DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

USAID works with key government institutions to support Egyptian-led governance and rule of law reforms – reforms that are improving the delivery of essential public services.

Emerging from a period of change that began in January 2011, Egyptians’ commitment to a more stable and prosperous future has never been stronger. USAID is working in partnership with the Egyptian people to support their expressed desire for more transparent, participatory, and responsive government. To do so, USAID supports Egyptian-led reforms that reflect the priorities voiced in the constitution Egyptians adopted in January 2014 and Egypt Vision 2030, the new sustainable development strategy announced by the Egyptian government in March 2015.

USAID works with key government institutions to support Egyptian-led governance and rule of law reforms. These reforms are improving the delivery of essential public services and increase citizens’ ability to participate in the national decision-making processes. To complement these activities, USAID supports international and Egyptian organizations that raise awareness of and advocate for improved public services and increased civic participation on key rights. These projects combat gender-based violence and trafficking in persons; promote gender equality and civic participation; and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities.

ACTIVITIES

Safe Cities Free from Violence Against Women and Girls: This multi-donor project initially worked to combat sexual harassment in public. As a result of its success both at the community level and in promoting legislation to combat sexual violence, its scope has expanded to include support mechanisms for survivors of violence against women. The Safe Cities project is strengthening shelters and other first-contact service providers and enhancing community-based services for rehabilitation, health, and legal support for survivors and their families. It supports advocacy on changing perceptions and uses innovative awareness-raising tools such as interactive community
Creating an Enabling Environment for Girls in Egypt: This activity supports the Egyptian government’s efforts to combat Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C) through an integrated set of interventions designed to change perceptions of girls’ roles in the family and society at large while improving enforcement of laws protecting girls. Through community dialogue and family engagement, the activity creates an environment that focuses on the protection and development needs of adolescent girls. It empowers girls by equipping them with key life skills, values, and increased employability in preparation for their transition to adulthood. By strengthening Egypt’s policy and legal frameworks and child protection mechanisms, this activity is also improving the enforcement of FGM/C laws and enhancing the capacity of prosecutors, local lawyers, social workers and community outreach workers to address FGM/C. Implementing Partner: UNICEF; Life of Project: December 5, 2017-December 31, 2021; Total Estimated Cost: $4.4 million.

Political Processes Support: This activity works with the Egyptian government and civil society stakeholders to strengthen the capacity of election authorities to administer elections and increase voter awareness of elections. It supports the development of the official nationwide voter information and education campaigns led by Egypt’s election commission. It provides institutional and professional development training to governmental and non-governmental electoral stakeholders on key electoral and democratic principles and international best practices on various election-related issues. This activity assists with the procurement of essential election materials such as ballot boxes, seals, and secure envelopes that enhance the integrity and transparency of elections. Implementing Partner: International Foundation for Electoral Systems; Life of Project: April 12, 2012 -April 29, 2019; Total Estimated Cost: $19.8 million.

Promoting Civic Education Among Youth in North Sinai: This activity builds a culture of civic participation and volunteerism among youth in conflict-affected North Sinai through high-impact civic education. The activity helped establish a volunteer center that promotes a culture of volunteerism and provides youth an alternate way to improve their communities. This activity helped train 2,200 youth to exercise their political rights at the community-level, such as through their tribal government or school elections, and 2,400 grassroots community leaders participated in workshops on the importance of including youth in community decision-making. Ten project beneficiaries now serve as deputies to tribal leaders, increasing the number of youth in senior tribal leadership roles from zero to ten. One project beneficiary won a seat in Egypt’s recent parliamentary elections. In addition, through this activity, 240 young people worked together to plan, design, and implement eight projects that respond to community-identified priorities. Implementing Partner: El-Gora Community Development Society; Life of Project: January 2, 2008-May 29, 2019; Total Estimated Cost: $1.9 million.

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