



PROJECT FACTSHEET

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SWISS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN EGYPT



Group photo of women in Aswan participating in awareness raising activities with school children on water conservation. © FDFA

economic development, Switzerland's focuses include rehabilitating and updating basic urban infrastructure and utilities such as water canals and pipelines, and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises in order to create new jobs for a growing population, especially in the marginalised and disadvantaged governorate of Aswan. It also contributes to medical access and basic services for migrants in detention, while helping the relevant authorities to develop legislation linked to migration.

Switzerland collaborates with multiple partners in Egypt: governmental institutions, the private sector, international and local civil society organisations, and various development agencies. In 2014, Switzerland disbursed a total of CHF 21.32 million for its international cooperation activities in Egypt. A similar amount was spent in 2015.

Switzerland's comprehensive efforts

Switzerland's international cooperation efforts in Egypt are part of a Swiss North Africa programme. Established for the 2011-2016 period, the programme accompanies Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Morocco in the lengthy and uncertain transition process which the political upheavals of 2011 set in motion in the region. Switzerland supports targeted projects which promote democracy and human rights, stimulate economic development, create jobs, and protect migrants and vulnerable persons.

Switzerland's North Africa programme is being implemented as an interdepartmental effort by the FDFA Directorate of Political Affairs, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM).

In Egypt, Switzerland supports human rights defenders and promotes platforms for dialogue between various political and social actors as well as initiatives aiming at improving public access to information. In the field of

Context

Many of the problems that led to the political upheaval in Egypt in 2011 have yet to be resolved and in some ways the situation has even worsened. Unequal distribution of wealth, lack of economic prospects, and feelings of social exclusion and political frustration, especially among young people, remain obstacles for a working democracy. Switzerland is working to transform these factors of instability. Its efforts focus on peace and human rights, economic development and protecting the most vulnerable (especially migrants) – three target areas of Switzerland's North Africa programme. This type of comprehensive effort is particularly well suited to fragile countries such as Egypt.

Democratic transition and human rights

Switzerland considers that the protection of fundamental human rights, the equal participation of all Egyptians in political decision making, and the accountability of the state towards its citizens go hand-in-hand with the country's long-term economic

FACTS & FIGURES

Population of Egypt:

Est. 85 million (2015)

SDC's activities in Egypt:

Switzerland's international cooperation efforts in Egypt are part of its North Africa programme, launched in 2011. Switzerland is working in three priority sectors:

- democratic transition and human rights
- economic development and job creation
- migration and protection of people in vulnerable situations

Budget:

CHF 32 million (2014)

Swiss presence in Egypt:

Switzerland has had a cooperation office within the Swiss embassy in Egypt since 2011.

Migration and protection

Egypt is a major transit country for tens of thousands of migrants. It also plays a role in providing for the daily survival of refugees. The SDC's Global Programme Migration and Development and Humanitarian Aid are supporting different projects in order to protect vulnerable persons such as refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. In partnership with the International Organization for Migration, Switzerland encourages the provision of assistance for migrants stranded in detention in Upper Egypt and the Sinai and their integration in the local population. The SDC additionally contributes to a regional project implemented by the International Labour Organization which improves the working conditions of labour migrants in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

stability. Switzerland's international cooperation in Egypt therefore focuses on creating opportunities for dialogue on public policies between citizens, government and experts. It supports local partners who are providing political parties with a platform to negotiate new parliament by-laws, as well as an organisation which trains a future generation of dialogue facilitators in Egyptian universities. Guaranteeing better access to public information is another priority, as it greatly determines citizens' participation in public affairs.

Economic development and job creation

Switzerland focuses its support in economic development on improving public services and on strengthening the private sector. In areas such as drinking water, sanitation and waste water, solid waste management, agricultural irrigation and urbanisation, it finances infrastructure, technical assistance and sector policy dialogue. In the governorate of Aswan, a priority area, the SDC engaged the local population in the rehabilitation of 20 irrigation channels, which in turn boosted the agricultural production for thousands of farmers. The SDC and SECO jointly support innovative projects providing young Egyptians in particular with skills to help them access the labour market or to start or develop their own businesses, with the ultimate goals of increasing competitiveness, creating high-quality jobs and generating higher income. Switzerland works together closely with the Egyptian public and private sectors and aims to achieve structural change by fostering economic reforms and improving the legal framework.

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