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# PROTECTING AND FULFILLING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN EGYPT

UNICEF - GOVERNMENT  
OF EGYPT COUNTRY  
PROGRAMME 2023 - 2027



unicef   
for every child

## FOREWORD



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Five years of economic growth and stability, combined with substantive progress in improving the health of mothers and children, are accomplishments Egypt can take pride in. But the same period has witnessed an increase in poverty rates, with severe consequences for women and children. Despite Government programmes to promote basic services and expand access to social protection schemes for the most vulnerable households, nearly 30 per cent of Egyptians live in monetary poverty. In parts of Upper Egypt the figure is much higher.

By 2030, Egypt's fast-growing population will reach nearly 120 million. Around 40 per cent are children under the age of 18; 27 million are adolescents and youth, offering a large demographic dividend which remains mostly untapped.

Much work is needed to address inequities. Health systems need strengthening, together with integrated multisectoral programmes. Children and adolescents, especially those from poorer backgrounds, are threatened by a 'triple burden' of malnutrition – a combination of undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight. While progress has been made, greater efforts are essential to reinforce national strategies to address all forms of malnutrition, micronutrient deficiency and obesity in children. The damage caused by stunting is irreversible after a child's second birthday. Every year we have the opportunity prevent almost 2 million children from being stunted for life.

More girls are now in primary school, but boys and girls from poorer backgrounds are less likely to complete primary education. Less than one quarter of all children are enrolled in public pre-primary schools. At least 1 million school-age children with disabilities are out of school, as are many refugee and migrant children.

Far too many children continue to be victims of violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage.

Many young Egyptians find the transition from learning to employment challenging due to the mismatch between the skills they have learned in school and those required by employers. Girls and young women are disproportionately affected, with an unemployment rate three times higher than that of their male counterparts. Adolescents with disabilities face stigma and discrimination.

Egypt's dependence on the Nile for its water needs and a warming environment means that climate change is a growing threat to children's health and wellbeing, especially those in poorer communities. Social services are under threat and need to adapt to the changing climate. UNICEF is taking an integrated approach to address climate change by protecting children and their communities from the impacts of climate change, building resilience and providing climate-smart services.

The current inflation rates and the economic environment are putting enormous pressure on poor families and their children which may result in many more children falling below the poverty line. We must work together with our development and private sector partners and the UN system to mitigate this potential reversal of impressive progress that Egypt has made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

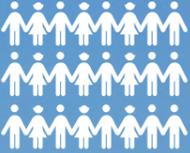
To meet these challenges, an enormous collective approach to systems strengthening with a primary focus on prevention is required. UNICEF focuses on systems and impact at a scale that can shift SDG indicators. This is critical in order to address the underlying causes of children's mortality, poverty, vulnerability, gender inequality and social exclusion. Through this country programme, and the UN Co-operation Framework, UNICEF is committed to working with the Government of Egypt and with a broad network of partners across sectors to ensure the survival and positive development of every boy and girl in Egypt.

Please join us for the sake of every child.

**Jeremy Hopkins**  
UNICEF Representative in Egypt

# COUNTRY CONTEXT

**103 million**  
estimated population.<sup>1</sup>



**40%**  
are children under the age of 18.<sup>2</sup>



**27.6 million**  
adolescents and youth (15-29 yrs).<sup>4</sup>



**20 million**  
girls under the age of 18.<sup>5</sup>



Around **14 million**  
are children under-five.<sup>6</sup>



Estimated population in 2030

**120 million.**<sup>3</sup>



An estimated **5.3 million**  
children are exposed to heatwaves.<sup>7</sup>



Around **30%**  
of Egyptians live in monetary poverty.<sup>8</sup>



Average temperatures in Egypt increasing by **0.53 Degrees Celsius** per decade.<sup>9</sup>



<sup>1</sup> (Source: CAPMAS Egypt in Figures 2022)

<sup>2</sup> (UNICEF calculation based on: CAPMAS Egypt in Figures 2022)

<sup>3</sup> (Average assumption of population projection). (Source: CAPMAS Population Projections 2017-2052).

<sup>4</sup> (UNICEF calculations based on: CAPMAS Egypt in Figures 2022)

<sup>5</sup> (UNICEF calculations based on: CAPMAS Egypt in Figures 2022)

<sup>6</sup> (Source: CAPMAS Egypt in Figures 2022).

<sup>7</sup> (CGRI dataset 2020)

<sup>8</sup> (Source: CAPMAS Poverty Indicators from HIECS 2019/2020).

<sup>9</sup> (Source: 7IGERICS (2019). Climate Fact Sheet – Egypt. URL: [https://www.climate-service-center.de/products\\_and\\_publications/fact\\_sheets/climate\\_fact\\_sheets/index.php.en](https://www.climate-service-center.de/products_and_publications/fact_sheets/climate_fact_sheets/index.php.en))

# SITUATION OF CHILDREN & WOMEN



Percentage of stunting decreased from **21%** in 2014 to **13%** in 2021



Percentage of children overweight decreased from **15%** in 2014 to **12%** in 2021



Percentage of children 1 - 14 years old who have been subject to violent discipline decreased from **93%** in 2014 to **81%** in 2021



Percentage of children under 6 months who are exclusively breastfed increased from **39%** in 2014 to **40%** in 2021



Percentage of girls aged 15 - 17 years who are estimated to have undergone FGM decreased from **61%** in 2014 to **37%** in 2021

**PROGRESS**<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> EFHS2021  
\* Percentages have been rounded.



Number of children who died in their first month increased from **14** in 2014 to **18** in 2021 deaths every 1000 live births.



Percentage of children with anemia 6 - 59 months increased from **27%** in 2014 to **43%** in 2021



**69%** of 4<sup>th</sup>-graders lack basic reading skills.



**288,701** registered refugees.



**43%** (15 - 24 years) women are unemployed, which is 3 times more than men.

**CHALLENGES**

<sup>11</sup> (Source: MOE Statistical Year Book 2021/22)

## PROGRAMME PRIORITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

UNICEF's Global Strategic Plan 2022 - 2025 reflects UNICEF's unreserved commitment to promoting the rights of all children, everywhere. It charts a course towards an inclusive recovery from COVID-19, addressing the threat that children face from climate change and facilitating attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Within the framework of the new Country Programme 2023 - 2027, UNICEF Egypt will work with other stakeholders to support the efforts of the Government of Egypt to bring about equitable and sustainable change for all children.

Partnerships and engagement – with the public and private sectors, within the United Nations development and humanitarian systems, civil society and community organizations, and children and youth – are essential to achieve the impact we are striving for. UNICEF will draw on its strengths: a broad network of partners across sectors that can play a catalytic role to drive change at scale; our local presence; and deep expertise and thought leadership based on field evidence, research and data.

### In support of efforts to address climate change in Egypt, UNICEF works to

- » Prioritize the adaptation of social services that reach children and communities most at risk, including climate-resilient water and sanitation, health systems, education, nutrition, social and protection services.
- » Advance meaningful child and youth empowerment in climate action, including through children's climate change education and promoting child and youth participation in climate processes at national and international levels.
- » Prioritize children and youth in climate finance and resources, including through child-sensitive adaptation finance.



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I know that there are many changes because of the smoke of factories that have caused global warming. **Global warming causes drought and we have a lot less water left.**

*Menna, 10, Fayoum*

”

The country programme is efficiently **designed, coordinated, managed and supported** to meet quality programming standards in achieving results **for children.**



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The 2023 - 2027 country programme has the following components:

**01 SOCIAL INCLUSION**

**02 CHILD SURVIVAL & DEVELOPMENT**

**03 QUALITY LEARNING**

**04 CHILD PROTECTION**

**05 ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH**



**01 SOCIAL INCLUSION**

UNICEF will support government efforts to reduce poverty and strengthen national social protection systems, such as the Takaful and Karama and Haya Karima programmes. UNICEF will continue to support the Ministry of Social Solidarity in developing and implementing a holistic national policy framework with interventions which are resistant to shock, and investments in the social workforce. UNICEF will support the Ministry in expanding the cash plus component, with a focus on evidence-based social and behaviour change programmes that help households reduce the effects of multidimensional poverty.

With Government partners, UNICEF will support the institutionalization of child poverty monitoring and the generation of quality, up-to-date data and analysis on its multidimensional manifestations, including on child-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators, to inform the national decision-making process.

Working with the Ministry of Finance, UNICEF will advocate for increased budget allocations towards more effective and equitable sectoral spending for children, particularly the most vulnerable, building on the gains from the current efforts on transparency and child budgets.

**TARGET**

**8m CHILDREN** benefit from social protection systems

**11m GIRLS & BOYS** benefit from better parenting practices contributing to the realization of children's rights.

**02 CHILD SURVIVAL & DEVELOPMENT**

UNICEF will support the Ministry of Health and Population in strengthening the primary health-care system, providing more families with access to high-impact maternal, childcare and nutrition interventions. Services will be broadened to include child development, adolescent, environmental and mental health, and support to children with disabilities.

To address the triple aspects of malnutrition, UNICEF will support cost-effective, high-impact interventions, including the promotion and protection of infant and young child feeding, micronutrient supplementation and school nutrition.

To improve children's access to early childhood development and learning opportunities and to engage parents in providing nurturing care, UNICEF will support the scaling-up of quality and inclusive childcare services and interventions.

As part of efforts to address climate change, environmental degradation and water scarcity, UNICEF will leverage education and health platforms that encourage girls and boys to become agents of change. Community engagement will be mainstreamed, ensuring that children, adolescent boys and girls, and women are equitably represented in the provision of services and feedback processes.

**TARGET**

**60% OF CHILDREN** aged 6 to 23 months fed a minimum diverse diet

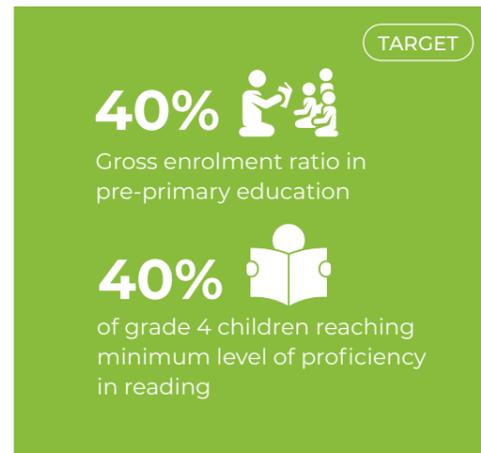
**75% OF NEWBORNS** receive postnatal care.

### 03 QUALITY LEARNING

UNICEF will prioritize helping girls and boys overcome gender barriers to learning, especially children with disabilities, and those living in the poorest governorates. Technical assistance will be provided in the roll-out of education reform for Grades 6 to 12 and the improvement of learning outcomes. The engagement of parents and communities will be promoted, alongside evidence-based systems to monitor education participation, and low-tech innovations that can help children in underprivileged areas continue to learn.

UNICEF will work with the Government to increase the ability of teachers, supervisors and facilitators to help children, adolescents and youth develop the competencies required for school readiness and for completing 12 years of education.

Support will be provided to the Government in the introduction of flexible learning systems that support national programmes such as Haya Karima and Takaful and Karama, and to develop policies that reduce the risk of harm and violence in learning facilities, including on digital platforms.

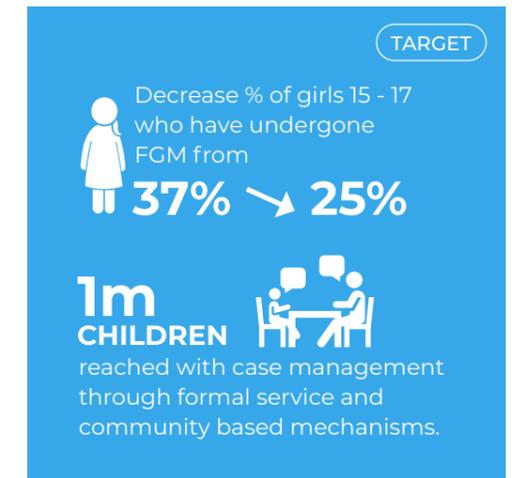


### 04 CHILD PROTECTION

UNICEF will work with partners to strengthen prevention and response services for the most vulnerable boys, girls and adolescents, including refugees and migrants. Safeguarding measures will be implemented to protect children from online exploitation and abuse.

National systems providing care services to child victims of violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices will be reinforced through the provision of improved helpline services, case management units, probation offices, health units and child protection committees. Government efforts to ensure that children in contact with the justice system have access to child-sensitive justice services will be supported.

UNICEF will support community engagement and positive parenting interventions to address harmful practices such as FGM and child marriage.

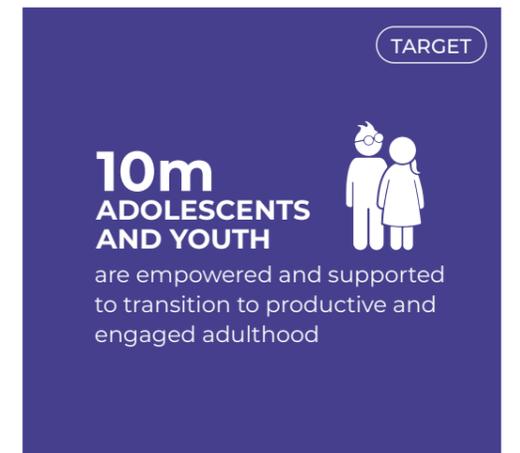


### 05 ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

UNICEF will focus efforts on catalyzing investments that address the bottlenecks preventing vulnerable adolescents and young people making the transition to productive adulthood. Adolescent girls and boys, migrants, refugees and adolescents with disabilities will gain access to skills development opportunities and social support to help achieve their full potential including transferable, digital and entrepreneurship skills.

UNICEF will facilitate the engagement of girls and boys in shaping the climate change and human rights agendas. Adolescents and young people will engage in co-designing opportunities to participate actively in communities leveraging government-led platforms, youth and community-based networks.

UNICEF will also support gender equality by promoting evidence-based gender transformative programmes and by strengthening multi-stakeholder mechanisms such as Dawwie, the National Girls' Empowerment Initiative.



# BUDGET

BUDGET  
OVER 5 YEARS:  
**USD 117  
MILLION**



SOCIAL INCLUSION

**USD 13  
MILLION**



CHILD SURVIVAL  
AND DEVELOPMENT

**USD 25  
MILLION**



LEARNING

**USD 30  
MILLION**



CHILD PROTECTION

**USD 27  
MILLION**



ADOLESCENTS  
AND YOUTH

**USD 15  
MILLION**



PROGRAMME  
EFFECTIVENESS

**USD 7  
MILLION**



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