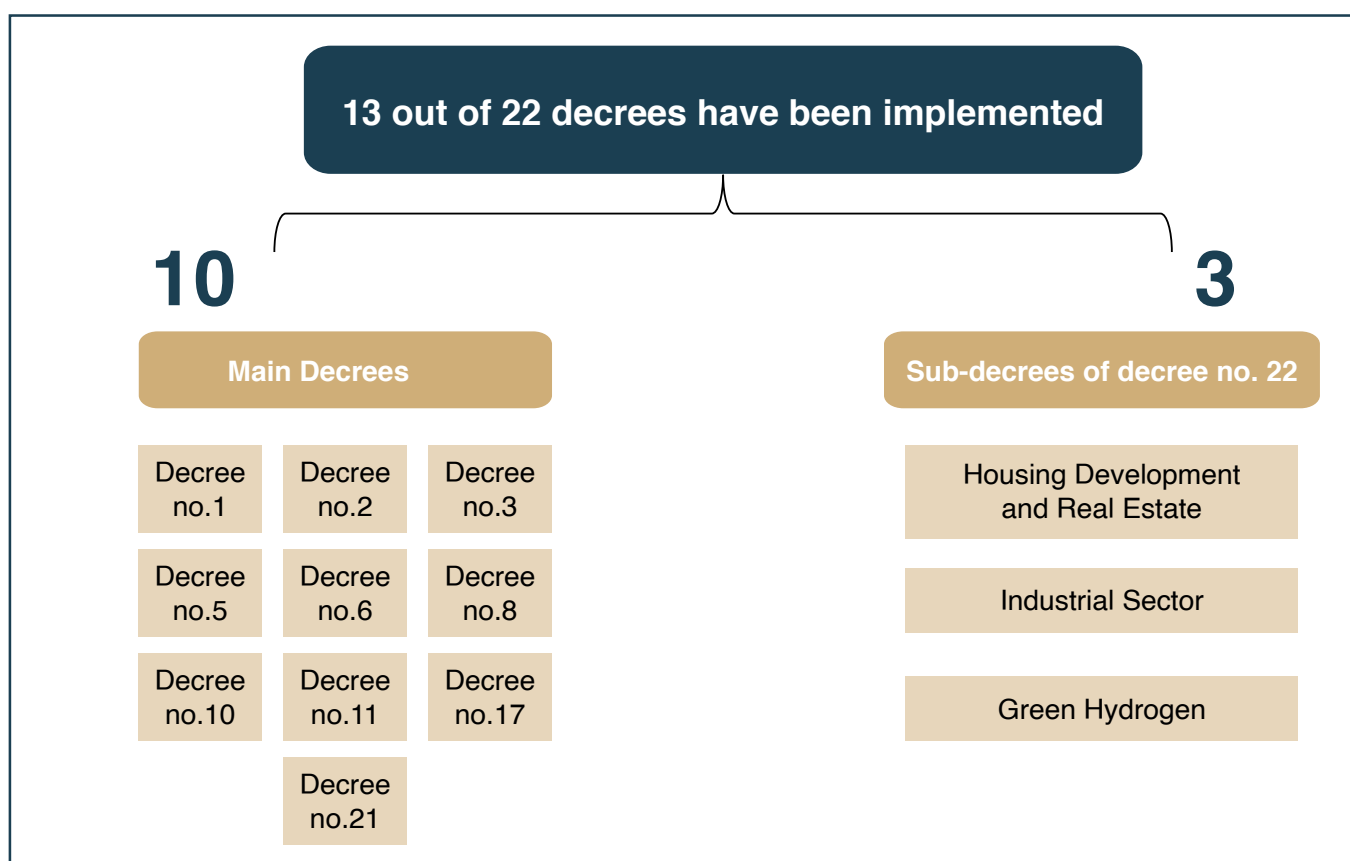
Launching A New Sectoral Incentive Package

- **Per Decree No. (22), a set of incentives has been approved for several sectors**, including agriculture, industry, housing and real estate development, green hydrogen, and transportation, while considering investment projects in new cities. This aims at providing further facilitation and easing the burdens previously borne by investors in these sectors.

It is worth mentioning that the remaining decrees mostly pertain to facilitating operations and enabling the private sector's role in the economy, enhancing the separation between ownership and management in several sectors, ensuring equal treatment between state-owned enterprises and private ones, and promoting governance and transparency through publishing and providing access to periodic reports on GoE's-related actions, like tax exemptions.

In addition, legislative reforms were directed at foreign investors, allowing their registration in the importer's registry to address the former difficulties in importing production supplies and easing down their ownership of land and real estate. Needless to say, additional privileges and exemptions were granted to economic zones, particularly the Suez Canal Economic Zone, in order to enhance the attractiveness of these areas for investors.

Additionally, the process of implementing the aforementioned decrees is being closely monitored, as the Egyptian Government is keen on adhering to the stated timeframes in order to add more confidence in the investment climate in Egypt and attract more investments to boost the economy. The Council will convene monthly, or at most, every two months to monitor their activation and ensure they bring about their desired impact. Worthy of mention, 13 decrees have already been executed, including Decrees No. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 17, and 21, as well as 3 sub-decrees of Decree No. 22.





Decree No. 1:

Amending some articles of the Investment Law's Executive Regulations (Articles No. 4 & 76).

- According to the Prime Minister's Decree No. 2140 of 2023, certain provisions of the Executive Regulations of the Egyptian Investment Law issued in 2017 were amended, including Article (76) of the Executive Regulations.

Decree No. 2:

Amending Article No. 34 of Investment Law No. 72 of 2017 to allow for petrochemical refining projects to operate under the free zones system.

- A draft bill amending article No. 34 of Law No.72 of 2017 was introduced to the Parliament on July 6, 2023.

Decree No. 3:

Limiting the time for issuing all approvals and permits to (10) working days and for each approval to be issued only once upon establishment.

- The Prime Minister's Decree No. 1889 of 2023 was issued, setting the time limit for issuing all approvals and permits for investors to 10 working days.
- The Egyptian Cabinet has also approved an amendment to the Executive Regulations of the Investment Law that allows new foreign investors to obtain a temporary stay of one year for "non-tourism" during the establishment period, enabling them to interact with banks and open a bank account. It can be renewed for 6 months or a year, based on the vision of GAFI, until the completion of all procedures related to the establishment of their economic enterprise.

Decree No. 5:

Issuing a set of legislative amendments to ease down the restrictions related to land and real estate foreign ownership.

- The Egyptian Cabinet approved a legislative amendment to Article 2 of Law No. 230 of 1996 regulating foreign ownership of established real estate and lands, allowing foreigners to own real estate and land for the purpose of housing if foreigners pay for their purchases in foreign currency, through a bank transfer to a state-owned bank, per the regulations and conditions that will be issued by the Governor of CBE.

Decree No. 6:

Expanding the issuance of the Golden License and not limiting its approval to companies establishing strategic or national projects only.

- Amending Articles No. (40), (41), (42) of the Investment Law's Executive Regulations, to allow companies established before the Investment Law of (2017) to be granted the Golden License.
- A draft bill amending some articles of Law No.72 of 2017 was introduced to the parliament on July 6, 2023.

Decree No. 8:

Amending some legal articles that grant preferential treatment to state-owned companies and entities.

- On June 21, the Egyptian Cabinet approved a bill to abolish exemptions granted for state entities on investment projects.

Decree No. 10:

Publishing several reports to enhance governance and transparency.

- The Ministries and relevant entities are mandated to publish the required periodic reports.

Decree No. 11:

Amending Law No. 7 of 2017 to allow foreign investors to be registered in the Importers Register, even if he/she has not held Egyptian nationality for 10 years.

- The Cabinet approved a draft bill amending certain provisions of Law No. 121 of 1982 on the Importers Register to enable foreign investors to register as importers in the Importers Register, provided that the other conditions under Law 121/1982 on Importers Registry are fulfilled.
- Such registration will be allowed for joint-stock companies, companies of a partnership limited by shares, limited liability companies, and individually owned companies in which the partner shares or stakes are not fully owned by Egyptians or are owned by them by less than 51%, with the total periods of registration in the register not exceeding 10 years from the date of enforcement of the new bill (extendable for one period only).

Decree No. 17:

Amending the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law No. 13 of 1968 to raise the value of commercial cases assigned to the economic and partial courts, expand the scope of their substantive jurisdiction to resolve commercial disputes, and raise the quorum for non-appeal.

- Two draft bills amending the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law No. 13 of 1968 and establishing Economic Courts Law No. 120 of 2008 have been introduced to the parliament.

Decree No. 21

Establishing a permanent unit affiliated to the Egyptian Cabinet, specialized in setting appropriate policies, Laws, and regulations for the growth and prosperity of startups in Egypt.

- A permanent unit affiliated to the Egyptian Cabinet was established; it is responsible for proposing appropriate policies, Laws, and regulations for the growth and prosperity of emerging companies and startups in Egypt per the Prime Minister's Decree No. 2136 of 2023.

Decree No. 22:

(22.3) Housing and Real Estate Development: Approving a package of incentives for real estate developers operating new cities, including:

- Interesting on installments of 10% instead of the interest declared by the Central Bank.
- Extending the period for the implementation of all projects by 20%.
- Reducing the percentage of project completion from 90% to 85%.

(22.9) Industrial Sector:

Extending the term of the operating license to five years, similar to the industrial register.

- Decree No. 172 of 2023 of the Minister of Trade and Industry was issued, which approved a mechanism for the payment of the annual follow-up fees for industrial licenses once every three years for prior licensing and five years for notification licensing.

(22.10) Green Hydrogen:

Approving a package of incentives for green hydrogen.

- The Egyptian Cabinet approved a special package of incentives for green hydrogen projects, including introducing a cash incentive of not less than 33% and not more than 55% of the incurred tax value to be disbursed within a maximum of 45 days; exempting all equipment, machinery, and raw materials required for the project from value-added tax, and exempting the project's exports and derivatives from value-added tax.

Overall, those 22 decrees came as a response from the GoE to address the concerns of both domestic and foreign investors, sending a message of reassurance to the Egyptian business community by providing a number of resolutions and procedures to the issues they raised, setting a timeframe and constant follow-up on the implementation of those measures on the ground, and reflecting the State's keenness on ultimately enhancing the investment climate in Egypt and considering any additional measures that will help Egypt reach its investment targets.



Amending some articles of Investment Law No.72 of 2017

In line with the aforementioned decrees, a set of legislative amendments on some articles of Investment Law No.72 of 2017 has been initially approved by the parliament. This was a response to the recommendations proposed by the Supreme Council for Investment, affirming Egypt's serious efforts to apply the economic reform programs and secure an investment-friendly climate in Egypt. The most prominent amendments aim at providing more incentives for the private sector as follows:

1

Providing all investment projects, whether established prior to or after the 2017 Law, with the general incentives granted by the Law.

2

Expanding the scope of companies that will be granted the "Single Approval" (Golden License) as per Article (20) of the Investment Law.

3

Removing restrictions on the establishment of companies and permitting licenses, after the approval of the Supreme Council for Energy, for natural gas-based industry projects and energy-intensive projects, to operate under the free zones system.

4

Extending the period within which a new company or enterprise must be established for setting up the investment project to 9 years.

5

Granting additional incentives to enterprises according to a decree issued by the Egyptian Cabinet as follows:

- Exempting them from utilization cost of land allocated for project establishment for a maximum period of 10 years, starting from the beginning of operation, as proposed by the relevant minister.
- Allocating land at no cost for some strategic activities according to the specified regulations.

- Reimbursing 50% of the value of the land allocated to industrial projects in case of commencement of production within two years from the date of receiving the land.
- Incurring part of the cost of the worker's technical training by the Government.
- Allowing the establishment of special customs outlets for the investment project's exports or imports in agreement with the Minister of Finance.
- Bearing the cost of utilities incurred by the investor for the investment project's facility through the Government —or part of it— after the project's operation.
- Allowing the exemption of the referred projects —per the Prime Minister's Decree and based upon the proposal of the concerned Minister— from contributing to the costs of establishing infrastructure, services, and utilities, with up to 50%, according to the specified regulations issued by a decree of the Supreme Council.
- Incurring the Public Treasury up to 50% of the project's consumption of basic utilities for a maximum period of 10 years, in accordance with the controls established by a decision of the Supreme Council.
- Introducing other non-tax incentives whenever the need arises per the Egyptian Cabinet's Decree and based upon the proposal of the concerned Minister.
- Setting out the rules for granting additional incentives as per this article and its regulations and conditions in the Executive Regulations of this Law.

6

Granting a cash incentive of no less than 35%, and no more than 55% of the value of the tax return paid in monetary terms on the income generated from the commencement of activity in the investment project, for industrial activities identified in accordance with Article (11) bis and their expansions.

7

Developing a mechanism for drawing the investment map that includes identifying the type and framework of investment prepared by the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), in cooperation with the relevant entities, and reviewing both the plan and the investment map at least once every three years, or whenever needed based upon the GAFI's proposal.

8

Addressing the legislation on the exit of hazardous substances from free zones into the country.

Promoting the Private Sector's Role in the Economy

The NSRP and IPO Program

1

The National Structural Reform Program (NSRP)

The National Structural Reform Program (NSRP) was launched in April 2021 with an implementation period that extends over 5 years. The NSRP aims at restructuring Egypt's economy by focusing on the major sectors of the real economy: the manufacturing sector, the agricultural sector, and information and communication technology sector, in parallel with supporting the tourism sector, as well as promoting of the private sector's role in the economy. Worthy of mention, NSRP was prepared based on a participatory approach with all relevant experts and specialists from the private sector and the business community.

It is worth mentioning that 34% of the program activities have been implemented, while 66% of the activities are still being implemented. After almost two years positive implications of implementing the program have been reflected on investment, exports, and unemployment indicators as follows:

- The ratio of investment to the gross domestic product (GDP) has increased, recording 15.2% in 2021/2022, compared to 12.2% in 2020/2021.
- Unemployment rate has decreased from 7.3% in 2021/2022, to 7.1% during the first nine months of FY 2022/2023.
- Egyptian non-oil merchandise exports increased by 12% in 2022, recording USD 35.2 billion.
- The contribution of the three main productive sectors (manufacturing, agriculture, information and communication technology) to the GDP has increased, recording 30% in 2021/2022, compared to 26% in 2019/2020.

The Most Prominent Achievements among Pillars of the Program :

Improving the business climate and promoting the role of the private sector in the economy is considered among the most prominent achievements of the program. In this regard, the program tackled the following:

1) Maximizing the value of some assets which are under utilized or used inefficiently, in coordination with the private sector..

- In this regard, contracts were signed with investors to develop the lands and buildings of El-Tahrir Complex, the administrative headquarters of the Ministry of Interior (the old building), and the Cosmic village in 6th of October.

2) Offering a group of companies, including those of the armed forces, in various sectors, such as the telecommunications services sector, for the participation of the private sector.

2

Egypt's IPO Program at A Glance

In Line with the Egyptian Government's announcement of the State Ownership Policy Document, the Government launched its Initial Public Offerings (IPO) program, which aims at promoting private sector participation, as well as managing exit quotas in such a way as to generate a return and also ensuring foreign exchange liquidity in a short period of time. Accordingly, in February 2023, the Government announced its plan to list 32 companies as a public offering in the stock exchange market (EGX) or for strategic investors.

Additionally, in the few previous months, the Egyptian Government made substantial decisions to ensure the effective implementation of the IPO program, including forming a unit to supervise the implementation of the IPO program per the Prime Minister's Decree No. 2223 of 2023. The unit specializes in the following:

- Evaluating and completing previous offering plans.
- Directing the offering sectors and methods based on the advice of an international consultant.
- Appointing the investment banks responsible for the sale of each company
- Following up on and implementing the marketing plan for each company
- Following up on and implementing of the program in coordination with the concerned ministries and authorities.

Moreover, an agreement was signed to appoint the International Finance Corporation (IFC) as the Government's strategic advisor and consultant for implementing Egypt's IPO program.

According to this agreement, IFC will provide advisory services and technical support to identify the offering mechanisms and frameworks for State-owned enterprises and identify target investors and the offering process for each company. This will be achieved in coordination with the Egyptian Cabinet's IPO unit, which was mentioned earlier.

Besides, the agreement aims at accelerating the implementation of the IPO program to attract foreign direct investments. IFC will work on preparing a comprehensive and integrated strategy for the IPO program in two phases. The initial phase involves the preparation of the strategy within (4) months from the date of signing the agreement. In addition, the second phase is the commencement of the actual offering of companies and projects, noting that the implementation of the first phase of the agreement has already started on June 18, 2023.

Updates on Egypt's IPO Program

- Egypt has signed contracts with the private sector to sell some of its shares in state-owned entities, and **secured deals worth USD 1.9 billion, from which USD 1.65 billion will be paid in foreign currency and the remainder will be received in Egyptian Pounds.**
- According to the Egyptian Minister of Planning and Economic Development, **6 Companies out of the 32 companies have already been offered, including Paints and Chemical Industries (Pachin), Telecom Egypt, Egyptian General Company for Tourism and Hotels (EGOTH), the Egyptian Ethylene and Derivative Company (ETHYDCO), the Egyptian Drilling Company (EDC), as well as the Egyptian Linear Alkyl Benzene Company (ELAB).**
- In addition to that, **a new Company was added to the list of the 32 companies**, as the Government announced that it had offered some of the State-owned shares in "Al Ezz Dekheila Steel co." within the IPO Program.
- The procedures of **2 other projects (Jabal El-Zeit Wind Farm were listed, and Siemens) are being finalized and prepared to be offered in the Egyptian Stock Exchange (EGX) market.**
- **The Government will soon announce additional transactions worth USD 1 billion.** Through the assistance of the International Finance Cooperation (IFC), Egypt aims at increasing the number of companies in its IPO program, **to reach a total of 50 companies.**

7 Deals were Secured

- The UAE's National Paints company acquired a majority stake (**more than 80%**) in **state-owned Paint and Chemicals Industries (PACHIN)** for EGP 770.5 million (about USD 25 million).
- **A 9.5% of the state-owned shares in Telecom Egypt was offered in May 2023** for EGP 3.75 billion (USD 121.3 million).
- **Icon Investments, a Talaat Moustafa Group Holding subsidiary, has collaborated with a foreign partner to increase the capital of the state-owned Egyptian General Company for Tourism and Hotels (EGOTH)** by around 37%, worth USD 700 million.
- The Egyptian Government offered **stakes ranging from 25% to 30% in three companies: ETHYDCO, ELAB, and the Egyptian Drilling Company (EDC)** for USD 800 million to Abu Dhabi Fund for Development.
- The Government divested **its entire 31% stake in Ezz Steel subsidiary "Al Ezz Dekheila Steel co."** for **USD 241 million**, of which 60% was raised in US dollars and 40% in Egyptian Pounds.

2 Deals are being Finalized

In preparation for listing

- The Government has received several non-binding offers for Jabal El Zeit Wind Farm —expected to secure over USD 300 million— and has accepted the highest bid in June. The buyer will be given 60 days to conduct due diligence on the asset, and the transaction is predicted to close by October 2023.
- The sale of one of the three Siemens-built power plants in Beni Suef is anticipated to be finalized in Q1 2024.

The Implementation Status for the Rest of Companies and Projects

- Egypt received six non-binding offers for the National Company for Selling and Distributing Petroleum Products (Wataniya), from which three companies were chosen to conduct due diligence. The deal is expected to be finalized between October and November.
- As for the Government's plan to offer 21 water desalination plants for a total capacity of 3.3 million cubic meters per day, four water desalination plants are set to be offered in Q4 2023 within the first phase of the plan, which is expected to attract USD 3 billion by the end 2025.

The background features a faint, light gray line graph with several data points connected by lines, and a bar chart with vertical bars of varying heights. The overall design is clean and professional, with a dark blue vertical bar on the right side.

SECTION THREE

**SECTORAL
HIGHLIGHTS
SECTOR IN FOCUS**



PART 1



HEALTH





Enhancing Health Sector

Health is considered one of the most important pillars in the Egyptian Sustainable Development Strategy, Vision 2030, in which the State is keen to ensure the quality of health services provided and that all Egyptians enjoy a healthy life. Thus, Egypt is working towards the target of achieving comprehensive health coverage for all citizens through the implementation of an integrated health system that is characterized by availability, quality, and non-discrimination.

In addition, the Egyptian President has launched several presidential initiatives that focus on Healthcare, which have achieved unprecedented success, benefiting over 90 million citizens, so that the WHO hailed Egypt's health efforts, especially the 100 Million Health Initiative, which remarkably contributed to offering better services for the Egyptians.



The Government sought to provide health services along with rebuilding the infrastructure of health facilities; and one of the most prominent efforts was launching of Egypt's Universal Health Insurance System (UHS) across Egypt. In January 2021, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi directed the Government to complete (UHS) nationwide in 10 years instead of the scheduled 15 years.

The Ministry of Health and Population declared a strategy to improve health services development, and investment in human capital, explaining that the first axis included the establishment and development of hospitals, medical centers, specialized health units, and the localization of the drug industry locally.

Within this aspect, the Egyptian Government has taken multiple measures to provide the best medical service to the Egyptian people.

MAIN Movements



A - Core Movements by the Egyptian Government to Enhance Health Sector (April-June 2023):

1



The Ministry of Finance on April 2023 approved to raise healthcare spending by **30.4 percent in FY 2023/24. With nearly EGP 397 billion**, with an increase of **EGP 92.5 billion**. Funds have been increased to provide Medicines, Medical supplies, and raw materials to hospitals affiliated with the Ministry of Health and health affairs directorates in the governorates.

2



Till June 2023, **nearly 965 medical projects have been developed and raised at a total cost of EGP 91.31 billion**. and It is targeted in 2023 to develop and establish 53 hospitals at the cost of EGP 27.909 billion and establish 3 hospitals at the cost of EGP 14.1 billion during 2024 and 14 hospitals, at a Cost of EGP 19.56 billion during 2025.

3



Egypt launched In April 2023 the One Health National Strategic Framework 2023-2027. This approach recognizes the close connection among human, animal, and environmental health during health threats. The framework is a joint roadmap between the Egyptian Ministries of Health and Population, Agriculture and Land Reclamation, and Environment in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

4



Launching the initial phase of the “early cancer detection initiative” in June 2023 in order to screen citizens for prostate and lung cancer and —then— reduce both deaths and the financial burden associated with advanced cases.

5



Egypt launched the “100 Health Days Initiative” in June 2023 in order to ensure the provision of health services over a 100-day period in all governorates. Also to ensure early detection services for chronic diseases and providing reproductive health awareness, in addition to supporting women's health.

6



The 2nd “Africa Health ExCon” 2023 was held in Cairo on June 6-9, 2023, under the theme “Placing Africa as a continental hub for health innovation and trade”.

More than 1,200 speakers representing more than 90 countries are taking part in the conference, in addition to 316 sessions and 36 workshops.

“Africa Health ExCon” is the largest annual Medical Exhibition and Conference in Africa. Both the conference and exhibition provide an opportunity for international and African companies working in the health and pharma business to meet together on an annual basis.

The event is organized by the Egyptian Unified Procurement Authority (UPA) and the Arab Hospitals Federation, with the participation of healthcare stakeholders from government institutions and major international companies interested in investing in the health sector in Africa.

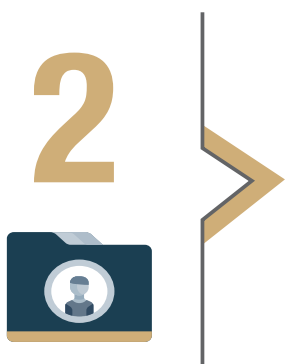
MAIN Movements



B - Highlights on Several Achievements Governmental Initiatives in Health Sector



Public investments amounted to **EGP 37369.7 million**, in the health sector during 2021/2022.



The Ministers of Health and Finance launched the National Health Accounts Report in Egypt in June 2023; it stated that:

- Personal spending on health decreased to 59.3% till June 2023, While Personal spending on health in Port Said decreased to 47.9% till June 2023.
- Government spending on health increased from 28% to 33% till June 2023.
- Government spending on health of individuals increased by 13% till June 2023.

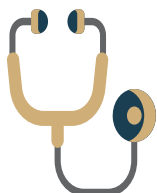


3



By the end of April 2023, Egypt conducted pre-marriage medical examinations for 176,451 individuals intending to get married. the newly-launched presidential initiative, which is part of the presidential public health initiative “100 million healthy lives,” comes as part of the new personal status law that the State has made. It includes a new pre-marriage medical screening certificate for the new tests with a QR code. Medical examinations before marriage have been compulsory in Egypt since 2008. However, the new certificate adds new obligatory tests for the couple planning to get married.

4



Nearly 7,091,272 people have been examined, free of charge, since the launch of the presidential initiative for the early detection and treatment of chronic diseases and nephropathy Since September 2021, till 15 June 2023. It aims to provide early diagnosis and treatment for chronic diseases and high-quality health services to all citizens over 40 years of age. the initiative also targets young people aged 18 and above who have a medical history of chronic diseases.

Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, Minister of Health and Population, received the Guinness World Records entry document for implementing the largest Cancer awareness slogan in the world, which reached an area of 5750 meters, under the name of the President’s initiative to detect cancerous tumors, launched in June 2023.

MAIN Movements



C - International Partnerships



Signing a memorandum of understanding on May 2023 with Glasgow SmithKline (GSK), a global leader in the healthcare sector, in order to cooperate in the development and improvement of medical services provided in the healthcare sector in Egypt.

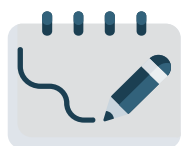


The Ministry of Health and Population announced that, **the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and Pharco Pharmaceutical** to enhance family planning, reproductive services and address population issues in Egypt.



The Egyptian Ministry of Health and population **signed on May 2023, an MoU with Roche**, a Swiss multinational healthcare company, on **May 2023** to improve medical care under the Presidential Initiative of Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) to strengthen diagnostic capabilities for liver fibrosis and early detection of liver tumors.

4



Signing an **agreement between the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA) and the United States Pharmacopoeia** in order to exchange experiences in the areas of supervisory and regulatory work to ensure the application of international standards and the safety and quality of medical products.



MAIN Movements



D - Local Partnerships

1



Signing a cooperation protocol between the Ministry of Health and Population and Accsight (Healthcare Integrated Solutions) company for launching an E-platform for tracking and monitoring antimicrobial resistance.

The protocol comes within the framework of efforts to implement the national strategy to rationalize the use of antibiotics, limit the global health threats resulting from the misuse and overuse of antibiotics, and achieve comprehensive pharmaceutical care for all citizens.

2



The Public Authority for Healthcare confirmed that it concluded during “Africa Health ExCon”, agreements with each of “Vodafone Egypt” (To provide technical and innovative solutions for healthcare), “National Technology” (to apply the mechanized laboratory system), and “Millennium Systems” (To create a unified platform for patient data management).

3



Signing ceremony of a cooperation protocol between the Ministry of Health and Population, the General Authority for Health Accreditation and Regulation (GAHAR), the Universal Healthcare Insurance Authority (UHIA), and a technology company operating and managing health insurance services (E. Health).



100 health days



PART 2



TOURISM





Tourism in Egypt

For centuries, the Egyptian tourism sector has played a vital role in maintaining economic stability and shaping the country's image worldwide. Egypt is characterized by its tourism diversity, as it occupies more than 10 types of tourism, most prominently tourist and archaeological attractions. Given the Government of Egypt's special attentiveness to stimulating the tourism sector, substantial reforms were implemented to improve Egypt's tourism experience from all aspects and address any challenges that could confront this sector. Egypt targets attracting more tourists and maximizing tourism's added value to the national economy.

According to data from the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), Egypt's tourism revenues recorded USD 7.3 billion during the first half of FY 2022/ 2023 compared to USD 5.8 billion during the same period last year, with an increase of 25.7%. This comes as a result of a 27.2% increase in the number of nights spent by tourists, recording 78.4 million nights, accompanied by an increase in the number of tourists by 27.5% to reach 6.8 million tourists, compared to the first half of 2021/2022.

Furthermore, the inbound tourism flow grew by 43% during the first three months of 2023, compared to the same period last year, according to a statement by the Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities. He also stated that tourism flow predictions for 2023 show that 15 million tourists will visit Egypt this year, marking a positive indicator for Egypt's tourism industry.

Notably, the Information and Decision Support Center's Tourism Barometer report measures and evaluates the current and expected performance of tourism-related activities in Egypt based on the views of several experts and representatives of the sector. It showed tremendous optimism among officials of tourism facilities about the performance of the tourism sector and the impact of governmental efforts in this regard. It also highlighted a positive outlook on the future performance of the tourism sector in Egypt during the next six months. The overall value of Egypt's Tourism Barometer Index recorded 108.6 points, with a value above 100 indicating optimism, according to the report.

To ensure the attainment of the desired targets, additional actions were adopted, such as altering the strategy for dealing with tourist markets, launching a new aviation stimulus program, and streamlining the procedures for obtaining tourist visas. For instance, Chinese, Turkish, and Indian tourists (who hold a Gulf Cooperation Council "GCC" resident visa) will be allowed to obtain an entry visa upon arrival to Egypt. Algerian and Moroccan tourists can obtain the same visa as long as they are part of a tourist group. Those under the age of 16 and over 60 could also obtain an electronic visa through the E-Visa platform. A new 5-year multi-entry visa application to Egypt, issued for a fee of USD 700, is expected to be announced soon.





CNN Travel Ranks Egypt as **One of the Top Tourist Destinations for 2023**

In an article titled "Where to travel in 2023: The best tourist destinations to visit", the US website, CNN Travel, showcased Egypt, especially Cairo, as a distinct travel destination worth visiting in 2023. The report cited several attractive tourist sites and famous monuments to visit in Egypt.

The article alluded to the Grand Egyptian Museum, which is the largest museum dedicated to a single civilization (the ancient Egyptian civilization) and features the entire collection of King Tutankhamun's treasures and other unique artifacts. It also mentioned the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir Square and its wonderful archaeological treasures.

The report stated that although the Great Pyramids of Giza are known to be the most popular landmark in Egypt among tourists, Cairo is abundant with many tourist attractions and places that tourists can enjoy during their visit. It pointed out the Islamic architecture of Historic Cairo and Al-Azhar Mosque being one of the most remarkable Islamic landmarks that deserve a visit. It also mentioned Coptic Cairo, a part of Old Cairo with a rich Christian tradition, featuring the Hanging Church and all other Christian sites built prior to the Islamic era in Egypt.

Moreover, the report shed light on Al-Azhar Park with its vast green spaces and exquisite design inspired by historical Islamic gardens in addition to the exquisite Zamalek neighborhood located on an island in the Nile River abundant with a variety of luxurious restaurants, hotels, and bazaars.





Newsletter

Egypt and China to Boost Cooperation in Tourism

Egypt's Prime Minister, Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, met with China's Culture and Tourism Minister, Hu Heping, and his accompanying delegation, as part of the latter's visit to Egypt in April. The meeting aimed at enhancing joint cooperation between Egypt and China in the fields of tourism, culture, and antiquities.

Egypt was placed on a list of 20 targeted countries for Chinese tourism after easing down COVID-19 restrictions in China to increase Chinese tourist flows to Egypt in line with the strategic relations between the two countries. The two countries look forward to opening up more direct airlines between Chinese and Egyptian cities. Prior to this visit, Egypt had previously announced in March that it had allowed Chinese tourists to obtain an entry visa upon their arrival to Egypt.

In addition, the opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum will soon mark a major attraction for inbound tourism, particularly for Chinese tourists, who have long admired the ancient Egyptian Civilization. They are constantly eager to visit various Egyptian monuments and archeological sites.

In light of the visit, a workshop was held to bring together a group of Egyptian and Chinese companies operating in the tourism sector, including 20 of the largest Chinese companies, to look into ways to stimulate tourism exchange between Egypt and China. Several cultural events were held to promote the ancient Egyptian civilization, and an exhibition of Arab and Chinese artists and a concert were held at the foot of the Pyramids.



ANCIENT

EGYPT



Yacht Tourism

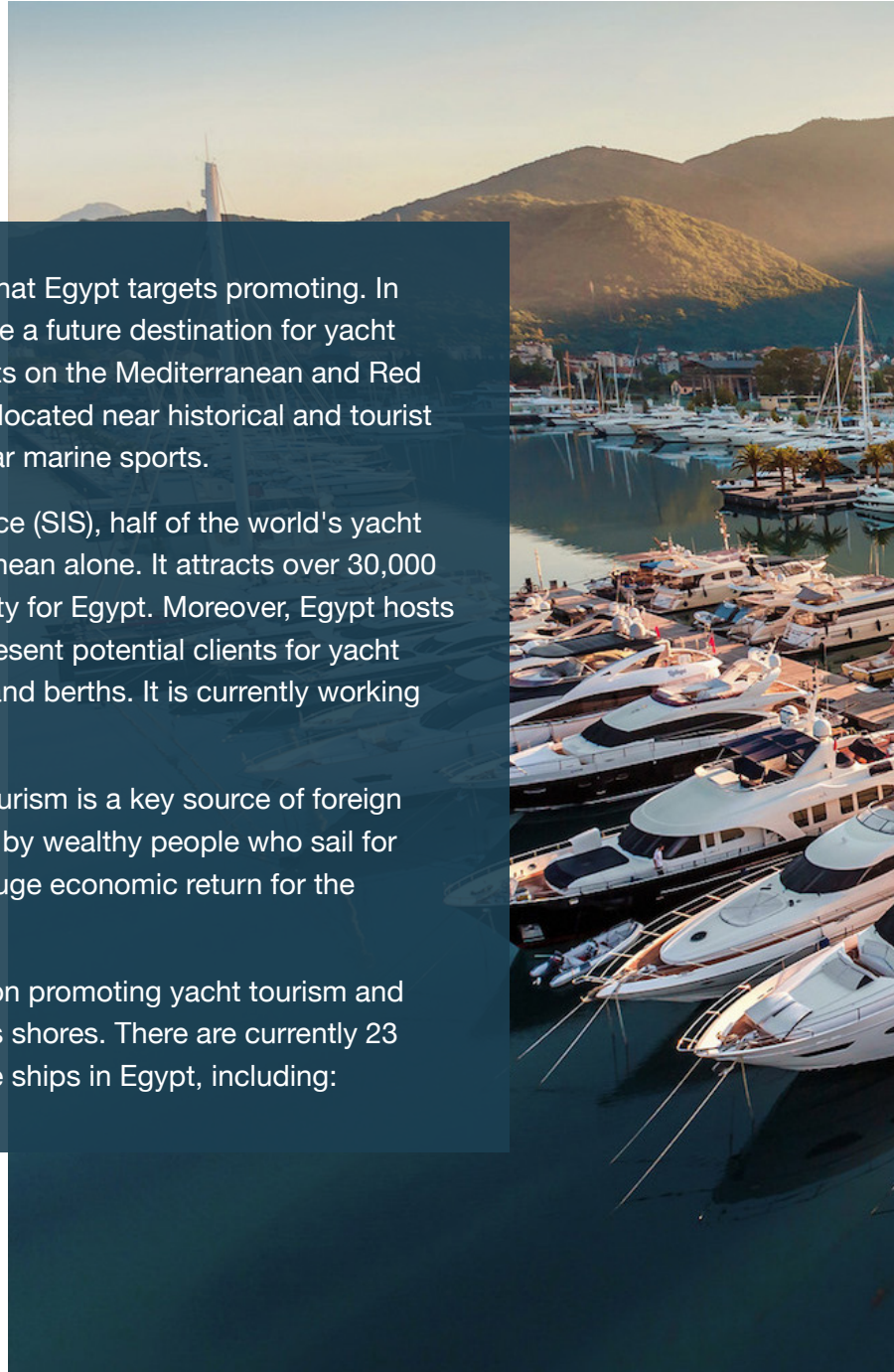
Egypt To Be Global Yacht Tourism Destination

Yacht tourism is a rising sports tourism that Egypt targets promoting. In fact, Egypt holds immense potential to be a future destination for yacht tourism: It enjoys over 2,400 km of coasts on the Mediterranean and Red Sea. It also has a wide variety of resorts located near historical and tourist cities, distinctive diving sites, and popular marine sports.

According to the State Information Service (SIS), half of the world's yacht tourism is concentrated in the Mediterranean alone. It attracts over 30,000 yachts a year, marking a great opportunity for Egypt. Moreover, Egypt hosts numerous luxury yacht owners who represent potential clients for yacht tourism, besides several yacht marinas and berths. It is currently working on establishing even more marinas.

From an economic perspective, yacht tourism is a key source of foreign currency since yachts are mostly owned by wealthy people who sail for recreation. Therefore, it will generate a huge economic return for the Egyptian economy.

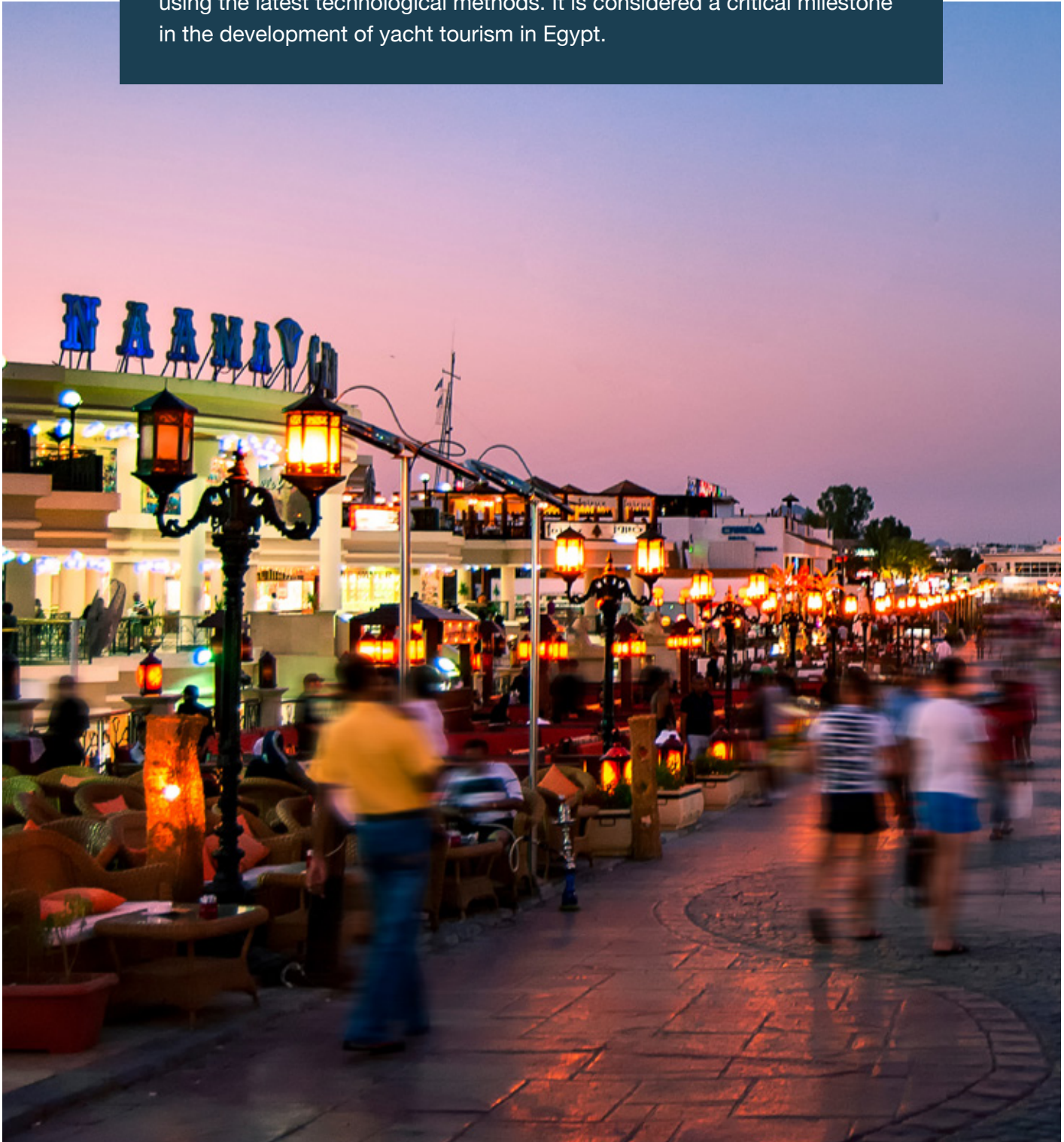
The Egyptian Government has focused on promoting yacht tourism and establishing specialized ports on Egypt's shores. There are currently 23 marinas and berths for yachts and cruise ships in Egypt, including:





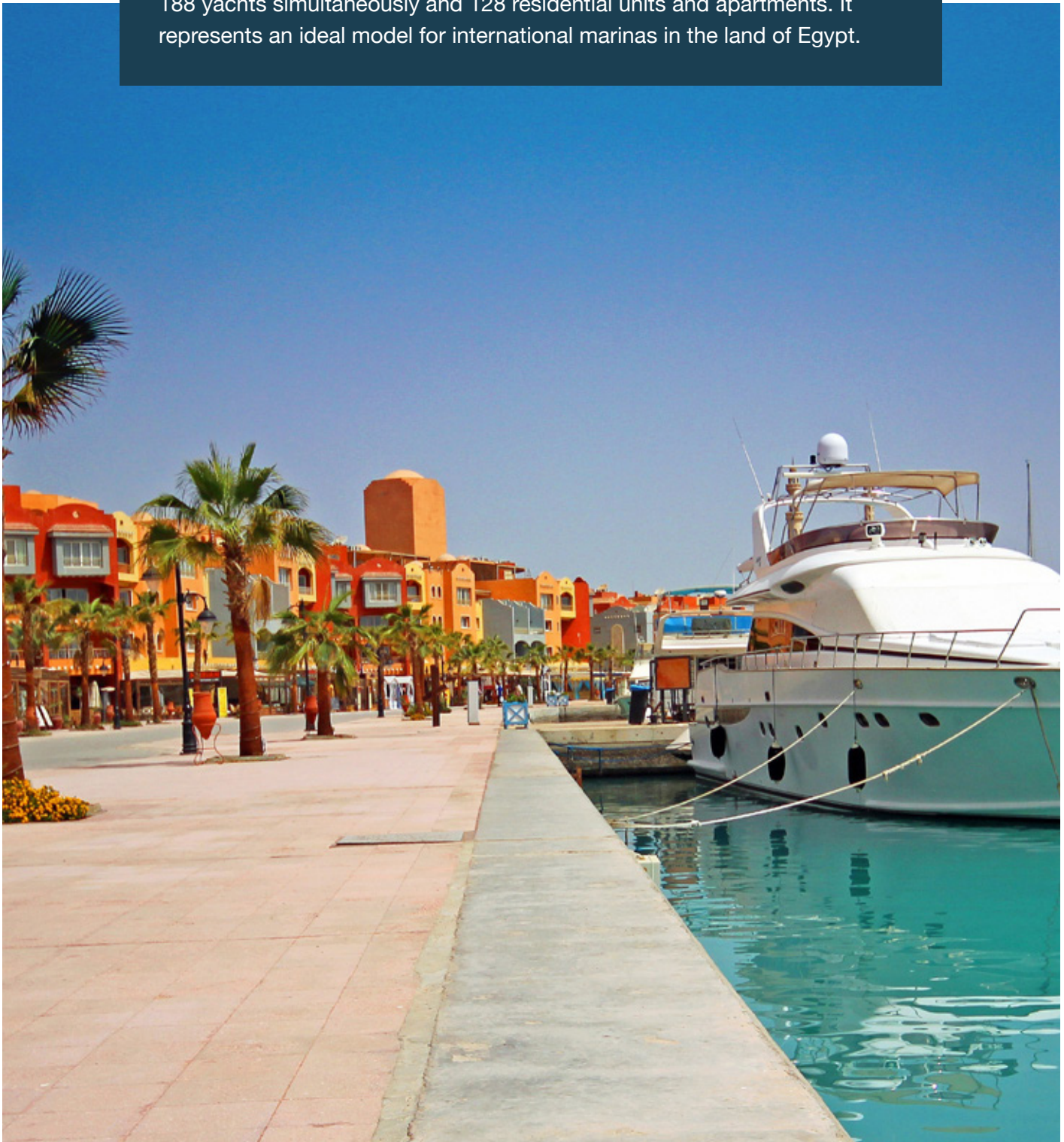
Naama Marina

The first yacht marina in Naama Bay in Sharm El-Sheikh was established using the latest technological methods. It is considered a critical milestone in the development of yacht tourism in Egypt.



Hurghada Marina

Spanning an area of 60 thousand meters, the marina accommodates about 188 yachts simultaneously and 128 residential units and apartments. It represents an ideal model for international marinas in the land of Egypt.



Mediterranean Marina

The Porto Marina Resort Yacht Marina is the first international yacht marina in the eastern region of North Africa, with a capacity of more than 1,400 yachts.



Taba Heights Marina

The marina provides safe anchors, maintenance services, and all needed amenities at the highest level. The water's area amounts to 11,500 square meters and is 2.5 to 3 meters deep. The marina can fit up to 50 yachts and provides night anchors and refueling services. Ships' equipment stores and repair facilities are also available in the marina.



Abu Tig Marina

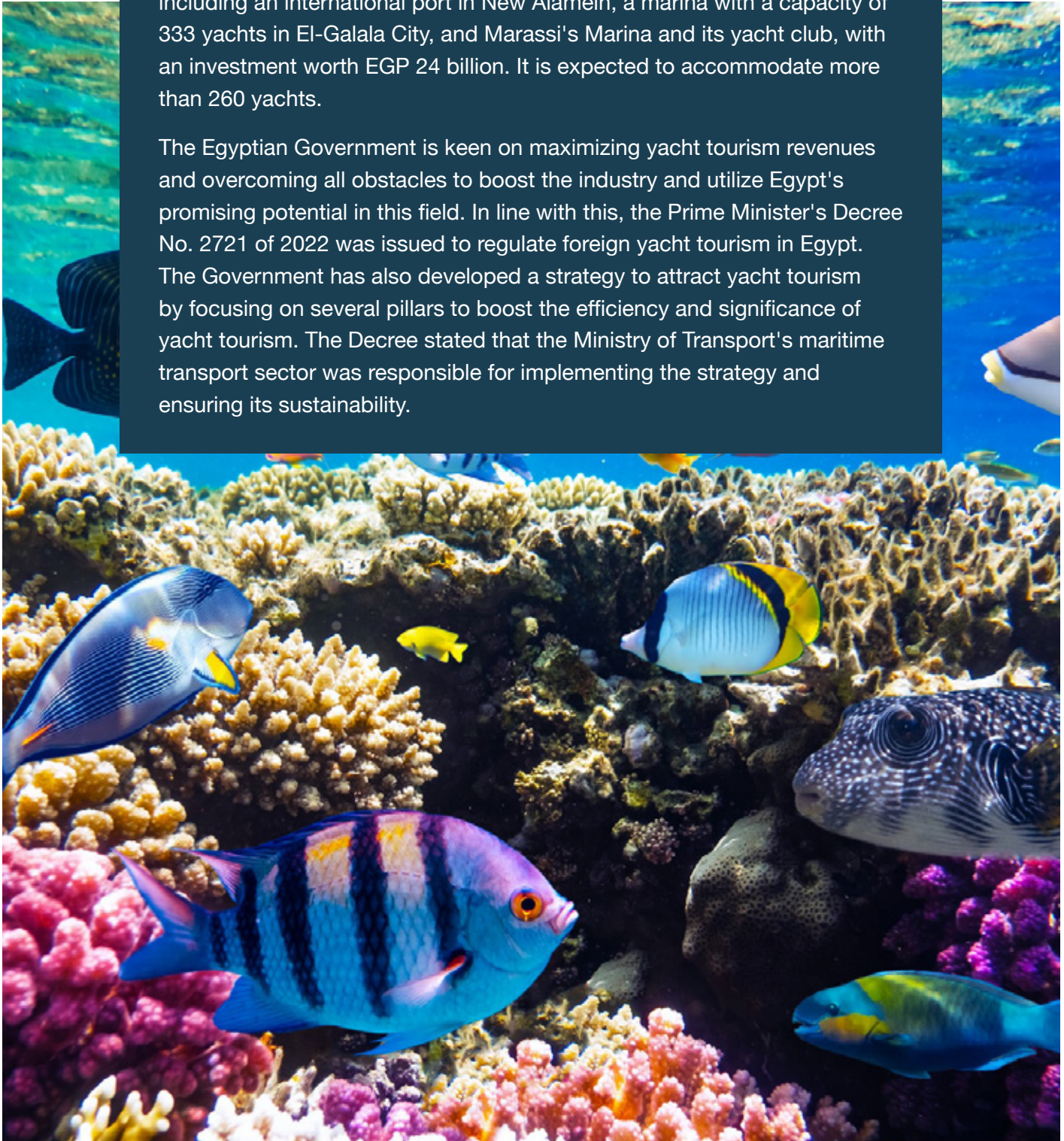
The exceptional Abu Tig Marina serves as a nautical entrance to Gouna, a city located in Hurghada. It is consistent with all the standards and specifications of internationally-known marinas, as it secures all the necessary amenities for yachts to anchor easily and conveniently.



More Marinas under Construction

To boost yacht tourism, the country is currently constructing more marinas, including an international port in New Alamein, a marina with a capacity of 333 yachts in El-Galala City, and Marassi's Marina and its yacht club, with an investment worth EGP 24 billion. It is expected to accommodate more than 260 yachts.

The Egyptian Government is keen on maximizing yacht tourism revenues and overcoming all obstacles to boost the industry and utilize Egypt's promising potential in this field. In line with this, the Prime Minister's Decree No. 2721 of 2022 was issued to regulate foreign yacht tourism in Egypt. The Government has also developed a strategy to attract yacht tourism by focusing on several pillars to boost the efficiency and significance of yacht tourism. The Decree stated that the Ministry of Transport's maritime transport sector was responsible for implementing the strategy and ensuring its sustainability.



6 MAIN Pillars to Attract Yacht Tourism

01

Establishing a single digital window for foreign yachts managed, operated, supervised, and developed by the Ministry of Transport (Maritime Transport Sector).



02

Determining a unified tariff for docking fees on all state-owned berths, passenger terminals, and tourist ports in a single currency to avoid the problem of conflicting fees for foreign yachts in Egyptian ports.



03

Allowing foreign yachts to leave from any port or tourist marina without being restricted to departing from the arrival port or marina.



04

Issuing a unified code for the establishment and operation of marinas and ports in the Arab Republic of Egypt to be a guide for all users.



05

Finalizing the procedures to obtain the necessary approvals and permits for the yacht within a period not exceeding three days. In case of a repeated visit to the country, the period for obtaining those approvals and permits should not exceed one day.



06

Providing links on the website of the foreign yachts digital single window of the official websites of the Administration of Passports, Emigration, and Nationality to obtain an electronic visa for entry of the passengers on board the yacht, as well as to the official website of the Suez Canal Authority.





The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Great Sphinx of Giza. The Sphinx is a massive limestone statue with a human face and a lion's body, carved into the desert rock. The image is taken from a low angle, looking up at the Sphinx's head and body. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The Sphinx's face is weathered and shows signs of age. The body of the Sphinx is partially visible, showing its lion-like form. The overall tone of the image is warm and historical.

Streamlining procedures and introducing digitization are key pillars of the strategy. A complex network of bureaucracy to receive permits was among the biggest challenges that faced yacht owners. It slowed down yacht tourism in Egypt. Consequently, the Ministry of Transport has established a unified digital platform for tourist yachts to be a comprehensive one-stop shop for tourist yachts. It shall allow yacht owners to easily obtain all necessary approvals from the relevant authorities. Since its launch and operation on September 1, 2022, it has addressed most of the problems and obstacles that faced the sector, on top of which is reducing the duration required to issue approvals for yachts to 3 to 6 hours.

Furthermore, the relevant ministries and authorities are working and cooperating to promote the role of yacht tourism in the Egyptian economy and achieve the aim of the previously mentioned strategy. Several measures were adopted to facilitate and improve the tourist experience. For example, the unified code for the establishment and operation of marinas and ports for tourist yachts in Egypt was issued; the map of the existing international ports locations nationwide was updated; and links to obtain an electronic visa for entry of the passengers on board the yacht and a link to the official website of the Suez Canal Authority were provided on the new platform. As a result, foreign tourists can now obtain their electronic visas smoothly.

The Ministries of Transport and Tourism and Antiquities are currently preparing to launch a promotional campaign to advertise yacht tourism along the Egyptian coastlines, focusing on the efforts recently made to facilitate procedures and overcome obstacles to provide a distinguished tourist experience.

It is worth mentioning that regular periodic meetings are being held between the relevant ministries to follow up on the strategy's progress to boost yacht and ship tourism in Egypt and achieve the desired goals of the sector.



SECTION FOUR

The Leading Role of
The Egyptian Food
Bank in Achieving
Food Security



REPORT CONTRIBUTORS



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Can Nonprofit Organizations Help with Food Security?

Food insecurity and hunger are serious social and economic problems that affect nearly every country in the world to varying degrees. Food insecurity has detrimental effects on the entire society not only those who are directly impacted. While ensuring that every citizen has access to food is the main responsibility of any government, nonprofit organizations are playing an increasingly important role in improving households' food security in different countries. The purpose of this article is to shed light on the Egyptian Food Bank's experience, a non-governmental organization dedicated to reducing the suffering from hunger among Egypt's poor households. The article begins with a brief overview of food insecurity in the world. Then, it discusses the key public food assistance programs in Egypt and finally presents a detailed discussion of the Egyptian Food Bank's role in combating food insecurity and hunger in Egypt.



Overview of Food Insecurity in the World

Food insecurity is a global phenomenon that is prevalent in almost every country in the world. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a person is considered food insecure “when they lack regular access to enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life”. Based on this definition, it is clear that food consumption alone does not make an individual food secure. The regular consumption and the quality of food that a person consumes are indeed the cornerstones of achieving food security. In order to lead a healthy and active life, human beings have to consume a certain quantity of different food groups that provide them with the essential micro and macronutrients needed for their bodies to function properly.

The inadequate consumption of food (in terms of quality and quantity) has several negative ramifications on people’s health and livelihoods. Consuming less food than required or lower-quality foods lead to undernutrition, while consuming adequate quantities of lower-quality food leads to malnutrition. Both undernutrition and malnutrition contribute to a long list of noncommunicable diseases, for example, diabetes, anemia, obesity, hypertension, and heart diseases. Among children, malnutrition is more serious and could even be life-threatening. Specifically, wasting and stunting -nutritional deficiency diseases- hamper children's physical, social, and cognitive development, leading to adverse health effects that could ultimately lead to death. Almost two million deaths among children every year are attributable to severe wasting and stunting.

While the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have designated the second goal as ending world hunger by 2030, it is now clear that the world is not on track to meet such an ambitious target. Although some progress has been made in multiple food security indicators in the immediate years following the announcement of the SDGs, the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict have contributed to aggravating the world's food insecurity, hunger, and malnutrition. According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report of 2022, more than 3 billion people worldwide cannot afford a healthy diet. Consequently, 828 million people suffered from hunger, 22% of children under five years of age were stunted, 6.7% were wasted, 5.7% were overweight, and one in every three women aged between 15-49 suffered from anemia. These shocking numbers call for immediate action and require undertaking different measures to ensure that people have access to healthy and nutritious food.





Egypt Food Subsidy System

Egypt has one of the largest and oldest food assistance schemes in the world. Egypt's food subsidy system comprises two programs: the subsidy program and the bread program. The subsidy program provides eligible households with monthly cash assistance restricted to purchase eligible food items from participating food outlets. The program started after the end of World War I, making it one of the oldest and long-running public food assistance programs in the world. In its early years, the program was a universal entitlement, meaning that every Egyptian citizen had access to it. Nevertheless, under economic pressures and due to rapid population growth, the program adopted a targeted approach whereby only eligible individuals can benefit from it. Over time, the program has witnessed several changes to improve its targets and performance. While it started as a mostly food voucher system, whereby beneficiaries use ration cards to collect specific food products (sugar, rice, cooking oil, margarine, and tea), beneficiaries now have electronic cards uploaded with monthly benefits that they can use to purchase a range of food products. The most recent available estimates reveal that 79 million individuals are registered in the program (almost 80% of Egypt's population).



The other major food subsidy program is the “baladi” bread program. Using the same ration electronic card, every program beneficiary is allowed five loaves of bread at a highly subsidized price from specific bakeries. While both programs are important and strategic, the bread program is more critical given that Egypt is the largest importer of wheat in the world. Wheat is considered the most important grain crop in Egypt, representing almost 20% of all Egypt’s agricultural imports. Egypt’s wheat policy system is highly politicized, with the government heavily involved in all aspects of the wheat value chain, including production, distribution, trade, storage, milling, and consumption. It is evident in the provision of subsidized agricultural inputs (fertilizers) to wheat farmers. Three public entities are designated as the sole authorized agencies to purchase domestically grown wheat (Principal Bank for Development and Agriculture Credit, the Egyptian Holding Company for Silos and Storage, and the Holding Company for Food Industries). A total of 43% of Egypt’s wheat is directly imported through the General Authority for Supply Commodities, and wheat is procured from farmers at high prices. Other proofs involve the operation of wheat storage facilities and grain silos and the ownership of milling enterprises and contracting private sector millers to produce an 82% extraction wheat that is distributed to publicly owned and private sector bakeries to produce subsidized “baladi” bread.

The reason for the strictly controlled wheat market is the social and political significance of bread in Egypt, which has been at the center of two major political unrests in Egypt’s modern history. In 1977, a government decision to slightly increase the price of subsidized “baladi” bread sparked bread riots in major cities, threatening social peace and political stability. The event signaled the salience of bread policy in Egypt, urging the government to maintain its generous bread subsidy to avoid social frustration. In 2011, the January 25 revolution raised the slogan of “bread, freedom, and social justice”. The bread symbolized more than a mere food commodity, but rather a demand for economic growth and prosperity.



Wheat mills play a critical role in the bread value chain and are part of a government-controlled bread production system. While the figures are not completely accurate, it is estimated that Egypt has over 410 public and private mills. The Government takes the lead in wheat milling, either directly through its public milling enterprise (the Holding Company for Food Industries and its 10 affiliated millers) or indirectly by heavily regulating and contracting selected private millers to produce an 82% extraction flour that is used to produce the “baladi” subsidized bread.

The Government then sells that 82% extraction flour at market price to public and private millers, which in turn produce “baladi” bread that is sold at subsidized prices to eligible individuals through the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade (a daily quota of five loaves per person). More than two-thirds of the wheat used to make “baladi” bread is milled by public enterprises, and private millers (which are not part of the subsidized “baladi” bread system) can import wheat to produce a 72% refined flour used to make other types of bread, bakeries, and pasta. Egypt’s domestic production of wheat is sizable (1.2% of global production of wheat), yet the country imports 62% of its total wheat consumption. The “baladi” bread subsidy program consumes three-quarters of Egypt’s total imports of wheat.

Moreover, the Russian Ukrainian crisis has significantly affected the Egyptian wheat and bread market. Russia and Ukraine exported more than 4.8 million tons of wheat to Egypt in 2021, accounting for more than 85% of the country’s total imported wheat. Historically, the Government purchased approximately 48% of locally grown wheat, with the remainder sold to non-governmental entities or consumed on the farm. The repercussions of the Russia-Ukraine conflict were particularly tough for Egypt’s food security leading the Government to continue its efforts to secure wheat supply. In 2022, the World Bank provided a USD 500 million loan dedicated to importing wheat to cover the local production of “baladi” bread

and establishing and upgrading grain silos to reduce wheat loss during storage phase. The conflict also pushed the Government to impose stricter policies to control the wheat market and ensure the swift availability of the most strategic grain and food commodity in Egypt. For example, the Minister of Supply and Internal Trade, in 2023, issued a ministerial decree requiring large farms (25 feddans or more) to sell 90% of their wheat to the Government and prohibiting the use of wheat for animal feed.

The Egyptian Food Bank

The Egyptian Food Bank (EFB) is one of the largest nonprofit organizations in Egypt and the only specialized organization that focuses exclusively on food security. On average, EFB distributes around 130 thousand food boxes to eligible households in all of Egypt's governorates every month, provides 40 thousand students in public schools and 3 thousand children in nurseries with daily hot meals, and provides more than one million food assistance packages and 2 million hot meals to eligible beneficiaries during the holy month of Ramadan. Additionally, it supports more than 2 thousand small-scale farmers through contract agriculture projects to improve their market access and increase their incomes.

EFB's History

EFB was founded in 2006 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to alleviating hunger in Egypt. At that time, it was the only charitable organization exclusively focusing on fighting hunger through two main programs: 1-the general feeding program, which provides monthly food boxes to eligible households, and 2- the crisis relief program, in which the bank offers food assistance to individuals and households during times of crisis such as floods, earthquakes, train accidents, and fires. Since its establishment, EFB has adopted a unique model that helped it sustain its operations and foster trust among many community stakeholders. Contrary to many food banks across the world, EFB actually receives the majority of its funding from individual donors rather than just cash and in-kind donations from corporations and food manufacturers. Individual donations constitute more than 75% of EFB's funding, according to officials. Individual donations can be made through a variety of channels, such as online donations through EFB's website and social media pages, direct bank deposits using a unified account number in the country's top local banks, physical visits to EFB's offices or donation kiosks in shopping malls and sports clubs, or even requests for a home visit to collect donations. These funds are used by EFB to buy food supplies that are then packaged in its own facilities, gathered in boxes, and delivered to households through a vast network of community-based organizations in all of Egypt's governorates.

In 2020, EFB adopted a new strategic direction and philosophy to transform into an impact-driven organization, inspired by the concepts of effective altruism and doing good better. This shift necessitated some programmatic and organizational changes and improvements. On the administrative front, the organization hired a new senior management team, including a new Chief Executive Officer, restructured the functions of several departments, and established new departments, including the Digital Transformation and Growth Lab departments, the latter of which was crucial in institutional transformation efforts. This paper will not delve into the institutional and administrative developments; instead, it will focus on changes in the organization's strategy, programs, and activities that directly contribute to improving food security and reducing the suffering from hunger.

EFB's Strategy

EFB, one of Egypt's largest non-governmental organizations with a broad network of community-based organizations, is eager to provide a leading example of a developmental organization that inspires others. In other words, EFB aspires to be a change agent in the Egyptian civil society and the nonprofit sector, calling for evidence-based and impact-driven social and nutrition programs that can ultimately result in tangible and effective improvements in people's lives. Therefore, EFB devised an ambitious strategy with three clear and precise objectives, namely, creating public value, garnering community support, and achieving operational excellence. To help the organization realize its objectives, EFB established the Growth Lab Department to act as the research and development unit dedicated to conducting research, developing new programs, and implementing impact evaluation studies using rigorous research methodologies.

As a specialized organization in improving households' food security and reducing suffering from hunger, EFB shifted its institutional mindset and operational philosophy from a volume and output-focused organization to an impact-driven organization. Consequently, all the organization's programs and projects now follow well-designed models that are tailored to tackle a specific food insecurity dimension either at the household or the community level. Like other specialized development organizations, EFB identifies a specific food security-related problem, then thoroughly investigates the multiple and overlapping causes of this problem. Afterwards, it examines different potential solutions to the problem, designs specific activities that can collectively contribute to solving the problem, and finally evaluates the impact of those activities. Developing a logical framework or a theory of change approach is becoming a cornerstone in EFB's development process, with each new project requiring a clear and measurable set of outcomes. EFB's strategy entails focusing on four key pillars to tackle food insecurity and elevate the performance of the organization as well as the entire nonprofit sector in Egypt. These four pillars are protection, prevention, empowerment, and elevation. Each of these is discussed in greater detail below.



**EGYPTIAN
FOOD BANK**



Food .. A Basic Life Need

I. Protection

At its essence, this pillar targets protecting the most vulnerable households from hunger and food insecurity by providing access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious foods that meet their dietary needs and preferences. EFB aims at safeguarding the most vulnerable groups that are unable to provide for themselves due to reasons outside of their control. They include households that have fallen into extreme poverty and are unable to generate income. The extremely poor are nationally identified to be the households that lack access to sufficient food necessary to lead a healthy and active life. It is otherwise known as food poverty. Households under the food poverty line (FPL) are deemed to be food poor. People living in food poverty live with an income that is less than the amount needed to sustainably afford food with the required calories and dietary nutrients, putting them in food insecurity and in immediate danger of physical and physiological pain and exposing them to malnutrition and disease.

To avoid encouraging welfare dependency, EFB has identified some groups that are incapable of generating income, hence, deserving of assistance. They include female-headed households with no stable income, households whose breadwinner is an elderly person with no social security (pension) payments, and households whose breadwinner suffers from a chronic illness or incapacitating disability. Beneficiaries are selected using a community-based approach, in which local organizations nominate deserving persons, who, in turn, are screened by EFB's case workers.

II. Prevention

The logic behind this pillar is to act preemptively to reduce the prevalence of malnutrition among children aged between 0 and 12 by shifting from curative programs to precautionary activities aimed at reducing the likelihood of malnutrition. It also represents a transformation from food security to a nutrition security approach. This model goes beyond just providing an adequate intake of calories but also offers nutritious foods and promotes healthy dietary habits to the children, their families, and their community. Malnourished individuals are born with low birth weight and anemia, which continues through infancy through stunting, wasting, and underweight. Then, they become malnourished unproductive men and women of reproductive age giving birth to malnourished children, and the cycle starts again. Malnutrition is considered a national security threat, as it not only increases short-term risks of morbidity, mortality, and decreased cognitive and physical development, but it also has significant long-term consequences like increasing the occurrence of noncommunicable diseases and poor maternal reproductive outcomes. The said leads to increased healthcare expenditures, decreased work capacity, poverty and hunger entrapments, and lower economic outcomes. A key element to addressing malnutrition is prevention, as the comprehensive protocols required to treat malnutrition or related diseases are often more costly than the monetary value and effort needed to prevent it.

Currently, EFB executes three programs under this pillar, namely the school feeding program, the nursery feeding program, and the stunting prevention program.

1- School Feeding Program

EEFB is the only local nonprofit organization that executes the daily hot meals school feeding model in Egypt. Since 2016 and through a partnership with the Ministry of Education, EFB has provided daily hot meals to 40 thousand students enrolled in public primary schools in ten governorates. The five different weekly meals designed by the National Nutrition Institute provide students with a third of their daily nutritional needs. The meals are prepared in central kitchens operated by EFB. They are established per food safety measures and standards enforced by the National Food Safety Authority. To avoid any food contamination or spoilage, the kitchens are located in a close proximity to schools to ensure safe delivery every day.

2-Nursery Feeding Program

In 2021 and through a partnership agreement with the Ministry of Social Solidarity, EFB replicated its school feeding model in nurseries registered with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and operated by non-governmental organizations. The program currently serves more than 3 thousand children aged between 3 and 6 in four governorates. To ensure that the program targets the most deserving children, only nurseries with monthly subscription fees below EGP 250 are eligible to benefit from the program. In addition, other criteria and conditions are applied. For example, children are not allowed to take home any leftovers to avoid food spoilage; the nurseries are prohibited from discriminating against any child regarding their food consumption rights; and children with special dietary requirements resulting from medical conditions such as diabetes or food allergies receive a special meal.

To supplement the feeding component, the program includes a nutrition awareness component, specially designed for children, comprising several interactive and entertaining activities such as storytelling, games, education theater, songs, etc. Furthermore, EFB has entered into contracts with local health clinics to run regular physical examinations and body measurements of children to detect any alarming condition that requires further examination. Parents of children with any symptoms of diseases are notified immediately with the right course of action, including drug prescriptions, required lab tests, or others.

3-Stunting Prevention Program

Stunting is the impaired growth of children who are too short for their age as a result of chronic malnutrition during the child's early years. The least concern is the physical appearance of a child, but the vital concern is the negative health, cognitive, and social implications that affect the child's normal growth and well-being. As mentioned earlier, stunting can be avoided during the early days of life but is usually irreversible as a person grows up. Thus, EFB designs its stunting prevention program targeting pregnant and lactating women to ensure the adequate nutritional intake of children since the inception of pregnancy. The program provides women with a monthly food box including several food items that are rich in iron, iodine, vitamin A, and Zinc because the lack of these micronutrients is identified as the main cause of stunting. The program duration is 3 years or as commonly referred to the "1000 days".

Throughout the program, women receive two types of food boxes: one during pregnancy and one after delivery and breastfeeding to meet the specific nutritional needs at each stage. A nutrition awareness component with three activities is also included in the program. A monthly flyer is distributed with information on the specific nutritional needs of women during pregnancy and breastfeeding, the causes and consequences of malnutrition, healthy cooking recipes, and food safety, among other topics. Given the cultural norms and traditions placing husbands and fathers in a more powerful position within the family, awareness flyers also address men through messages tailored to build their knowledge about the nutritional needs of their spouses. In addition to the monthly flyers, women also receive free monthly recorded voice calls that reiterate the information provided in the monthly flyers. Another nutrition awareness activity is attending demonstration kitchens where a local chef is hired to engage with women in cooking different healthy, nutritious, and low-cost recipes, with implied nutrition information.

Finally, women who participate in the program are connected to their local health clinics for a monthly health check-up and pregnancy follow-up.



III. Empowerment

EFB's value proposition is simple and straightforward: engage with small-scale farmers in contract agriculture agreements to purchase the entire produced crops. Traditionally, EFB has directly procured its food supply from suppliers in the market, which is operationally and logistically convenient and simple. However, given its developmental orientation, it has decided to work directly with small-scale farmers to achieve several outcomes such as improving land productivity, providing farmers with stable and fair market access, reducing food loss, and ultimately improving farmers' economic and social lives.

In addition, EFB aims at developing the skills of resilient farmers to absorb life shocks by increasing their economic stability and integrating them in inclusive agricultural and food-related opportunities that will help spring them out of chronic poverty and hunger. Consequently, EFB provides farmers with skills and capacity-building training, extension services, and subsidized high-quality agriculture inputs. Because of the fragile nature of the agricultural sector, any disruptions in demand, limited finance, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, and infrastructure weaknesses, losses of critical income sources can have grave repercussions on the sustainability of small-scale farmers' livelihoods. EFB has contracted over 3000 small-scale farmers to procure white beans, dried dates, and fava beans between 2021 and 2023. The program's results are very promising, including increased land productivity (around 15% higher yield), higher earnings for farmers, and lower procurement prices for EFB, allowing it to expand its services to the community.



IV.Elevation

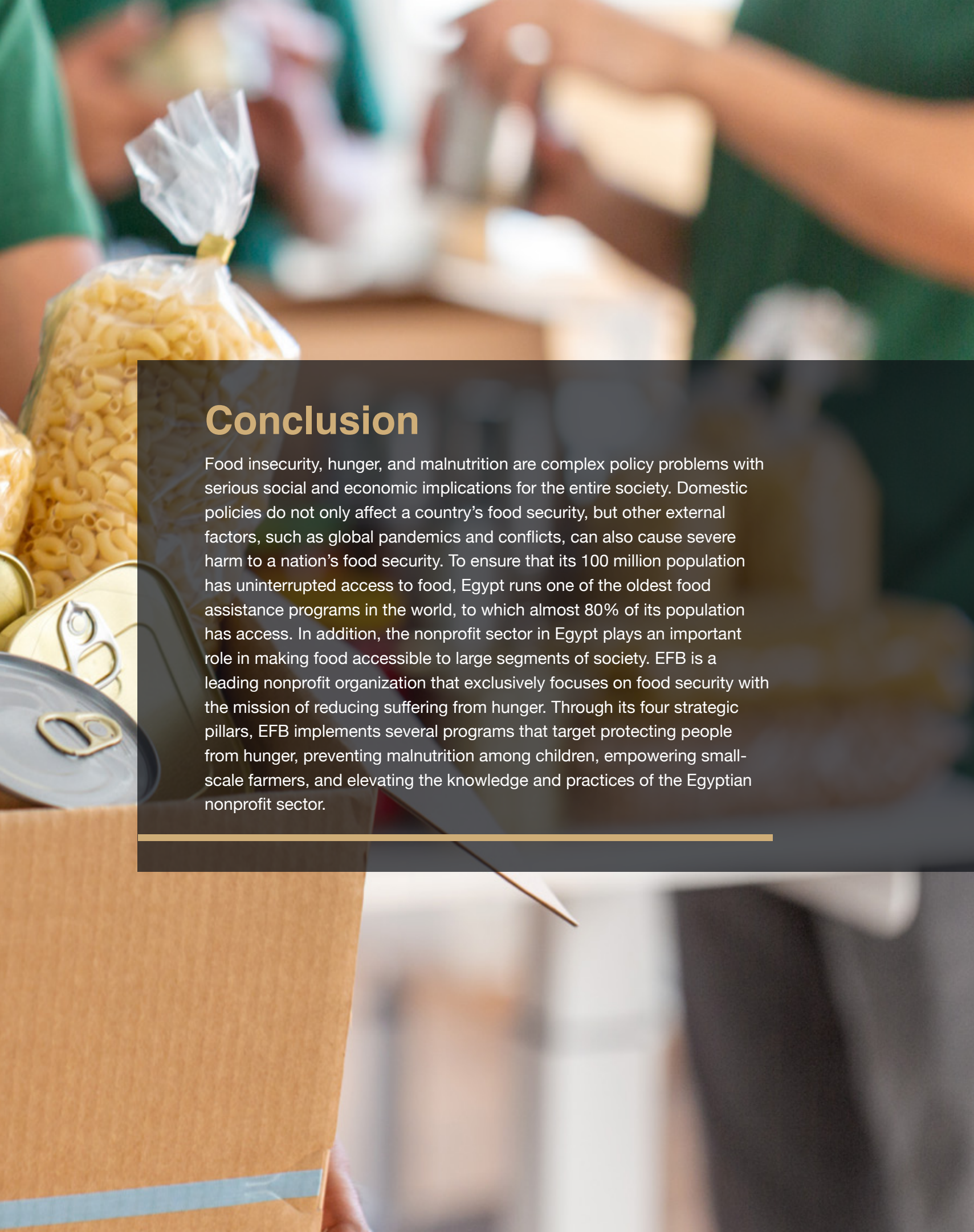
EFB's Growth Lab department conducts impact evaluation studies in partnership with leading research institutes to ensure the cost-effectiveness of its interventions and programs. The purpose of these studies is to determine

whether or not the programs that the organization implements achieve their intended outcomes and desired impact, allowing for a well-informed decision about scaling up those programs, terminating them completely, or making changes to improve their outcomes. While there are several impact evaluation approaches, EFB prioritizes Randomized Control Trials (RCTs) because they are widely regarded as the gold standard of evaluation in social sciences due to their sophistication and rigor. Although this research technique is expensive, time-consuming, and requires significant effort in data collection, EFB believes that the results of this type of impact evaluation reveal invaluable results and insights that help determine the cost-effectiveness of its programs or, more specifically, the cheapest way to reach the same goal or result.

EFB launched its first impact evaluation study in 2022 in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute, one of the world's leading and most specialized research institutes, to assess the impact of the general feeding program, the organization's flagship and largest funded program. The research used the RCT approach and was applied to a sample of 4,200 households from all of Egypt's governorates, making it one of the largest and the very few studies in Egypt that evaluates the impact of food assistance programs. The midline results of the study showed a significant improvement in the beneficiaries' dietary diversity (as measured by the Household Dietary Diversity Score) and food security (as measured by the Food Insecurity Experience Scale).

Furthermore, EFB is keen on enhancing its partner local organizations' institutional capacity to be capable of managing their projects, sustaining their activities, and better serving the community. It is essential to improve operational performance and guarantee the sustainability of the organization's efforts. As one of the largest non-governmental organizations in Egypt, EFB aims at providing a model to other organizations in terms of operational excellence, community validation, and creating public value. Building on its long history in serving local communities, accumulated experiences, and strong partnerships with a diverse set of stakeholders, EFB aims at generating and articulating food security and nonprofit strategic management knowledge and disseminating it to the nonprofit sector in Egypt.





Conclusion

Food insecurity, hunger, and malnutrition are complex policy problems with serious social and economic implications for the entire society. Domestic policies do not only affect a country's food security, but other external factors, such as global pandemics and conflicts, can also cause severe harm to a nation's food security. To ensure that its 100 million population has uninterrupted access to food, Egypt runs one of the oldest food assistance programs in the world, to which almost 80% of its population has access. In addition, the nonprofit sector in Egypt plays an important role in making food accessible to large segments of society. EFB is a leading nonprofit organization that exclusively focuses on food security with the mission of reducing suffering from hunger. Through its four strategic pillars, EFB implements several programs that target protecting people from hunger, preventing malnutrition among children, empowering small-scale farmers, and elevating the knowledge and practices of the Egyptian nonprofit sector.



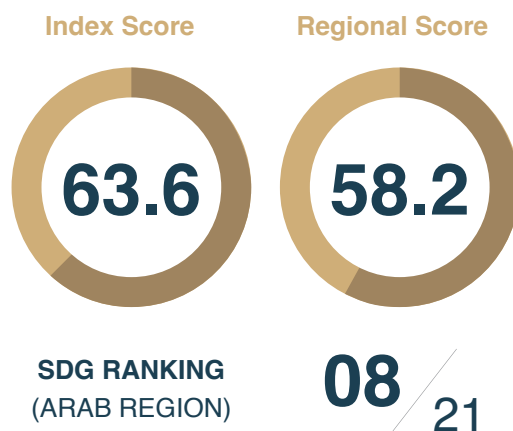
SECTION FIVE

A step closer
towards the SDGs

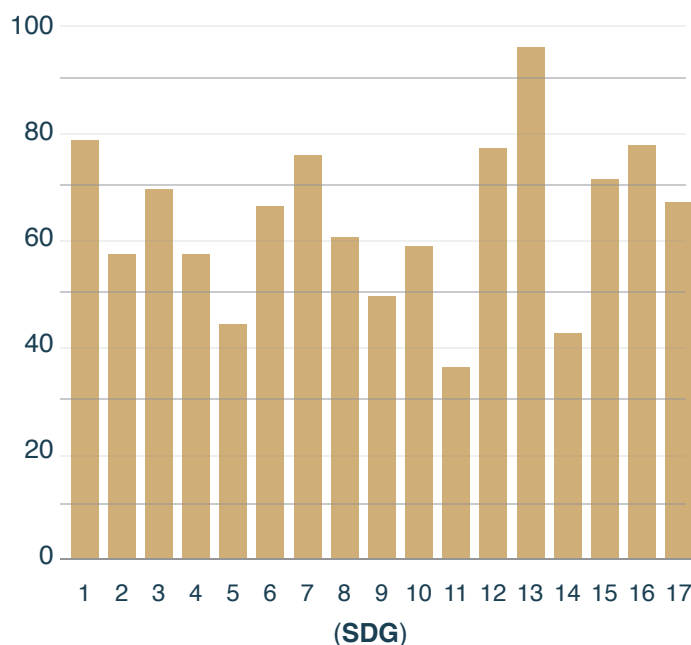


EGYPT

▼ Overall Performance



▼ Average Performance by SDG



▼ Current Assessment - SDG Dashboard



■ SDG achieved
 ■ Challenges remain
 ■ Significant challenges remain
 ■ Major challenges remain
 ■ Data unavailable

▼ SDG Trends



↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement
 ↗ Moderately improving
 → Stagnating
 ↓ Decreasing
 ●● Data unavailable

EGYPT

Performance by Indicator

SDG1 – End Poverty	VALUE	RATING	TREND
Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90/day (% population)	2.4	●	↓
Poverty headcount ratio at \$5.20/day (% population)	26.8	●	↓
Working poor at PPP\$5.20 a day (% of total employment)	11.9	●	→
SDG2 – Zero Hunger	VALUE	RATING	TREND
Prevalence of undernourishment (% population)	4.7	●	↑
Prevalence of stunting (low height-for-age) in children under 5 years of age (%)	22.3	●	→
Prevalence of wasting in children under 5 years of age (%)	9.5	●	→
Prevalence of obesity, BMI ≥ 30 (% adult population)	32.0	●	↓
Cereal yield (t/ha)	7.1	●	↑
Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index	0.6	●	↓
Human Trophic Level (best 2 = 5 worst)	2.2	●	↑
SDG3 – Good Health and Well-Being	VALUE	RATING	TREND
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	37	●	↑
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	11.1	●	↑
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)	20.5	●	↑
Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 population)	12.0	●	↑
New HIV infections (per 1,000)	0.05	●	↑
Age-standardized death rate due to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory disease in populations age 30–70 years (per 100,000 population)	27.7	●	→
Age-standardized death rate attributable to household air pollution and ambient traffic deaths rate (per 100,000 population)	109	●	→
Life expectancy at birth (years)	71.8	●	→
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15–19)	55.1	●	→
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	94.5	●	→
Percentage of surviving infants who received 2 WHO-recommended vaccines (%)	95	●	↑
Universal Health Coverage Tracer Index (0–100)	68	●	→
Subjective Wellbeing (average ladder score, 0–10)	4.5	●	↓
Diabetes prevalence (% of population ages 20 to 79)	17.2	●	→
Age-standardized suicide rates (per 100,000 population)	3.4	●	↑
SDG4 – Quality Education	VALUE	RATING	TREND
Net primary enrollment rate (%)	99.3	●	↑
Literacy rate of 15–24 year olds, both sexes (%)	88.2	●	→
Lower secondary completion rate (%)	88.4	●	↑
Gross enrollment ratio, pre-primary (% of preschool-age children)	29.3	●	→
School enrollment, tertiary (% gross)	35.2	●	→
Harmonized Test Scores	356.0	●	→
SDG5 – Gender Equality	VALUE	RATING	TREND
Demand for family planning satisfied by modern methods (% women married or in unions, ages 15–49)	80	●	↑
Ratio of female to male mean years of schooling of population age 25 and above	84.0	●	→
Ratio of female to male labor force participation rate	25.9	●	↓
Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	15.1	●	→
Ratio of estimated gross national income per capita, female/male (2017 PPP \$)	0.3	●	↓
Women (aged 20–24 years) married or in union before age 15 (%)	2.0	●	→
Proportion of women in ministerial positions (%)	24.2	●	↑
Mandatory paid maternity leave (days)	90	●	→
SDG6 – Clean Water and Sanitation	VALUE	RATING	TREND
Population using at least basic drinking water services (%)	99.1	●	↑
Population using at least basic sanitation services (%)	94.2	●	↑
Freshwater withdrawal as % total renewable water resources	117.3	●	→
Anthropogenic wastewater that receives treatment (%)	42.0	●	→
Scarc water consumption embodied in imports (m³/capita)	1.6	●	↑
Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (%)	42	●	→
Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (per 100,000 population)	2	●	→
SDG7 – Affordable and Clean Energy	VALUE	RATING	TREND
Access to electricity (% population)	100.0	●	↑
Access to clean fuels & technology for cooking (% population)	97.6	●	↑
CO2 emissions from fuel combustion / electricity output (MtO2/TWh)	1.2	●	→
Renewable electricity output (% of total electricity output)	9.4	●	→
Energy intensity (Total energy supply (TES) by GDP (PPP)) (GJ/haousand 2015 USD)	3.1	●	→
SDG8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth	VALUE	RATING	TREND
Adjusted Growth (%)	-3.4	●	→
Adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	32.8	●	↑
Unemployment rate (% total labor force)	10.4	●	→
Fatal work-related accidents embodied in imports (deaths per 100,000)	0.1	●	↑
Labor freedom score	54.4	●	→
Unemployment, youth total (% of total labor force ages 15–24)	38.1	●	→
Ease of starting a business score	87.8	●	→
Product concentration index, exports	0.1	●	↑
SDG9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	VALUE	RATING	TREND
The Times Higher Education Universities Ranking: Average score of top 5 universities (worst 0–100 best)	40.5	●	→
Population using the internet (%)	57.3	●	↑
Mobile broadband subscriptions (per 100 inhabitants)	59.3	●	↑
Logistics performance index: Quality of trade and transport-related infrastructure (1=low to 5=high)	2.8	●	↓
Number of scientific and technical journal articles (per 1,000 population)	0.1	●	→
Research and development expenditure (% GDP)	0.7	●	→
Carbon dioxide emissions per unit of manufacturing value added (kilogrammes of CO2 per constant 2010 US\$)	0.7	●	→
SDG10 – Reduced Inequalities	VALUE	RATING	TREND
Palm ratio	1.2	●	→
Gini Coefficient adjusted for top income (1–100)	49.6	●	→
SDG11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities	VALUE	RATING	TREND
Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns of diameter (PM2.5)(µg/m³)	91.3	●	↓
Satisfaction with public transport (%)	65	●	→
SDG12 – Responsible Consumption and Production	VALUE	RATING	TREND
Municipal solid waste (kg/capita/day)	1.4	●	→
Nitrogen emissions embodied in imports (kg/capita)	0.6	●	→
E-waste generated (kg/capita)	5.9	●	→
Production-based SO2 emissions (kg/capita)	8.8	●	→
SOx emissions embodied in imports (kg/capita)	0.7	●	→
Production-based nitrogen emissions (kg/capita)	10.9	●	→
Value realization score (Resource Governance Index)	44.7	●	→
Fossil-fuel subsidies (consumption and production) per capita (constant US\$)	157.8	●	→
Compliance with multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste and other chemicals (%)	56.3	●	→
SDG13 – Climate Action	VALUE	RATING	TREND
CO2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion and cement production (tCO2/capita)	2.5	●	→
CO2 emissions embodied in imports (tCO2/capita)	0.1	●	→
People affected by climate-related disasters (per 100,000 population, 5 year average)	25.9	●	→
CO2 emissions embodied in fossil fuel exports (kg/capita)	54.2	●	→
SDG14 – Life Below Water	VALUE	RATING	TREND
Fish caught that are then discarded (%)	30.3	●	→
Marine biodiversity threats embodied in imports (per million population)	0.0	●	→
Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity (%)	43.0	●	→
Ocean Health Index Goal – Clean Waters (0–100)	50.4	●	↓
Ocean Health Index Goal – Fisheries (0–100)	28.6	●	↓
Fish caught by trawling (%)	34.6	●	→
SDG15 – Life on Land	VALUE	RATING	TREND
Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity threats embodied in imports (per million)	0.1	●	→
Mean area that is protected in terrestrial sites important to biodiversity (%)	39.4	●	→
Red List Index of species survival (0–1)	0.9	●	↑
SDG16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	VALUE	RATING	TREND
Homicides (per 100,000 population)	2.6	●	→
Unsentenced detainees	9.9	●	→
Population who feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where they live	82	●	↑
Property Rights (1–7)	5.2	●	↑
Birth registrations with civil authority, children under 5 years of age (%)	99.4	●	→
Corruption Perception Index (0–100)	33	●	↓
Children 5–14 years old involved in child labor (%)	3.6	●	→
Freedom of Press Index (best 0 = 100 worst)	56.8	●	↓
Battle-related deaths (per 100,000 population, average of 5 years)	0.5	●	→
Prison population (per 100,000 persons)	13.2	●	→
Imports of major conventional weapons (TIV US\$ million per 100,000 population, 5 year average)	1.6	●	→
Exports of major conventional weapons (TIV constant million USD per 100,000 population, 5 year average)	0.0	●	→
Status of fundamental human rights treaties	10	●	→
Political stability and absence of violence/terrorism	-1.2	●	→
SDG17 – Partnerships for the Goals	VALUE	RATING	TREND
Corporate Tax Haven Score (best 0–100 worst)*	0.0	●	→
Statistical Performance Index (worst 0–100 best)	74.1	●	↓
Government Health and Education spending (% GDP)	5.2	●	↓

*Imputed data point



GOAL 6

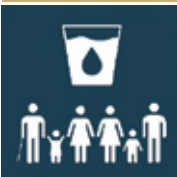
CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

One in three people live without sanitation. This is causing unnecessary disease and death. Although huge strides have been made with access to clean drinking water, lack of sanitation is undermining these advances. If we provide affordable equipment and education in hygiene practices, we can stop this senseless suffering and loss of life.

The Targets

TARGET 6.1



SAFE AND AFFORDABLE DRINKING WATER

By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

TARGET 6.2

**END OPEN DEFECTION AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

TARGET 6.3

**IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND SAFE REUSE**

By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

TARGET 6.4

**INCREASE WATER-USE EFFICIENCY AND ENSURE FRESHWATER SUPPLIES**

By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.

TARGET 6.5

**IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

TARGET 6.6

**PROTECT AND RESTORE WATER-RELATED ECOSYSTEMS**

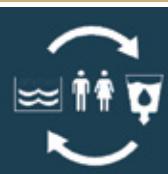
By 2030, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

TARGET 6.7

**EXPAND WATER AND SANITATION SUPPORT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.

TARGET 6.8

**SUPPORT LOCAL ENGAGEMENT IN WATER AND SANITATION MANAGEMENT**

Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.



EGYPT'S LEADING INFRASTRUCTURE EVENT

CONNECTING THE INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY IN EGYPT

The Egypt Infrastructure & Water Expo showed the systems and infrastructure needed in Egypt to transform the Egyptian ambitious plan for the country's infrastructure into a reality.

Working in line with Vision 2030, Egypt Infrastructure & Water expo provided an unrivalled international platform where the industry can come together to see and hear about the planning, engineering, transportation systems, communication networks and utilities associated with developing a living and working environment under one roof.

The expo leverages the organizer's extensive experience in delivering large-scale events in Egypt, including EGYPES, PLASTEX and The Big 5 Construct Egypt. Egypt Infrastructure and Water Expo is set to create an internationally competitive platform covering the four product sectors needed to deliver Egypt's development plan: urban connectivity, water & waste, utilities, and smart technologies. The event attracted over 150 international and local exhibitors and over 6,000 attendees including project owners, government officials, regulators, EPC contractors, consultants, and engineers.

Taking place at Egypt International Exhibition Center (EIEC) Under the auspices of the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Public Utilities from the 19 to 21 of June 2023, Egypt Infrastructure & Water Expo gathered both the industry's top leaders and experts together to showcase the systems and infrastructure needed to aid Egypt's ambitious plan for the country's growth. The event provides an unrivalled international platform where the industry comes together to discuss the planning, engineering, smart building solutions, water and waste management requirements, and latest urban technologies available to propel the country's development. The Egypt Infrastructure Summit, an integral part of the expo, was a springboard to address the most pressing issues in the industry through the participation of a stellar line-up of key decision makers and government.

Achievements



Attracting over 150 international and local exhibitors and 6,000 attendees, Egypt Infrastructure & Water Expo connects you with industry decision makers and Government, allowing you to identify new commercial opportunities to grow your business.

Egypt is transforming into a global infrastructure hub. A \$400bn infrastructure project plan including mega projects such as the New Suez Canal, Cairo monorail, Cairo metro line 4 phase 1 and more.

This expo will unlock tangible business opportunities for companies operating in the infrastructure sector. The demand for infrastructure and infrastructure-based products continues to grow to meet Egypt's Vision 2030 objectives.

- Connect with active buyers and qualified professional visitors with decision-making authority.
- Position your brand in front of project owners, contractors, procurement, professionals, and local distributors.
- Strengthen your brand and exhibit amongst 60+ local and international exhibitors.

Exploring the future of Egyptian infrastructure



Urban
expansion



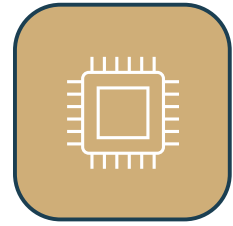
Sustainable
master - planning



Water
security



Actions for
climate change



Smart
technology

Realizing Ambitions for The Urban Expansion of Egypt

The Egypt Infrastructure & Water Summit is an inaugural event was held on 19 June 2023 at the EIEC that aims to support Egypt's ambitious infrastructure plans and urban expansion. With Egypt's population forecasted to reach 121 million by 2030 and 160 million by 2050, the need for a transformation of existing infrastructure, as well as new expansion to support future generations in building their communities, has become more important than ever.

The summit focused on opportunities, partnerships, and knowledge transfer, bringing stakeholders from the public and private sectors together to debate and explore the latest developments in transportation, housing, water, and waste. It's the premier opportunity for professionals and industry leaders in 2023 to gain insights into the latest trends, technologies, and regulations that are shaping the future of infrastructure in Egypt.

JOIN US IN EGYPT!



20,000+
professional visitors
(across 4 co-located shows)



100+
exhibiting companies



200+
delegates



65+
expert speakers



**EGYPT
INFRASTRUCTURE
& WATER EXPO**



19 -21 JUNE 2023
EGYPT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTER (EIEC)
CAIRO, EGYPT



GOAL

8

Decent work and Economic Growth

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Economic growth should be a positive force for the whole planet. This is why we must make sure that financial progress creates decent and fulfilling jobs while not harming the environment. We must protect labour rights and once and for all put a stop to modern slavery and child labour. If we promote job creation with expanded access to banking and financial services, we can make sure that everybody gets the benefits of entrepreneurship and innovation.

The Targets

TARGET 8.1



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries.

TARGET 8.2



DIVERSIFY, INNOVATE AND UPGRADE FOR ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY

Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labor-intensive sectors.

TARGET 8.3



PROMOTE POLICIES TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND GROWING ENTERPRISES

Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

TARGET 8.4



IMPROVE RESOURCE EFFICIENCY IN CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead.

TARGET 8.5

**FULL EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK WITH EQUAL PAY**

By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

TARGET 8.6

**PROMOTE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

By 2030, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.

TARGET 8.7

**END MODERN SLAVERY, TRAFFICKING AND CHILD LABOR**

Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms.

TARGET 8.8

**PROTECT LABOUR RIGHTS AND PROMOTE SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENTS**

Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

TARGET 8.9

**PROMOTE BENEFICIAL AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.



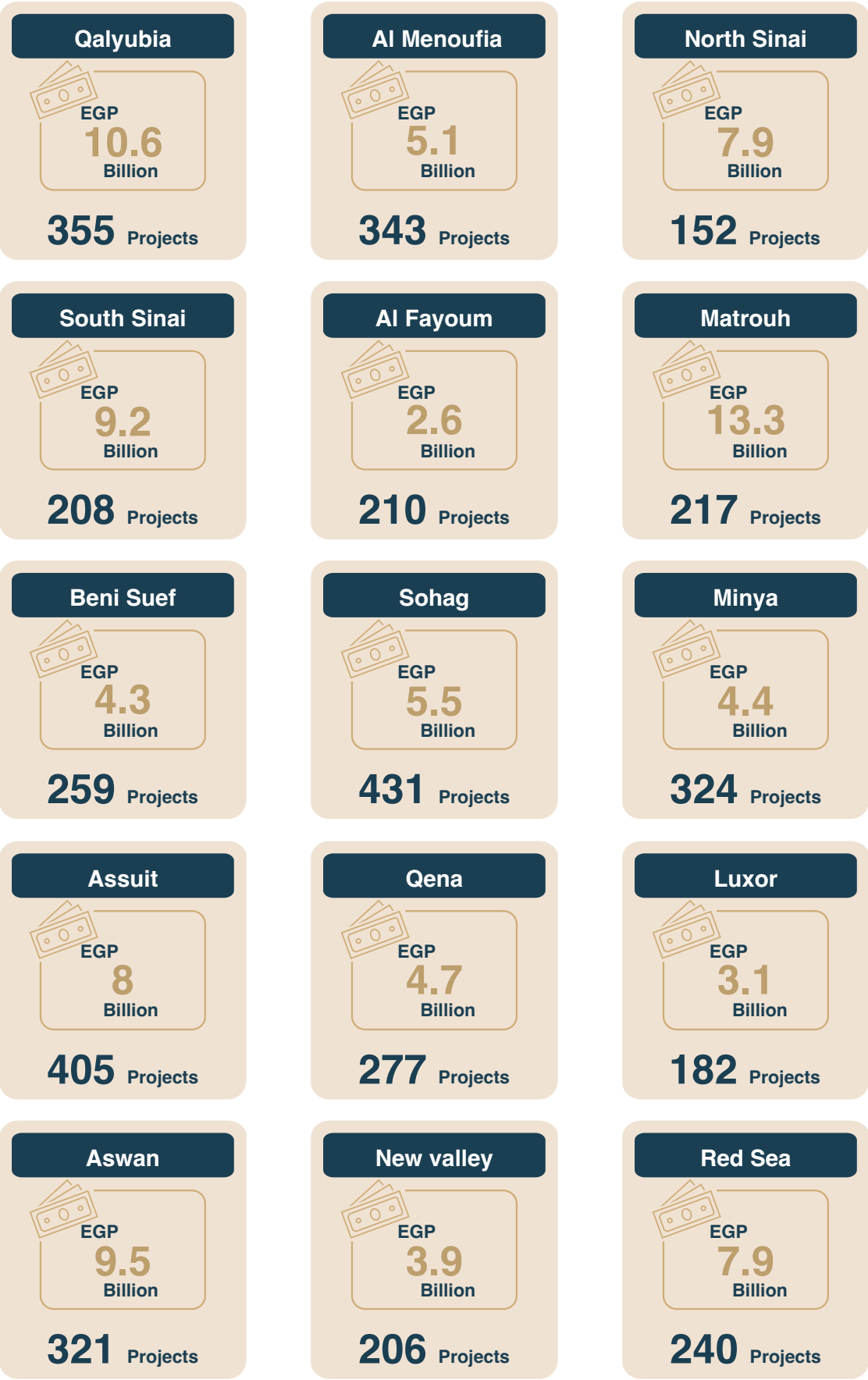
Citizen investment Plan

A path towards providing decent work for all Egyptians in all governorates by 2030

In a line with vision 2030, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development's keenness to enhance the frameworks of community participation, transparency, and accountability, the "Citizen's Plan" comes to confirm the citizen's right to know the directions of the sustainable development plan adopted by the state. The document provides detailed information on the investments that the state directs to each governorate and their distribution to the various sectors, and the most prominent projects that are being implemented in each sector, as well as the most important economic and social indicators for each governorate. This helps the citizen to follow up on these projects in his governorate/city/village, which in turn contributes in the creation of decent job opportunities and comprehensive sustainable development in the long term.

Citizen investment Plan for each governorate





TARGET 11.2

**AFFORDABLE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SYSTEMS**

By 2030, provide 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.

TARGET 11.3

**INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION**

By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.

TARGET 11.4

**PROTECT THE WORLD'S CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

TARGET 11.5

**REDUCE THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF NATURAL DISASTERS**

By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

TARGET 11.6

**REDUCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF CITIES**

By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.

TARGET 11.7

**PROVIDE ACCESS TO SAFE AND INCLUSIVE GREEN AND PUBLIC SPACES**

By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

TARGET 11.8

**STRONG NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.

TARGET 11.9

**IMPLEMENT POLICIES FOR INCLUSION, RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

By 2030, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.



NEW EGYPTIAN CITIES

16

NEW EGYPTIAN CITIES

to achieve a decent life, social justice and sustainable development



01 The New Administrative Egyptian capital represents bold vision for smart cities

A sustainable city is a city that has comprised the environmental, social and economic goals for better quality of life achievement of residents which is commonly measured as self-reported happiness. Different sustainable city have been initiatives depend on the goals and perspectives focused on such as green city, resilience city, zero carbon city, etc. The smart concept is a broad term for the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) to manage a city's services, infrastructure and facilities. The smart city concept is to use ICT to improve quality of life of residents by enhancing the city performance towards increase city level of sustainability. The smart concept might be applied to any type of sustainable cities initiatives to help the sustainable city to achieve its sustainable goals and increase quality of life.

Egypt is keen to create fourth generation smart cities that will respond to the growing demand for more efficient and sustainable urban development. Smart cities involve the development of digital policies and strategies that are people-centered and tap into technological innovations to build the capacities of stakeholders (smart grids, smart government, smart citizenship, etc.). Smart cities use technology to improve the quality of life of urban communities and build inclusive urban societies.

The new Administrative capital is developed with the strategic vision for a smart city integrating its smart infrastructure to provide many services to citizens. **Smart Traffic**, well designed streets with smart monitoring of traffic congestions and accidents. **Smart Utilities**, Management and operation of electricity, gas and water to reduce consumption and cost. **Safe City**, Covering all parts of the city with CCTV cameras and control sensors integrated to the city control center. **Smart Buildings**, Buildings automatically identify the most effective ways to save resources and provide healthy environment. **Smart Energy Management**, focusing on renewable energy for a green environment, while using IoT to save power consumption. **Connected city**, building optical fiber infrastructure connecting every building using FTTX technology.



02 New Alamein City ... A new destination on the world tourism map

New Alamein City is the first smart city in the North Coast, It considered one of the fourth-generation cities. this city is similar to the new administrative capital in terms of the magnitude of the international projects that will be built there. It will include international commercial centers, residential and touristic towers.

The site of New Alamein was chosen to take advantage of the privileged location on the Mediterranean coast to achieve integrated development and provide a diversified economic basis and a regional urban center due to its proximity to promising new development areas.

The importance of New Alamein stands out in supporting communication between the sectors of Burj Al Arab, Marsa Matrouh and Sidi Barani in order to facilitate the movement of population and labor and to achieve population expansion and various economic activities in the North Coast.

The city is located on the Mediterranean coast, about 35 km east of El Alamein Airport, on an area of 48,000 acres.

The first phase of the city is currently being completed on an area of 14,000 acres, consisting of:

- There are 18 beach towers with a total of 6,032 units, and 10 towers are being implemented
- Downtown buildings with 2,640 units
- The Latin Quarter on an area of 404 acres with 11,655 units
- A 700-acre compound with 10,800 chalets and villas units
- Distinctive housing with 1920 units and 4096 housing units in Egypt
- The tourist walkway is 7 km long
- Beach recreational area
- The heritage city on an area of 260 acres
- Arab Academy for Technology Sciences and Maritime Transport
- El Alamein International University for Science and Technology

03 Salam City, east of Port Said ... A new million city

Salam Misr is a new Egyptian city of the fourth generation, located in Port Said Governorate, and administratively affiliated to the New Urban Communities Authority, established by Presidential Decree No. 589 of 2019, located in the Sinai Peninsula on the eastern bank of the Suez Canal within the administrative borders of Port Said Governorate, It was established to serve the purposes of developing the Suez Canal region, aiming to accommodate more than half a million people with the completion of its growth. The Egyptian government aims to develop the first phase of the city with an area of more than 3,000 acres at least until 2023.

The total area of Salam City - East New Port Said is 16,000 thousand acres and is expected to accommodate a number of residents estimated at 1,250,000 people. The first phase is being implemented on an area of 205 acres, where 4,340 social housing units are being completed, including utilities and services, in addition to a desalination plant. Sea water with a capacity of 150,000 m³/day.



04 New Mansoura City

New Mansoura City is one of the fourth-generation cities in Egypt, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea with a length of 15 km and the total area of the city is 5913 acres. The first phase includes 19,000 housing units (58 coastal housing buildings, 196 housing units in Egypt, 468 housing units for Jannah project, and 1,180 villas overlooking the sea), the New Mansoura University, two basic education schools, 8 markets, a medical center, a police station, a fire station, the first stage of the sea water desalination plant with a capacity of 40 thousand m³ / day, the first stage of the treatment plant with a capacity of 30 thousand m³ / day, and the power station.



05 The extension of Sheikh Zayed City

The extension of Sheikh Zayed City is an urban service integration with the existing Sheikh Zayed City on an area of 10,988 acres and is intended to be inhabited by 1.2 million people. Many roads and axes are connected to Sheikh Zayed City, such as the Dabaa axis and the Rawd al-Farag axis.

06 Nasser City

The total area of Nasser City - West Assiut is 6006 acres, as the city is 14 km from Assiut and 4 km from Assiut Airport. It is expected to accommodate 345 thousand people. The first phase of the city is being implemented on an area of 1600 acres to include 66 social housing buildings that have been completed and 110 The Egypt housing building has been completed and a service complex is underway. Facilities and roads for the first phase are being implemented on an area of 1,600 acres

07 New West Qena

The total area of West Qena city is 8971.1 acres, as it is located 5 km south of Qena city and 45 km south of Nagaa Hammadi city, as it aims to accommodate 550 thousand people. The first phase of the city is being implemented on an area of 1400 acres to include 136 social housing buildings, 30 Egyptian housing buildings, and service areas. The utilities and roads works are being implemented for the first phase

08 New Toshka

The area of Toshka city is 3000 acres to accommodate 80 thousand people to provide 30 thousand job opportunities and to integrate with the rural villages surrounding the Toshka project and it includes "services - light industries - agricultural manufacturing - recreational activities". The first phase is currently being implemented to accommodate 17 thousand people at a cost of EGP 500 million to establish 1000 units. Residential and service centers are being completed during the current year.

09 New Aswan

The new city of Aswan is one of the fourth-generation cities with an area of 22,389.7 acres. The city is characterized by a privileged location on the Nile River, as New Aswan is located on the west bank of the Nile, 12 km from the current Aswan, and it has several types of housing (social - middle - above The intermediate level - Distinctive - Villas), and many health, sports and tourism services and facilities are available.

10 New 6th of October

The new 6th of October City is one of the fourth-generation cities. It is located in Giza Governorate and has an area of about 78,100 acres. It is expected to be inhabited by 4.75 million people. It is located on the Wahat Road from 47 Km to 72 Km, bordered on the north by the Dabaa axis, and on the east by the Wahat Road, the (middle) ring road, and from the south the Cairo-Fayoum desert road, and from the west the (regional) ring road. It includes residential, service, industrial, tourism, recreational and educational areas.

11 New Obour City

New Obour City is one of the fourth-generation cities, located in Qalyubia Governorate, with an area of about 58,914 acres and expected to be inhabited by 2.9 million people. The city is located on the main regional and central axes: Ismailia desert road, the (regional) ring road, and the Cairo / Belbeis road, which facilitates to connect it with Cairo governorate and the new administrative capital. The first phase of the city is being implemented on an area of 2,600 acres, which consists of:

- Social housing
- Average housing
- Above average housing

12 New Malwy City

A new city, about 18 km west of the city of Malwy , and 60 km south of the city of Minya. The area of the city is 18,420.52 acres. The first phase is being implemented on an area of 880 acres. It consists of (medium housing - premium housing).

13 New West Carrefour

The Urban (West Carrefour) is located on a space 417 acres in the entrance to Alexandria province next to Carrefour. It includes 64 residential towers with 3068 luxury housing apartment and 310 residential villas, the project is located near important roads such as international coastal road and Cairo-Alexandria desert road.

14 Capital Gardens City

The Capital Gardens is one of the fourth generation cities. The area of the city is 33.8 thousand acres. It is located in Cairo Governorate, east of Badr City. It is bordered on the west by the regional ring road, and on the east by the Cairo-Suez Desert Road from kilo 56 to kilo 75, and is bordered to the north by a railway line (Ain Shams - Suez) and the city is adjacent to the new administrative capital. The first phase is being implemented on an area of 2350 acres and consists of 21552 social housing units in addition to 7128 average housing units.

15 New Al-Fashn City

One of the fourth-generation cities

16 New Rashid city

The new Rashid city is the fourth-generation cities



Housing projects

3
Types

Housing projects

towards providing decent housing for all Egyptians

The New Urban Communities Authority, and the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, within the framework of the state's economic and social development plan and in accordance with the social housing program, propose, plan, and put forward social housing projects and supervise their implementation in many areas in various governorates and new cities, with the aim of providing adequate housing for low-income citizens and all groups.

Housing projects are divided into three basic types:



Social housing



Average housing



Luxury housing



Social housing

The social housing project aims to provide adequate housing for low-income groups throughout the Republic at affordable prices suitable for the income of the beneficiaries. With a subsidy between EGP 5000 up to EGP 25000, to be paid over 20 years.



Average housing

The Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities seeks to provide a diverse number of housing units for middle-income people throughout the Republic with various payment systems over long periods to give every citizen the right to live a decent life.

2 Main Projects

Daar Misr

The project aims to provide decent housing units to provide decent housing units at competitive prices for their counterparts provided by the private sector with the advantage of payment by the real estate financing system, where the areas of the housing units for the project range from 106 square meters to 118 square meters and consist of three rooms and a hall fully finished and surrounded by a fancy borders of trees to maintain privacy with also the availability of shops below the residential buildings to serve the needs of the citizens.

Sakkan Misr

The areas of the residential units range from 100 sqm to 150 sqm and it consists of three rooms and a fully finished hall that includes many services, as it is available in it: a shopping mall - a mosque - a school - a landscape - elevators - markets - shops - separate services - security and guarding - an iron wall surrounding The project to become a closed compound to provide privacy for citizens.



Luxury housing

The luxury housing project is a huge project that carries with it the elements of distinguished housing, while making sure that there are facilities belonging to the government sector with the quarterly installment payment system. The luxury housing projects – represented by the “Jannah” and “Dar Misr” projects – include pergolas, vast gardens, swimming pools, gates surrounded by stone walls from the outside, and elevators. It targets the upper middle class.







SECTION SIX

ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY





ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

Egypt's Ministry of International Cooperation seeks to ensure the effective participation of stakeholders including government entities, development partners, the private sector, and civil society, in the process of supporting Egypt's economic growth and the national development strategy.

Here, we shed light on some of the efforts made by the Ministry of International Cooperation in the period from (April 2023 to June 2023), and their impact on economic and social progress in Egypt, which reflects positively on the Egyptians quality of life.

“

Egypt became the first country to benefit from the United Kingdom Guarantee to the African Development Bank to finance climate projects in Africa.

”

In the context of participation of (MOIC) in the annual meetings of the African Development Bank in Sharm El-Sheikh in the period of (22-26) in May 2023, which witnessed successive developments at the level of development cooperation efforts between the Ministry of International Cooperation and multilateral and bilateral development partners. The African Development Bank announced an available increase in financing for the water axis within the "NWFE" program to \$2.2 billion. The wastewater treatment plant project in Jabal Asfar was also chosen as the first project to benefit from the "Room2Run" guarantee provided by the United Kingdom to the African Development Bank with a value of \$ 2 billion. Thus, A guarantee of 80 million euros will be directed to cover part of the financing provided by the bank to implement the third phase of the mentioned project.

■ **Extending the third phase of the debt for development swap program until December 2024.**

Dr. Rania Al-Mashat, Minister of International Cooperation, and Mr. Michele Quaroni, Italy's ambassador to Egypt, signed reciprocal letters to the debt-for-development swap program between Egypt and Italy, which represents a unique model of development cooperation between Egypt and Italy. It is worth mentioning that the previous two phases were implemented successfully, which included several projects in various priority sectors, and currently the third phase is being implemented, with several projects valued at \$100 million in various areas such as the environment, nutrition, education, cultural heritage, and civil society contributing significantly.

■ **Launching a new phase of Egyptian Network for Integrated Development (ENID) to support " Hayah Karima" villages in Upper Egypt.**

The Ministry of International Cooperation and the United Nations Development Program made a two-day visit to Qena, to inspect a number of projects implemented within Egyptian Network for Integrated Development (ENID), a new phase of the Upper Egypt initiative which is supporting the targeted villages within the presidential initiative for the development of the Egyptian countryside during the period from (2023 -2027).

■ **The South Helwan power plant project won "the Abdul Latif Youssef Al-Hamad Development Award" after competing with 11 projects from various Arab countries.**

As result of Arab partners efforts to promote upgrading Egypt's infrastructure, especially in the energy sector, in order to enable Egypt capabilities to meet its electricity needs and export to neighboring

countries, (MOIC) announced that the South Helwan power plant project had received "the Abdul Latif Youssef Al-Hamad Development Award" For the first time during the annual meetings of Arab financial institutions in Rabat.

The project reflects the importance of multilateral cooperation, as 5 institutions contributed to financing the project, such as the OPEC Fund for International Development, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Kuwait Development Fund, the Islamic Development Bank, and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

In the same context, (MOIC) announced that Egypt succeed in having the right to host the annual joint meetings of Arab financial institutions in 2024, within Egypt's Government desire to support the efforts of various Arab institutions to achieve their development missions.

■ **Egypt was chosen as First Vice-President of the European Bank's Board of Governors for the next session in the annual meetings in Armenia.**

Dr. Rania Al-Mashat, Minister of International Cooperation and Governor of Egypt at the European Bank, will represent Egypt in the next session, scheduled to be held next year in Armenia, which reflects the strength of relations between Egypt and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which is part of the thirty-second session activities of the annual meetings of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development 2023.

■ **Minister of International Cooperation has launched Country Partnership Document with UNFPA (2023-2027).**

The United Nations Population Fund "UNFPA's" country program in Egypt (2023-2027) is considered as umbrella that contains cooperation programs with the Government in a way that reflects national needs and priorities, Specifically in the areas of gender equality and adolescent and youth development where the country program together with UNFPA to promote investment in capacity-building with a special focus on young people, girls, adolescents and family planning programs, Addressing the challenges related to climate change, and also stressing the Egyptian State's commitment to implement the policies and reforms required.

■ **A partnership between Egypt and South Korea**

In light of the cooperation and strategic partnership between the two countries, and after South Korea chose Egypt to become the strategic partner in development cooperation field for the next five years, A development financing agreement worth 460 million dollars was signed for the implementation of the project "manufacturing and supplying 40 train units (320 wagons) for the second and third lines of the Greater Cairo Metro, through the concessional financing window provided through the Korean Cooperation Fund for Economic Development from Export-Import Bank of Korea.



■ Supporting SMEs through international partnerships

Promoting Egyptian government's efforts in supporting SMEs through international partnerships, Dr. Rania A. Al-Mashat witnessed the signing of a financing agreement between Saudi Grant Management Committee and MSMEDA, at a value of EGP 150 million, as a contribution in financing MSMEs.

This agreement comes with the role played by the constructive partnership with Saudi Arabia to support and develop SMEs through concessional development funds for the intermediaries responsible for financing these projects, Furthermore, it aims to finance MSMEs that support supply chains, in addition to industrial projects in all Egyptian governorates by providing funds for about 520 beneficiaries that will contribute to creating about 1,200 job opportunities and eventually enhancing the Egyptian economy.

On the other hand, Dr. Rania A. Al-Mashat witnessed the graduation of the first batch of the technical support program for the Climate Finance Accelerator (CFA), which includes 8 startups in the field of energy, blue economy, manufacturing, circular economy, agriculture, land use, and waste management. This is in light of the partnership between Egypt and the UK to promote climate action by providing technical assistance and support to startups and friendly environment projects.

Also, in partnership with the Dutch Embassy and Alexandria Bank, the Ministry of International Cooperation graduated 76 start-ups during 4 Orange Corners- Upper Egypt program courses to support entrepreneurship, which is being implemented within the framework of international partnerships among Egypt and its multilateral and bilateral development partners, with the purpose of supporting entrepreneurship and improve the environment for startups in Egypt.

The program witnessed a positive turnout, as it spotlighted more than 970 startups, and 120 startups were able to participate in the training courses and incubators provided by the program, where 76 companies are graduated (58% of them are led by women and girls, in various fields, with 21% in the field of Agribusiness, 35% in the field of handicrafts and creative industries, 15% in the field of waste management and the circular economy, 29% in the field of education, e-commerce, and health).

■ Egypt - UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF, 2023 - 2027)

H.E. Dr. Rania A. Al-Mashat, witnessed launching the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023 - 2027, along with representatives from different UN agencies. To clarify, the new framework targets implementing cooperation programs between Arab Republic of Egypt and the United Nations, as it is consistent with the axes of the government's action program as well as the objectives of the presidential initiative "Haya Karima" and the national strategies. Furthermore, Egypt UNSDCF 2023 - 2027 consists of 5 pillars and specific areas of specialization for each pillar to ensure achieving all the objectives.

■ German Agency Agreement to Support e-Government & Innovation worth €8 million

The collaboration between Egypt and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) aims at reinforcing Egypt's digital strategy and promoting digital transformations in all aspects. In other words, Dr. Rania Al-Mashat witnessed signing the German Agency Agreement in order to Support e-Government & Innovation. It is worth mentioning that this agreement is worth 8 million Euro. Importantly, it seeks implementing the first phase of supporting e-government and innovation in the Public Administration (INNOPA) program which targets supporting innovation in digital transformation. Also, this partnership includes establishing a laboratory in order to develop applications in the field of governmental services.

■ The Ministry of International Cooperation launches the automated data management system and follow-up of concessional development financing projects.

The automated system is a national platform for linking and unifying data on development cooperation projects for the purpose of ensuring full coordination and availability of information with national authorities, as the system contributes to strengthening the role of (MOIC) in the process of following-up, evaluation and decision-making support. It also strengthens governance and transparency mechanisms to follow up on concessional development financing to maximize development cooperation efforts.



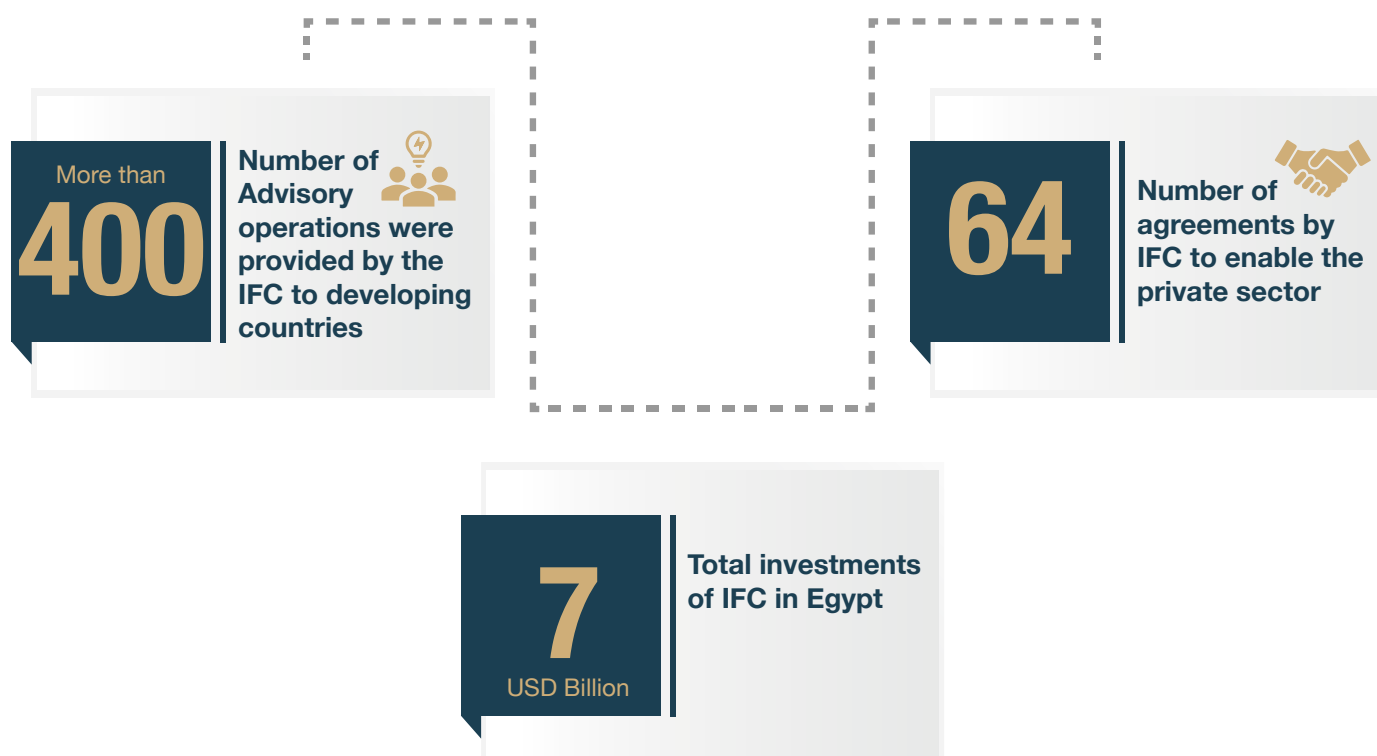


IFC Appointed as Strategic Advisor to the Egyptian government for its Asset Monetization Program

The partnership between the Egyptian government and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) is part of a broader relationship with the World Bank Group, one of the largest multilateral development partners that Egypt deals with in order to support sustainable development goals. Additionally, the Egyptian government chose the International Finance Corporation based on its experience of more than 30 years in the field of empowering private sectors in emerging markets through direct investments as well as offering technical support, and mobilizing additional investments from other entities.

IFC was appointed in the 18th of June, 2023 as a strategic advisor to the Government's Asset Monetization Program. In other words, this program is part of the State Ownership Policy (SOP), which is a new framework approved in December 2022 to expand private sector's participation in development, and to boost economic growth rates. It is worth mentioning that it is the first agreement within the framework of the strategic partnership between Egypt and the World Bank Group which was launched in March 2023. To illustrate, the Transaction Advisory Services Agreement (TASA) represents a crucial agreement in cooperation with the IFC to enable private sector as it provides the government with technical assistance and advisory support in order to develop an implementation plan, and to prepare assets for sale including improving corporate governance - and ultimately implement approved transactions. By the end of May 2023, the current portfolio of the IFC in Egypt have recorded about \$1.4 billion, of which infrastructure and renewable energy projects account for 36%, followed by manufacturing 20%, then agricultural business and financial services 15% for each.

In conclusion, IFC has a plenty of partnerships with the Egyptian government as well as the private sector. Some of the most prominent partnerships implemented by the IFC in Egypt is its provision of technical support and consultations for the implementation of the first partnership between the government and private sectors in the sewage treatment plant in New Cairo. Additionally, the partnership with the IFC reinforced the implementation of one of the largest solar energy projects in the world, "Benban Solar Park", as well as it contributed to strengthening the partnership between the government and private sectors in water desalination projects.







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