



Egypt

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Country Snapshot

Population:	81.5 million
Life expectancy at birth:	70 years
Adult literacy rate:	72%
Access to improved water source:	98%
GDP per capita (PPP):*	US\$5,349
Infant mortality rate:	20 per 1,000 live births
Maternal mortality rate:	130 per 100,000 live births
HIV prevalence:**	0.018%

Sources: UNICEF State of the World's Children Report 2010, *UNDP Human Development Report 2009, **WHO Egypt Health Profile 2007

Program Overview CARE's work in Egypt began in 1954 with the introduction of a nationwide school meals program. Since then, CARE has become actively involved in development programming particularly in Upper Egypt, where more than 50 percent of the nation's poor live. Today, CARE Egypt works to promote and support quality education and girls' leadership, more effective and equitable natural resource management to enhance rural livelihoods, effective governance and civic engagement, and equitable social protection for vulnerable groups—especially women. CARE works with beneficiaries, civil society organizations, government, aid agencies, networks, community-based associations and the increasingly socially aware Egyptian private sector.

Education

Despite successes in primary education enrolment rates, 14 percent of girls in Egypt still do not have access to basic education, and access to education is particularly limited for children from marginalized groups. CARE supports the right to quality education for all Egyptian children through provision of school equipment, training, community mobilization and improved leadership skills among girls. New schools and classrooms were built in Minya, Beni Suef, and Fayoum, and in 2009 more than 100 computer-skills and internet-research centres were opened in order to empower the schoolchildren and communities with information technology. In addition, 78,000 teachers, administrators, and community members were trained on computer use and maintenance. A similar project is underway in Port Said.

Governance

The Governance and Civic Engagement program aims to address weak local governance—a key underlying cause of poverty—by fostering dialogue between local government and its constituents, influencing national public policies, and

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advancing the inclusion of youth and women in public life. The program specifically supports the development of local Popular and Executive Councils to allow citizens to participate in establishing priorities for rural development and public service delivery. It also encourages civil society organizations to hold local government accountable for delivering those services. CARE pays particular attention to ensuring meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes at all levels. In addition, CARE supports local media to provide citizens with objective, balanced, and fact-based information on social and political affairs.

Women's Rights

Gender discrimination in Egypt limits women's and girls' opportunities, leading to poverty and marginalization and limiting their ability to protect themselves from widespread discrimination and violence. In order to promote the economic and social rights of women and girls, CARE's program addresses discriminatory attitudes, advocates nationally to improve existing family and personal status laws, and builds women and girls' awareness of their rights. In 2009, CARE worked with partners to support and pilot community-led initiatives that reduce gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices against girls and women. To further support women's economic independence, CARE Egypt partners with Plan International to establish community-based village savings and loan associations so women from 10,000 poor, vulnerable households in rural Sohag and Minia can benefit from funds pooled between groups of 10-20 women. During 2009 CARE Egypt worked to advocate for social change for girls, deliver innovative institutional capacity building to local partner organizations, and provide girls aged nine to 14 from Qena and Beni Suef with opportunities to participate in their communities and develop and practice leadership skills in public places.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Management

In Egypt, poverty results from and causes degradation of environmental conditions and competition over access, use, and distribution of water and services. This CARE program focuses on farmers' access to land, water, markets, and knowledge of efficient, ecologically sustainable production methods. In 2009, CARE completed a project benefiting 15,000 small-scale farmers in Fayoum, Sohag and Qena. It set up a fair-trade certification process and provided training, technical assistance, support and networking to three agricultural federations as well as local women's groups and committees. CARE also worked with irrigators and governments in Kafr El-Sheikh, Fayoum, Sohag and Aswan to encourage better resource management and reduce conflict.

Corporate Engagement

The corporate sector in Egypt is increasingly interested in supporting organizations such as CARE and in getting involved in development initiatives. CARE and its corporate partner organized their sixth three-day hike, problem-solving, and team-building event, during which 33 teams raised \$200,000 to benefit education, women's empowerment and youth development programs. CARE also promotes corporate leadership in HIV/AIDS prevention in Egypt. With support from a partner, CARE encourages company leaders and workforces to improve their HIV/AIDS and reproductive health knowledge, and to tackle HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination in the community and workplace.

Major Donors

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); Vodafone Foundation USA; Etisalat; British Council; CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation; Danish Board of Technology (DBT); the Ford Foundation; European Commission (EC); British Gas in Egypt (BG Egypt); Suez Canal Container Terminal.

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