

UN Partners: UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNEP, FAO, IFAD

Participating Government Partners:

Agriculture Research Center (ARC) in the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC), Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) in the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs.

Duration: four and a half years

Background:

The national priority of Egypt is to reduce the burden of subsidies as a means to reduce the country's deficit and implement strategic policies that eliminate poverty and provide energy and water for the country's 80 million population.

Achieving this priority has been difficult given that Egypt is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Current and future changes in climatic conditions constitute a major environmental risk that may jeopardize Egypt's development gains and efforts for poverty reduction. The country's most vulnerable areas to climate change are: 1) coastal zones 2) water resources and 3) agriculture.

Strategy:

The UN Joint Programme recognized that in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and ensure economic growth, poverty reduction, and social protection, Egypt's natural resources had to be protected from the increased pressures of rapid population growth and climate change.

The Joint Programme is helping by combining mitigation and adaptation under one integrated Climate Risk Management (CRM) banner, with the aim to: 1) mainstream initiatives into national policy on greenhouse gas mitigation and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and to expand access to finance frameworks such as the global carbon trading market; and 2) enhance local capacities to adapt to the long term impacts of climate change.

Mitigation Outcomes:

- Energy has gained higher importance in the Government.
- The mainstreaming of energy efficiency as a greenhouse gas mitigation tool into national policy will be a gradual process that will be strengthened as the institutional setting matures.
- The Supreme Energy Council component managed to establish an energy efficiency focus by developing a National Energy Efficiency (EE) Roadmap. In addition, two new EE units have been established at the Tourism Development Authority and the Housing & Building Research Center to focus on the new tourism establishments outside of the Governorates and the new and existing building stock.
- In addition, they have initiated market dialogues in three targeted sectors to promote solar water heaters as a national programme.
- A Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Awareness and Promotion Unit (APU) was set up inside the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency and they have gained credibility. It serves as a hub of information on the benefits of carbon trading and energy efficiency.

- The CDM APU has provided technical assistance to the private sector to prepare Carbon Trading.
- As a result of the intervention, the Egyptian CDM Portfolio has been expanded to include 42 projects that have UNFCCC approval, where 17 of them are registered and the remaining are under validation or requesting registration. It is estimated that the achievable Certified Emissions Reductions (CERs) in the portfolio will reach 5 million tons CER per year with a total investment of 750 million USD.

Adaptation Outcomes:

- The capacity of professionals has been developed for staff in the MWRI and MALR with an increased level of attention to climate change at the level of policy makers in the two Ministries. Climate Change Policy Recommendations were a true technical understanding of the issues at stake.
- MWRI and MALR, along with an International consultant, prepared a key economic study on the Potential Impacts of Climate Change on the Egyptian Economy.
- National Water Research Center completed the Climate Change Strategy for Available Water Resources under varying climate change scenarios.
- In the agricultural sector, the Agricultural Research Center (ARC) completed field experiments to make recommendations to policy makers as well as farmers to maximize productivity under climate change conditions.
- A Nile Basin Workshop was held to share information with the Nile Basin countries on the Regional Circulation Model, to share Climate Change experience, and to establish new partnerships.

Way Forward

The continuity of the objectives of this programme and the necessity of partnering with the Government was a key factor to ensure the sustainability after the Joint Programme ends. It is the Government's mandate to adopt the policy recommendations to better mitigation and adaptation to Climate Change.

Key Programme Reports

- Development of a System of Energy Intensity Indicators for the Egyptian Economy 2011.
- Assessment of the Activities, Operations, and Areas of Improvement for the CDM Awareness and Promotion Unit, (2013).
- Climate Change Risks to Coastal Development and Adaptation Options in the Nile Delta (2010).
- Assessing Existing Water Resources Policies(2009).
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy For The Water Sector In Egypt (2013).
- Policy Recommendations for the Decision Makers and Researchers, as well as Guidance for the Farmers. in the Agriculture Sector to better Adapt to Climate Change (2013).
- Potential Impacts of Climate Change on the Egyptian Economy (2013).

For more information,

Programme Website And Lessons Learned

http://www.wiki.mdgfund.net/Climate_Change_Risk_Management_in_Egypt
and www.ccrmp.org

CDM APU Website: www.eeaa.gov.eg/cdmapu

A short awareness video: Climate Change and the Future of Life in Egypt
(www.youtube.com/user/undpegyptp/a/f/2/E3q_NVtzEpQ)

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