



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Progress by innovation



The Force of a Partnership: UNIDO Powering Egypt's Sustainable Tide

Programme for Country Partnership in Egypt (2020-2024)

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► **Mr Emad Abd-EL- Hamid**

Assistant to the Minister for Developmental Projects and Financial Affairs
Head of the DPU - Ministry of Industry

It is with great appreciation that we present the UNIDO Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) Egypt 2020–2024 Achievements Report, a document that reflects four years of constructive cooperation, shared vision, and tangible progress in advancing inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Egypt.

Throughout this period, the partnership between the Government of Egypt and UNIDO demonstrated the value of coordinated development efforts anchored in national priorities. The PCP has contributed to strengthening industrial competitiveness, promoting green growth, enhancing value chains, and empowering youth and women with skills aligned to evolving labor market needs.

The report highlights achievements across key thematic areas, including the promotion of resource efficient and low carbon technologies, the upgrading of strategic sectors such as agro industry and manufacturing, and the advancement of quality, standards, and innovation ecosystems. These outcomes reflect our collective commitment to supporting Egypt’s Vision 2030 and accelerating progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

We extend our appreciation to UNIDO and to all national institutions, development partners, private sector actors, and technical teams whose dedication and collaboration have enabled the successful implementation of the PCP. Their contributions continue to play a crucial role in shaping a more competitive, resilient, and sustainable industrial sector for Egypt.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to deepening this strategic partnership and capitalizing on the progress achieved. Together, we will continue to foster industrial transformation that generates quality employment, drives economic diversification, and strengthens Egypt’s position within regional and global value chains.

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“

► **Patrick Gilabert**

Head of the UNIDO Sub Regional office in Cairo and Representative for Egypt, Djibouti, Libya, Somalia and the State of Palestine

The Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) represents one of UNIDO's most strategic instruments for driving inclusive and sustainable industrial development, and Egypt has been a central partner in advancing this innovative model. The PCP Egypt 2020–2024 Achievements Report highlights how this collaborative framework has enabled significant progress across the country's industrial landscape.

Over the past four years, the PCP has allowed UNIDO to bring its full range of technical expertise to support Egypt's national priorities—strengthening competitiveness, fostering innovation, modernizing value chains, and accelerating the transition toward greener and more resource efficient industrial practices. The partnership has also expanded opportunities for youth and women, enhanced quality infrastructure, and helped position Egyptian industry to better integrate into regional and global value chains.

Egypt's importance for UNIDO stems not only from its economic scale and industrial potential, but also from the Government's strong ownership and long standing commitment to sustainable industrialization. This makes Egypt a key anchor for UNIDO's engagement in the Middle East and Africa, as well as a country where the PCP can serve as a model for impact-driven cooperation.

The results presented in this report reflect the dedication of many partners—national institutions, development agencies, financial actors, and the private sector—whose contributions have been essential to the PCP's success. Their collaboration embodies the collective effort needed to achieve meaningful and lasting development outcomes.

As we look to the future, UNIDO remains committed to deepening its engagement with Egypt. Building on the solid foundation created during the 2020–2024 cycle, we aim to further scale up support for green transformation, industrial modernization, innovation, and inclusive growth. Together, we will continue to advance a resilient and competitive industrial sector that creates opportunities for all and strengthens Egypt's role as a regional leader in sustainable industrial development.

”

Egypt stands as a transcontinental bridge connecting northeast Africa and southwest Asia via the Sinai Peninsula. With a vibrant population exceeding 118.5 million people (as of August 2025¹), the nation serves as a demographic powerhouse—the largest in the Arab world and the third largest in Africa². This human energy is concentrated along the timeless flow of the Nile and in bustling urban centers like Cairo and Alexandria, fueling a diversified economy that ranks among the continent’s top three³. Driven by key sectors including agriculture, industry, tourism, and energy, Egypt’s nominal GDP reached approximately USD 389 billion⁴ in 2024.



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It was against this dynamic backdrop that the global mandate for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) found a powerful application. Entrusted to UNIDO by Member States in the 2013 Lima Declaration, this mandate evolved into a tangible engine for growth: the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP). Designed to transcend traditional aid, the PCP offers a long-term, multi-stakeholder solution, leveraging high-level national partnerships to power Egypt’s industrial transformation.

1) <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/egypt-population/>

2) Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), 2024 population estimates.

3) <https://data.worldbank.org/country/egypt-arab-rep>

4) International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Economic Outlook Database, April 2024.



THE PARTNERSHIP'S CORE: ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

The history of modern Egypt is the story of water, power, and transformation. Today, the nation focuses its energy on achieving a **competitive, green, and inclusive economy**. Launched during a period of global uncertainty (approved by the UNIDO Executive Board in October 2018 and formally signed by Egypt's Prime Minister in April 2021), the UNIDO Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) in Egypt acts as a strategic conduit. It has solidified its role as the national platform for accelerating Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID), channeling the force of this Partnership to power the country's Sustainable Industrial Tide.

1. Egyptian Context and Strategic Challenges

The PCP was conceptualized against the backdrop of a highly dynamic, yet challenging, Egyptian economic environment. The period was marked by significant government commitment to the National Structural Reform Program (NSRP) and Egypt Vision 2030, which demanded transformative support to solve complex, interconnected challenges:



► Macroeconomic Headwinds

High inflation peaks and fiscal constraints required urgent macroeconomic stabilization to foster investor confidence.



► Industrial Competitiveness

Fragmented value chains and aging technologies hindered the potential of the **42.6% growth** in industrial investment (2020–2024).



► The Climate Imperative

Meeting NCCS 2050 commitments required an urgent shift toward resource efficiency to decarbonize the high-energy industrial base.



► Social & Regional Disparity

With female unemployment nearly **3x the male rate**, integrating Upper Egypt into formal value chains became a priority.

To meet these challenges, Egypt has set ambitious targets. The PCP aligns its interventions directly with these national milestones:



► Energy

Target: 42% renewable electricity share



► Transport

Target: electrify 10% of urban transit fleet



► Agriculture

Target: Climate-smart irrigation for 1 million feddans



► Industry

Target: Lower GHG intensity via cleaner production

Egypt's Sectoral Climate Commitments by 2030⁵

5) Ministry of Environment (Egypt), COP27 Presidency Reports, UNDP Egypt, GEF, FAO AQUASTAT, World Bank, NSWMP Annual Report 2022.

2. The PCP Model: Genesis and Mandate

Establishment and Ownership

The PCP is not just a project; it is a multi-stakeholder partnership designed to mobilize large-scale public and private finance. Formulated after extensive national consultations and a thorough Country Diagnostic, it combines advisory services with technical assistance to deliver an integrated service package.



GENESIS

► High-level initiation by H.E. President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi and UNIDO Director General Gerd Müller.

2018-2019

2021

► Officially signed by the Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly following the finalized Country Diagnostic.

THE 6 STRATEGIC COMPONENTS



► Policy & Governance

Institutionalizing evidence-based decision making



► Investment Promotion

Attracting high-quality FDI



► Green Industry

Decarbonization & Circular Economy



► Smart Cities

Sustainable Industrial Parks



► Value Chains

Agro-industry, textiles, and inclusion



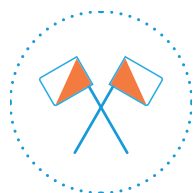
► Industry 4.0

Digital transformation and skills

3. The Force of Partnership: Execution and Portfolio Growth

The partnership's success is rooted in robust political ownership, exemplified by the High-Level National Steering Committee (NSC). This institutional buy-in has allowed the programme to rapidly expand its operational scope, even amidst global uncertainty.

GOVERNANCE MILESTONES



► Leadership

High-Level National Steering Committee (NSC) established by Decree

Ministerial alignment and follow-up across Ministries



► Proximity

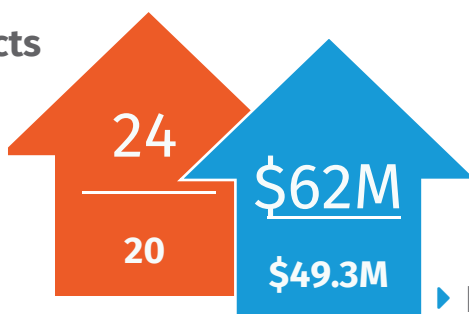
First UN agency with a sub-regional hub in the New Administrative Capital

Unparalleled alignment with Egypt's decision-making bodies

PORTFOLIO GROWTH: SUSTAINING THE TIDE (2020-2024)

The commitment to the PCP is reflected in the sustained growth of its technical cooperation portfolio, demonstrating its catalytic power in driving the Green Industrial Tide.

► Projects



► Budget

► STRATEGIC FOCUS

73% of budget allocated to Climate Action & Energy

4. Strategic Alignment and Core Impact

The PCP serves as a working model for reaching international goals, providing measurable impact. A couple of examples of results:

The PCP's impact is rooted in its precise alignment with Egypt's ambitious national and international commitments, ensuring every action directly serves larger, transformative goals.

ANCHORED IN NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

The Programme provides targeted solutions that reinforce Egypt's most critical strategic frameworks:

✓ Egypt Vision 2030:

The PCP contributes to the Vision's economic, social, and environmental pillars by promoting competitiveness, inclusion, and sustainability.

✓ Industrial Development and Trade Enhancement Strategy (IDTES):

The PCP provides the action plan for achieving key IDTES goals, including increasing the share of Manufacturing Value Added (MVA) in GDP and enhancing export growth.

✓ National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS) 2050:

The substantial focus on Green Industry and Smart Cities components directly supports industrial decarbonization and climate resilience.

✓ National Structural Reform Programme (NSRP):

The emphasis on private sector-led growth, export diversification, and MSME strengthening positions the PCP as a primary mechanism for implementing NSRP objectives.



ADVANCING GLOBAL MANDATES AND MEASURABLE RESULTS



► Climate & Ozone Action

70% reduction in ODS (Montreal Protocol). Equivalent to removing 50,000 cars from the road

4,252 tCO₂eq reduced and over 56,000 m³ of water conserved annually



► Green Economy

Pioneering Africa's first network equipment repair center in the ICT/electronics sector, pioneering circularity

Over 170 circular MSMEs supported and 2,400 tons of textile waste valorized



► Job Creation & Gender Equality

7,000+ women empowered;
222 direct jobs;
EGP 700k sales for artisans



5.

Mobilizing Global Partners for National Priorities

The PCP acts as a vital Nexus of the Partnership, leveraging UNIDO’s convening function to align resources, technical expertise, and investment capital.

THE PARTNERSHIP NETWORK: A SOURCE OF STRENGTH

The PCP successfully mobilized a vast network, blending multilateral, bilateral, and UN system support, ensuring a pipeline of sustained action.

PROOF POINTS

PARTNER TYPE	KEY PARTNERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS
Multilateral	Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund (MLF): Largest donor to the PCP, contributing over \$16 Million to climate action and ozone protection. European Union (EU): A major funder for Green Industry and competitiveness, including the €8 Million TIGARA programme. Global Environment Facility (GEF) /Green Climate Fund (GCF): Key to mobilizing finance for climate adaptation (Hurghada) and cleantech innovation, contributing over \$11 Million.
Financial Institutions	Afreximbank: Strategic partner for capacity building in Export Manufacturing and Infrastructure Development project preparation. International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC): Partner for cotton value chain development. National Bank of Egypt (NBE): Partnered to establish a \$4 Million Solar Revolving Fund.
Bilateral	Switzerland (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - SDC / State Secretariat for Economic Affairs - SECO): Core funding partner for the foundational Inclusive Green Growth in Egypt (IGGE) project and the Eco-Industrial Parks (EIP) programme. Canada: Key supporter of Women's Economic Empowerment (Rabeha Programme). Japan: Dedicated funding for the Circular Economy for Single-Use Plastic
UN System	United Nations (UN) Women, World Food Programme (WFP), International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): Critical for integrated programming and joint delivery, supporting social inclusion and food security, particularly in Upper Egypt.

This expansive network ensures that UNIDO's integrated service package—combining advisory and normative services with technical assistance—is backed by the necessary financial and knowledge resources to achieve large-scale industrial results.



STRATEGIC PILLARS OF SUCCESS

The force of the Partnership is realized through six integrated components that tackle Egypt's structural, environmental, and social challenges simultaneously, moving the country toward a competitive, inclusive, and resilient industrial future.

Translating these strategic pillars into concrete projects on the ground is made possible by the strong and growing partnerships established with a diverse range of international development organizations and financial institutions. We acknowledge with deep appreciation the contributions of multilateral entities such as the European Union (EU), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Montreal Protocol, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), as well as the World Food Programme (WFP). We also extend our gratitude to our bilateral partners, including the Governments of Canada, China, Cyprus, Germany, Italy, Japan, Slovenia, and Switzerland.

These collaborations have been instrumental in advancing the PCP's objectives and driving inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Egypt. Furthermore, we acknowledge with gratitude the vital engagement of all national counterparts, partners, and stakeholders, whose continuous collaboration and feedback have ensured that the PCP reflects a truly shared vision and priorities for Egypt's industrial future.

STRATEGIC

FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNANCE



Industrial transformation requires more than just factories; it requires a brain and a nervous system. This component serves as the intellectual core of the PCP, dedicated to modernizing the institutional architecture that governs Egypt's industrial landscape. Over its four years of implementation, the PCP has moved beyond ad-hoc policy advice to systemic reform, embedding evidence-based decision-making within the Ministry of Industry and its affiliated agencies.

By conducting deep industrial diagnostics and facilitating public-private dialogue, the programme has directly influenced the design of Egypt's Industrial Development and Trade Enhancement Strategy (IDTES). We have not just been training officials; we have been institutionalizing a new culture of governance. From establishing a dedicated Policy Support Unit (PSU) to introducing gender-responsive industrial planning, this pillar ensures that Egypt's industrial growth is guided by data, aligned with global standards, and resilient to future shocks.

The tangible impact of this pillar is evident in the deployment of specialized tools that have trained over 100 government officials in advanced policy analysis, equipping them to steer the sector through global economic volatility. Furthermore, our initiatives have pioneered regulatory reform from the ground up, establishing the first-ever national standards for bio-based fertilizers and launching a dedicated Climate and Environment Investment Unit. These interventions are not abstract; they are unlocking bottlenecks for real businesses, streamlining registration processes for innovative products, and creating a predictable, transparent policy environment that investors can trust.



**DID
YOU
KNOW**

Before the PCP, many innovative green products were invisible in Egypt's official industrial registry – effectively excluded from the formal economy. The PCP changed this reality by introducing **new industrial activity codes**, a decisive regulatory breakthrough that finally enabled green SMEs to obtain licenses, operate legally, and scale their innovations.

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ BUILDING THE POLICY ENGINE – THE TRADE, INDUSTRY, GROWTH AND RAPID MARKET ACCESS (TIGARA) PROJECT



The Challenge: institutionalizing a modern policy framework, shifting from reactive planning to proactive, evidence-based strategic development to guide competitiveness and trade compliance.



The Solution: The TIGARA project provided intensive, structured capacity building focused on industrial diagnostics, strategic planning tools, and policy analysis for core Ministry staff, paving the way for the institutionalization of the Policy Support Unit (PSU).



Voices from the Field: Samar has spent over 16 years supporting SMEs, particularly female-led businesses, but often faced a critical gap: the lack of a standardized, scientific method to evaluate the viability of complex industrial projects. Through the TIGARA project, she gained access to advanced industrial diagnostic tools that transformed her approach to development finance.



► **Samar Mesallam**

Head of Co-Finance and
Mezzanine Component, Micro,
Small and Medium Enterprise
Development Agency
(MSMEDA)

*With the right
tools, we can guide
entrepreneurs toward
sustainable, bankable
projects that reflect
real local needs of
SMEs, especially those
led by women.”*

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ NORMATIVE TOOLS FOR GREEN GROWTH – THE INCLUSIVE GREEN GROWTH IN EGYPT (IGGE) PROJECT



The Challenge: The emerging green and circular bio-economy sectors, particularly bio-fertilizers and bio-based products, lacked official national standards and strategic roadmaps, hindering investment and market entry for green MSMEs.



The Solution: The IGGE project facilitated public-private dialogue and interministerial coordination on regulatory barriers, policy reforms, assessments tools. It worked directly with the Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS) to translate best practices into official Egyptian standards while simultaneously developing high-level strategic documents to formalize the sector.



Voices from the Field: Success was however depending on translating modern ways of greening the economy from norms into practice; challenges that could only be solved through training, connections between policy makers, economic actors along the waste producing, waste recycling and waste reuse, academia, and communities.



► **Ahmed Selim**

CEO of Al-Mat'ani Co. for
Development in Luxor

UNIDO was the starting point. And then, they organized a practical day in the field [with farmers and breeders] on how to bring the sugarcane straw that usually gets burnt, how to chop the straw in threshing machine to be edible to animals and benefit from it instead of burning it. UNIDO helped us and they asked us to help other people.”

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ INSTITUTIONALIZING ENERGY EFFICIENCY – THE INDUSTRIAL MOTORS ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME (IMEEP) PROJECT



The Challenge: The industrial sector lacked a formal, trustworthy, and standardized market model to incentivize energy efficiency (EE) investments, leaving capital on the table due to fragmented services and unverified savings.



The Solution: The IMEEP project worked with the New and Renewable Energy Authority (NREA) to institutionalize the ESCO (Energy Service Company) qualification framework, professionalizing the EE market and creating a sustainable structure for verified energy savings.



Voices from the Field: The comprehensive Minimum Energy Performance Standards Roadmap for industrial motors needed qualified experts to implement it to success. The personal human touch combined with technical qualifications transform Egypt's industrial facilities into energy efficient motors of sustainable growth.



▶ **Rabab Manee**

Group Energy & Environment
Manager, Oriental Weavers

We were enabled [in this journey] through the use of UNIDO's methodology. On a personal level, I received my accreditation after going through the full certification process in the UNIDO project. The knowledge and experience gained enabled me to become the Group Energy Manager at Oriental Weavers."

CATALYZING

INVESTMENT AND FINANCIAL FLOWS



Attracting high-quality Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not about generic promotion; it is about precision targeting and ecosystem readiness. This pillar focuses on strengthening Egypt's capacity to attract, facilitate, and retain sustainable industrial investment and on equipping Egypt's investment institutions, primarily the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), with the sophisticated tools needed to compete in a crowded global market.

The PCP has shifted the focus from quantity to quality—targeting investments that bring technology, create sustainable jobs, and integrate local MSMEs into global value chains. By introducing advanced opportunity profiling, investment tracking systems for Special Economic Zones (SEZs), and fostering linkages between multinational corporations and local suppliers, we have been laying the groundwork for a more dynamic investment climate. This component is the bridge between Egypt's industrial potential and the international capital required to realize it.

To translate interest into capital, we have partnered with key financial heavyweights to establish the Joint Project Preparation Facility (JPPF), a critical mechanism that turns industrial concepts into bankable, investor-ready projects. This strategic move directly addresses the "preparation gap" that often stalls African infrastructure deals. Simultaneously, we have been strengthening the domestic investment ecosystem through targeted capacity building for GAFI staff, introducing them to global best practices in investment opportunity profiling and digital investment platforms. This dual approach—preparing the projects and empowering the promoters—is positioning Egypt not just as a market, but as a sophisticated investment destination capable of anchoring complex regional value chains.



**DID
YOU
KNOW**

Capacity building has turned into concrete deals. The PCP's investment preparation work has generated a "Hard Pipeline" of 9 strategic projects valued at **\$54.6 million**. These investor-ready proposals cover critical sectors like Green Ammonia and Sustainable Furniture, ready for financing.

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ STRENGTHENING GAFI'S CAPACITY FOR GREEN FDI – THE TRADE, INDUSTRY, GROWTH AND RAPID MARKET ACCESS (TIGARA) PROJECT



The Challenge: Investment promotion institutions like GAFI needed advanced knowledge and tools to move beyond generic FDI attraction toward targeting high-value, sustainable sectors in alignment with EIP and NCCS goals.



The Solution: Targeted technical sessions were delivered to government staff on advanced investment promotion tools and monitoring systems, specifically focusing on aligning investments with the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) structure and EIP principles.



Voices from the Field: Sara has taken on the limited access to gender-disaggregated data and frameworks, she embarked on daring cultural norms and unconscious biases, confident that her country will prevail even more through an enhanced role of women in emerging sectors such as digital transformation and sustainable energy.



► **Sara Fahmi**

CSR senior specialist, GAFI

This gender training opportunity with UNIDO turned theory into practice, empowering me to advocate for change, inspire my colleagues, and actively contribute to the development of gender-sensitive industrial policies.”

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ SCALING EXPORT MANUFACTURING CAPACITY – THE JOINT PROJECT PREPARATION FACILITY (JPPF)



The Challenge: Across Africa, many potential manufacturing projects fail to secure financing due to poorly structured proposals and lack of technical preparation for export-oriented investments.



The Solution: UNIDO partnered with Afreximbank (African Export-Import Bank) to enhance Africa's readiness to develop bankable projects through the Joint Project Preparation Facility (JPPF), positioning Egypt as a regional knowledge and finance hub for industrial projects.



Voice from the Field: The JPPF's mandate is to transform promising concepts in energy, manufacturing, transport, and tourism into viable realities ready for international investment. This is a deliberate strategy to catalyze Egypt's Vision 2030 and significantly boost its economic competitiveness within the larger African market. By providing integrated solutions, the facility ensures that businesses of all sizes can access financing, advisory services, and the crucial support needed to succeed continent-wide. Ultimately, this collaboration is dedicated to fast-tracking infrastructure development, creating quality jobs, and securing Egypt's role as a primary gateway for intra-African trade under the AfCFTA.



► Amr Kamel

Afreximbank's Executive Vice President in Charge of Business Development & Corporate Banking

This marks yet another remarkable milestone in our longstanding partnership with the National Bank of Egypt. It is a multifaceted partnership that encompasses end-to-end financial solutions spanning from project conception, through to project implementation and project operations, underpinned by the provision of bespoke financial advisory services."

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ DE-RISKING AGRI-INVESTMENT LINKAGES – THE TOMATO VALUE CHAIN PROJECT



The Challenge: The tomato value chain, despite its size, suffered from poor linkages between primary producers and industrial processors, creating volatility and making industrial investment into local sourcing risky.



The Solution: The project established the Tomato Learning and Service Center (TLSC) at Alexandria University, an official B2B networking and contract farming platform. The centre de-risks investment by providing quality assurance, technical training, and direct linkage services.



Voices from the Field: Prof. Dr. Manal Saied Tawfik proudly sees her work recognized and uplifted through both hardware and software. This reinforces the role of her department as both serving the civil society and solving its various problems in industrial or agricultural communities.



► **Manal Tawfik**

Professor and Head of the Food Technology Science Department, Faculty of Agriculture - Alexandria University

The Center supports educational needs regardless of the level of study from undergraduate to graduate. Conducting trainings and seminars that include information about tomatoes at the center [means that] it will be considered a reference place for everyone involved in the production or manufacturing of tomatoes.”

ACCELERATING THE GREEN INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION



This flagship component is the engine of Egypt's green transition, proving that environmental sustainability and industrial competitiveness are two sides of the same coin. With the largest portfolio of projects under the PCP, this pillar has driven a profound structural shift across the industrial base, directly supporting Egypt's National Climate Change Strategy 2050.

Our efforts go far beyond pilot projects. We have been reshaping entire market systems—from establishing the Energy Service Company (ESCO) market model to creating the first national standards for bio-based products and plastic alternatives. By mobilizing over \$17 million in green financing and equipping hundreds of factories with resource-efficient technologies, the PCP has been helping Egyptian industry decouple growth from carbon emissions. Whether it is phasing out ozone-depleting substances or pioneering the circular economy in electronics and textiles, this pillar is future-proofing Egypt's manufacturing sector against a carbon-constrained global economy.

The scale of transformation is measurable and vast. Through the Montreal Protocol portfolio alone, a 70% reduction in HCFC consumption was achieved, helping major manufacturers convert their production lines to climate-friendly alternatives. In the circular economy, Africa's first network equipment repair center was launched, proving that high-tech waste can be a resource, not a burden. Meanwhile, the programme's support for green MSMEs has empowered over 170 enterprises—many women-led—to turn agricultural waste into value, generating EGP 1.7 billion in revenue. This is the green economy in action: creating jobs, saving resources, and opening new export markets for Egyptian innovation.



**DID
YOU
KNOW**

Sustainability can go viral. The "**Kalelha**" campaign against **single-use plastics** partnered directly with retail giants, placing the message right at the checkout counter and **reaching millions** of Egyptian consumers in their daily lives.

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES AND CLIMATE MITIGATION – THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL PROJECT



The Challenge: Egypt, as a party to the Montreal Protocol, needed to phase out Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) in its large refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) manufacturing and servicing sectors to meet global climate targets.



The Solution: The comprehensive Montreal Protocol portfolio provided investment and technical assistance to AC manufacturers to convert production lines to low-GWP refrigerants and established the pilot Recovery, Recycling, and Reclamation (RRR) infrastructure to manage old refrigerants.



Voices from the Field: Sometimes revolutionizing its industry does not need a revolution. Just the right partners and their power and will to work together such as Egypt's National Ozone Unit, UNIDO and the private sector.



► **Maro Nagy**
R&D Manager, Fresh AC Factory

We converted our manufacturing processes using HCFC-22 to those with non-ozone depleting substances. UNIDO provided us with the required equipment and tools. We, in turn at R&D, have done the necessary tests to check on the performance and safety aspects of the devices.”

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ GREEN JOBS & FINANCING THE SMALL – THE INCLUSIVE GREEN GROWTH IN EGYPT (IGGE) PROJECT



The Challenge: Green MSMEs and startups, especially in Upper Egypt, faced a critical gap: lack of tailored financial products, high entry barriers, and low institutional capacity to manage climate-related investments.



The Solution: The IGGE project designed and launched tailored green financial products with local institutions, providing specialized incubation, acceleration, and co-financing, directly linking green business models to market growth and job creation in marginalized communities.



Voices from the Field: When centuries-old traditions face the rise of human questioning mind and of technology, the choice is not hard to make. Sugarcane straw is no longer a waste to be burnt. Investing in smart solutions that bring benefits to both people and planet becomes a clear path that all economic actors can understand. To engage on this path however requires work, dedication and time.



► **Sayed Hammad**
CEO of Arab Co. for
Investment and
Agricultural Development
in Luxor

We started on a small scale working with only one machine; we now have 25 machines in only one district. UNIDO has supported in all steps of the way.”



► **Abdallah Abbas**
CEO of Wady El-Neel Co. for
Waste Management in Qena

As a company, we buy the product and give the farmers money in exchange. If the farmers need this product, we collect it, chop it, and give it to the farmers in exchange of money. UNIDO has a massive role in the networking; there was a lot of awareness with the farmers and they helped us connect to buy their products. UNIDO is currently connecting us to the governorate and their farms, in addition to teaching us about exporting.”

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ PIONEERING E-WASTE CIRCULARITY – THE SWITCH TO CIRCULAR ECONOMY (SWITCH2CE) PROJECT



The Challenge: The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector generates significant e-waste, but Egypt lacked local infrastructure and capacity for advanced electronics refurbishment, leading to linear consumption and high replacement costs.



The Solution: UNIDO partnered with global tech companies to establish Africa's first network equipment repair center in Egypt, supporting local technical training and creating a scalable model for reducing e-waste and extending the lifespan of valuable network hardware. In addition, interactive education through games has broken the stiff walls that the young generation hits whenever confronted with abstract theories; concrete understanding and co-designed ideas and solutions are building a culture where circularity is lived and not only taught.



Voices from the Field: In Egypt, highly skilled technical jobs, especially in electronics repair, are traditionally dominated by men. The SWITCH2CE project addressed this cultural and economic barrier by creating specialized training tracks focused on mobile repair and circularity, deliberately recruiting young women to pioneer green technical roles. This intervention transformed e-waste from a pollution problem into a skilled economic opportunity, preparing young women to enter the fastest-growing sector of the new green economy as certified technicians and entrepreneurs. Values such as entrepreneurial spirit, long-term commitment to sustainability, breaking the gender glass ceiling and engrained green education have proved their practical meaning in Egypt.



► **Salma Ahmed**

Student at electro MISR school

We started with the theory, which was tough. But once we moved to the practical side, I started applying what I'd learned, and it became easy. I ended up feeling more confident in myself, and I could even start my own small business. Especially because some girls aren't comfortable sending their phones to a guy, so I could help them by fixing the phone for them."

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ TEXTILE WASTE VALORISATION – THE SWITCHMED / MED TEST III PROJECT



The Challenge: Egypt generates over 212,000 tons of valuable post-industrial textile waste annually, waste out of which half still contains cotton or cotton-rich materials. Yet poor collection and sorting practices limit its value, forcing recyclers to import material and hindering the formation of a formal recycling ecosystem.



The Solution: The SwitchMed / MED TEST III project launched a pilot focused on teaching segregation at source (by color and fiber composition) to textile producers. This was combined with facilitating matchmaking between producers and recycling firms and implementing a digital waste tracking platform to enhance traceability and price transparency.



Voices from the Field: The project didn't just teach new methods; it reconnected the broken or yet-non-existing threads of the value chain. The intervention successfully facilitated matchmaking between textile companies and key recycling firms. By standardizing the waste and creating direct business agreements, the material instantly became more valuable. The economic shift was dramatic: some companies recorded price increases for their waste with spikes of up to 300%. This success proved the incredible potential of a new, virtuous circular model and has already led to the valorization of 2,400 tons of textile waste. To safeguard this momentum, the next step is establishing a Waste Management Quality Label (WMQL) to cement trust, ensure transparency, and create a triple-win scenario benefiting recyclers, producers, and global brands pursuing circular sourcing in Egypt.



► **Ahmed Ibrahim**

Country Supply Chain Director,
Jade Textile Group

When we joined the SwitchMed programme we received technical training to enable segregation from the source. Today, we segregate the waste by customer, fabric type, colours... The value of joining this programme is that we are now able to sell our waste for around three times more than what we used to sell in the past."

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ ENERGY EFFICIENCY MARKET CREATION – THE SOLAR HEATING FOR INDUSTRIAL PROCESS (SHIP) PROJECT



The Challenge: Industrial facilities faced high upfront costs and lack of specialized green financing options, slowing the adoption of proven clean technologies like Solar Water Heaters (SWH) for process heat.



The Solution: The project partnered with the National Bank of Egypt (NBE) to create a dedicated \$4 Million Solar Revolving Fund, de-risking technology investments and building the financial sector's capacity to appraise and finance industrial energy projects.



Voices from the Field: SHIP beneficiaries are a testimony of the power of the green industrial investment; when technical clarity meets financial ROI meets finance mobilization meets workforce capacity building meets replication; this is when ecosystem transformation can be achieved.



“

► **Mohamed Sabry**
Deputy Director, Egyptian
National Cleaner Production
Center (ENCPC)
(during the project)

The most important advantage of the technical assistance is that the comprehensive auditing report for thermal energy gives a vivid and accurate vision before installing the solar heating technology applications in the facility.”



“

► **Hesham M.A Elsafty**
Group Head, National
Bank of Egypt (NBE)

50% of it was subsidized by GEF with low interest in addition to another 50% of the loan provided by NBE to finance the installation of SWH systems.”



“

► **Ehab Ismail**

Chairman of New and Renewable
Energy Authority (NREA)

*The training center
for the installation
and maintenance
of the Solar Water
Heaters [...] developed a
framework to facilitate
preparing more than
100 technicians and
engineers to master
the installation of Solar
Water Heaters.”*

“



► **Ahmed Wafq**

Managing Director, Integral RISE

*This will encourage
neighboring
industrial
enterprises to adopt
the same operating
method... to eventually
convert the whole
industrial zone into a
more environmentally
friendly ones.”*

“



► **Hesham Elghoroury**

Chairman, TIBA Starch & Glucose
Manufacturing Co.

*This study revealed
the possibility of
saving more than
20% of the total
energy consumed.”*

SMART CITIES AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL PARKS



Industrial growth cannot happen in isolation from the communities and environments that host it. This component introduces a spatial dimension to the PCP, transforming how industrial zones and urban centers interact with nature and resources. We are moving away from the traditional "industrial estate" model toward the globally recognized Eco-Industrial Park (EIP) framework.

By establishing a national EIP roadmap and deploying technical teams to pilot zones, we have been demonstrating how industrial symbiosis—where one factory's waste becomes another's fuel—can drastically cut costs and emissions. Simultaneously, in tourism hubs, we are pioneering climate-smart urban planning that protects biodiversity while sustaining the local economy. This is a holistic approach to development, ensuring that Egypt's cities and industrial zones are not just engines of production, but models of resilience and livability.

We have moved from concept to concrete implementation. Our technical assistance has already delivered tangible resource savings—reducing CO2 emissions by over 4,000 tons annually across our pilot parks. But we are also looking at the bigger picture: our initiatives in coastal cities are rewriting the rulebook for sustainable development, integrating biodiversity protection directly into urban investment planning. By developing Egypt's first climate-smart capital investment plan for a city, we are creating a replicable model for sustainable tourism infrastructure that balances economic vitality with the preservation of fragile ecosystems. This component proves that smart planning pays dividends for both the economy and the environment.



**DID
YOU
KNOW**

Green isn't just good for the planet; it's good for the bottom line. In just one year, the pilot Eco-Industrial Parks documented over **\$220,000 in direct financial savings** for tenants. By optimizing water and energy use, these factories proved that efficiency is a competitive advantage.

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ ECO-INDUSTRIAL PARKS IMPACT – THE GLOBAL ECO-INDUSTRIAL PARKS PROGRAMME (GEIPP)



The Challenge: Traditional industrial parks were major sources of waste, pollution, and inefficient resource consumption, lacking the policy and technical tools to transition toward a circular model.



The Solution: The GEIPP developed the national EIP roadmap and action plan, then implemented technical assistance in three pilot parks, focusing on industrial symbiosis, cleaner production, and resource efficiency measures.



Voices from the Field: Validating the business case for adopting resource efficiency and environmental standards in industrial zones is not always a walk in the park; it needs convincing both developers and manufacturers of the direct financial and competitive benefits.



► **Bassel Shoirah**

General Manager, Polaris Industrial Park

“UNIDO played a key role in helping us understand our positioning compared to international standards. For us, as developers, it enables us to provide eco-industrial zones that meet global standards; for the investors, it ensures that their presence in an environmentally friendly industrial zone that adheres to international standards and export regulations, improves production efficiency and ultimately lead to greater profitability.”



► **Ahmed Gamal**

HSE Manager, Edita Group

“Our environmental sustainability vision began in 2017. But it is the feasibility studies conducted by the project that helped Edita in reducing energy consumption which is a significant portion of production costs. Through the implementation of environmental sustainability standards, Edita aspires not only to be a leader in the food industry in Egypt but also to be the benchmark for manufacturers in the same sector. By adopting international standards, Edita aims to represent Egyptian food industries on a global level.”

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ CLIMATE-SMART URBAN RESILIENCE – THE GREENING HURGHADA PROJECT



The Challenge: The coastal city of Hurghada, a critical tourism hub, was highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, biodiversity threats, resource scarcity, and pollution from urban and tourism activities, lacking integrated planning.



The Solution: The project focused on high-level planning, developing a Climate-Smart Capital Investment Plan and integrating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) principles to guide low-carbon, resilient investment in infrastructure and tourism.



Voices from the Field: Moving the Greening Hurghada vision forward required breaking down traditional silos between government and the private sector. The Red Sea Governorate and the Ministry of Environment successfully convened an unprecedented coalition, bringing together the Egyptian Hotel Association (EHA), the Chamber of Diving and Water Sports (CDWS), and local conservation NGOs like HEPCA. This collaborative platform was essential for ensuring that the new Climate-Smart Capital Investment Plan (CIP) and SEA guidelines were not just theoretical documents but were designed with the direct input of the hotel owners and tour operators whose investments would ultimately drive the city's green transformation.



STRENGTHENING VALUE CHAINS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



True industrial success is measured by who benefits from it. This component focuses on the "human face" of industrialization, ensuring that the gains of modernization reach smallholders, women entrepreneurs, and rural communities in Upper Egypt. We work deeply within strategic sectors—textiles, agro-food, and handicrafts—to repair fragmented supply chains and elevate Egyptian products to global standards.

Our intervention is systemic: we build the capacity of farmers to meet international quality norms, upgrade processing technologies to reduce waste, and open doors to high-value export markets. Through initiatives like better cotton standards and specialized service centers, we are replacing subsistence models with competitive agribusiness. Crucially, this pillar champions social equity, having empowered thousands of women to move from informal work to becoming certified artisans, business owners, and leaders in their communities.

The impact is best seen in the lives changed and markets opened. We successfully introduced sustainable cotton standards to over 3,600 farmers, directly linking them with global luxury brands. In the agro-food sector, the establishment of a national center of excellence at Alexandria University has created a permanent hub for innovation, training hundreds of students and producers to reduce post-harvest losses. Meanwhile, our women's economic empowerment programmes have become a catalyst for independence, supporting over 7,000 women to launch businesses in sectors ranging from palm handicrafts to medicinal plants. By connecting these local producers to national trade fairs, we are turning local heritage into global opportunity.



**DID
YOU
KNOW**

To export, you need proof of quality. The PCP supported key national bodies like **EOS** and **GOEIC** to obtain international accreditation (ISO 17025, ISO 17065). This technical "seal of approval" acts as a global passport, allowing Egyptian products to cross borders without facing costly re-testing.

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT – THE RABEHA PROGRAMME



The Challenge: Women in marginalized governorates (e.g., Fayoum, Assiut) lacked access to skills, finance, and market linkages necessary to transition their small handicraft and agri-business ventures into sustainable, formal enterprises.



The Solution: The Rabeha Joint Programme provided tailored capacity building, cluster formation support, and market access facilitation, proving the efficacy of targeted support for women's entrepreneurship and job placement in resilient sectors.



Voices from the Field: Empowering rural women meant managing an ideal combination of traditions, women's resilient spirit and modern entrepreneurial tools and thinking. Recognizing the need to provide fair wages and a sustainable source of income for women, their families and the village communities, Jackleen Maher, with the support of the Rabeha programme, launched Jadila, a project that merges local material, traditional crafts with modern designs; and also addressing the many challenges that women typically experience: learning manufacturing processes, training craftswomen in new techniques, changing perceptions, marketing.



► **Jackleen Maher**
Jadila, Fayoum Governorate)

The craft of making products from palm waste has been a part of our heritage for generations.

However, the existing products were outdated, and there was no recognized brand to compete in international markets. My vision was to integrate other handicrafts with palm products, collaborating with craftswomen and university graduates to create environmentally friendly, modern, heritage products. Rabeha provided the much-needed support, addressing, [in addition,] critical aspects such as cost calculation, pricing, and creating a professional business model.”

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ THE POWERFUL THREADS OF SUSTAINABILITY – THE EGYPTIAN COTTON PROJECT



The Challenge: The Egyptian cotton sector, renowned for its quality, faced obsolescence due to outdated farming practices, environmental concerns, and a lack of modern sustainability standards required by global brands and retailers.



The Solution: The project successfully introduced and institutionalized the "Better Cotton" (BCI) standard, providing technical training to thousands of farmers and creating direct commercial linkages with international sustainable brands and retailers.



Voices from the Field: The BCI certification milestone made it that the enhanced connection of the full value chain from field to high-end fashion became real when global brands like Prada and the Zegna Group joined the regenerative agriculture trials firsthand, on the field, in Kafr el Sheikh and Borg El Arab. This multi-stakeholder platform improves farmers and practitioners' knowledge about innovative practices; it supports brands to understand the local context and different private and public sector roles, in order to know how to support and build local capacity; it provides brands with the traceability and compliance assurance needed to meet EU & US due diligence requirements.



► **Senior representative**

of the Cotton Egypt Association
(CEA)

Achieving BCI certification was essential, as international brands will no longer buy cotton unless they are certain it is produced sustainably. This project secured the future of our cotton on the global stage."

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ FOOD SAFETY & INNOVATION INFRASTRUCTURE – THE TOMATO VALUE CHAIN PROJECT



The Challenge: The agro-processing sector, particularly tomatoes, suffered from high post-harvest losses and limited adoption of modern food safety and processing standards, inhibiting high-value export readiness.



The Solution: The established national Center of Excellence, the Tomato Learning and Service Center (TLSC) at Alexandria University, provides specialized, high-tech training, product development, and quality assurance services (HACCP, GMP).



Voices from the Field: The transformation of Egypt's tomato sector required creating a unified knowledge pipeline to move from raw commodity to high-value food products. The TLSC acts as that vital hub, ensuring that the crop produced by farmers is of the quality required by the processing industry, safeguarding investment and maximizing value.



► **Hiba Salama**

Vice Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture for Community Service and Environmental Development Affairs, Alexandria University

The positive impact of the center will begin by supporting the Egyptian tomato farms and providing them with an abundant amount of information about the best varieties to plant and the best climate and planting conditions for planting and service operations until we end up with a high-quality crop that can be used in manufacturing. Then, the center will support by providing training to the technicians, management, and workers who oversee the manufacturing process. This will help produce high-quality products for the Egyptian market and support the economy and the tomato value chain on the global stage.”

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ RURAL FOOD SECURITY & RESILIENCE – THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME JOINT PROJECT



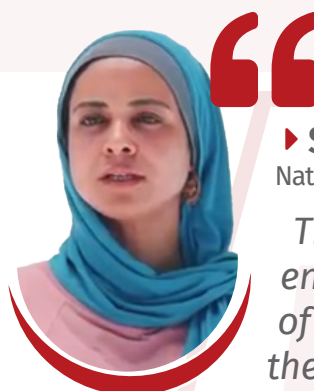
The Challenge: Rural communities in Southern Egypt lacked resilience and the infrastructure to reduce high post-harvest losses, leading to food insecurity and volatile incomes for smallholder farmers.



The Solution: The joint project established new, community-managed food processing facilities with integrated cold chain systems, and capacitated Community Development Associations (CDAs) to function as local, resilient SME hubs.



Voices from the Field: Being a globally leading region in tomato production does not always mean success when faced with post-harvest surplus and waste. To combat this, they partnered with community / social associations and the private sector, both with international markets links, to leverage a powerful local advantage: the intense desert sun. The solution was the establishment of a solar drying shed designed to transform fresh tomatoes into high-value, non-perishable "sun-kissed gold." This required recruiting the community and intensive practical training for over local workers, engineers, and agriculture students, ensuring high-quality standards and independent operational ability. After just one week of rigorous work, the community successfully produced its first batch of premium dried tomatoes, instantly proving its capacity for sustainable economic independence. The project is now set to boost local employment.



► Shaimaa Amasha

National Coordinator for the Project

The primary axis was enhancing the role of the association in the activity, and the second axis is market linkage. The association now has the integrated model for operating the drying shed, hoping that in the next season, they can operate the shed from A to Z in an independent and sustainable manner."



► Yasser Abdel Mawgoud

Dandarah Association

We hope that in the next season, the shed will be operating at full capacity and will provide job opportunities for youth, and at the same time, work to improve the income of small farmers."

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ CLUSTERS AND LOCAL COMPETITIVENESS – THE TRADE, INDUSTRY, GROWTH AND RAPID MARKET ACCESS (TIGARA) PROJECT



The Challenge: Key regional clusters (e.g., textiles, honey, dates, medicinal plants) needed strategic support to overcome compliance barriers, fragmented operations, and poor market access to compete effectively in domestic and export markets.



The Solution: The TIGARA project initiated detailed diagnostic studies and provided technical assistance tailored to the unique needs of high-potential clusters, focusing on developing cluster roadmaps and closing quality/compliance gaps.



Voices from the Field: Egypt's Silicon Valley is the New Valley Oasis where a promising future began to ripen for five date producers. Based on the initial diagnostic, TIGARA delivered a comprehensive cluster strategy for the sector's sustained competitive advantage. The core of this support rests on four strategic pillars: Quality and Skill improvement via training on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and modern packaging; strengthening the entire supply chain with Circular Economy practices, including palm waste valorization; driving Digital Transformation to enhance traceability and efficiency; and facilitating ongoing Market Access through B2B engagements and certification guidance. This groundwork enabled the five selected date producers to make a powerful statement at a critical industry event: the prestigious Dates Festival in El-Bahareya Oasis, allowing cluster members to immediately put their improved product quality and business skills to the test, and opening concrete opportunities in both local and international markets.



► Dr Abdul Wahab Zayed

Secretary-General of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation

The festival has become a practical platform to empower Egyptian date farmers, manufacturers and exporters, a space to accelerate the transfer of knowledge and technology and improve quality, and a bridge to international markets. [We are] determined to deepen this path and expand its impact, so that the festival remains not only the largest annual market for dates and their products, but also a living laboratory for turning solutions into a viable economic, social and environmental reality."

MAINSTREAMING

INDUSTRY 4.0 AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



In an era of rapid technological change, standing still means falling behind. This component is dedicated to accelerating Egypt's leap into the Fourth Industrial Revolution. We are bridging the digital divide by equipping manufacturers, policymakers, and the future workforce with the skills and strategies needed to navigate a data-driven world.

Our work lays the critical infrastructure for a smart economy. From conducting Digital Readiness Assessments for factories to launching e-commerce pilots for women-led SMEs, we are ensuring that digital transformation is inclusive and practical. By fostering partnerships between academia, global tech giants, and the government, we are building an innovation ecosystem where Egyptian industry doesn't just consume technology, but masters it to boost productivity and quality.

This leap is powered by strategic alliances. We have initiated the first comprehensive digital readiness assessments for key industrial clusters, providing the data needed to guide national policy. On the ground, we have partnered with leading technology providers to establish innovation centers that serve as live testbeds for smart manufacturing technologies. Simultaneously, we are ensuring no one is left behind; our e-commerce training has enabled hundreds of women entrepreneurs to bypass traditional barriers and access new digital markets. By combining high-tech innovation hubs with grassroots digital literacy, we are building a resilient, digitally fluent industrial workforce ready for the challenges of tomorrow.



**DID
YOU
KNOW**

Digital transformation needs people. The PCP-aligned "**Future Work is Digital**" initiative has trained over **1.6 million** young Egyptians in digital skills since 2020. This massive influx of talent is the human engine that will power Egypt's future.

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ POLICY FRAMEWORK AND DIGITAL READINESS – THE TRADE, INDUSTRY, GROWTH AND RAPID MARKET ACCESS (TIGARA) PROJECT



The Challenge: The Egyptian cotton sector, renowned for its quality, faced obsolescence due to outdated farming practices, environmental concerns, and a lack of modern sustainability standards required by global brands and retailers.



The Solution: The project successfully introduced and institutionalized the "Better Cotton" (BCI) standard, providing technical training to thousands of farmers and creating direct commercial linkages with international sustainable brands and retailers.



Voices from the Field: The BCI certification milestone made it that the enhanced connection of the full value chain from field to high-end fashion became real when global brands like Prada and the Zegna Group joined the regenerative agriculture trials firsthand, on the field, in Kafr el Sheikh and Borg El Arab. This multi-stakeholder platform improves farmers and practitioners' knowledge about innovative practices; it supports brands to understand the local context and different private and public sector roles, in order to know how to support and build local capacity; it provides brands with the traceability and compliance assurance needed to meet EU & US due diligence requirements.



► **Aya Salama**

Policy and Communications
Associate, Egypt Impact Lab

The biggest opportunity for Egypt's development is harnessing the power of industrial data to inform evidence-based policy, and ensuring this data is accessible, reliable, and actionable for all."

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ DIGITAL SKILLS & INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM – THE SIEMENS AND ITIDA PARTNERSHIP



The Challenge: The industrial and academic sectors struggled to bridge the digital skills gap, lacking access to commercial-grade software and training platforms necessary to teach advanced Industry 4.0 concepts to students and professionals.



The Solution: UNIDO facilitated a major private sector partnership, securing a collaboration between the IT Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) and the global industrial software leader Siemens Digital Industries Software.



Voices from the Field: Egypt has the largest and youngest talent pool in the Middle East and the second largest in the Middle East and Africa region with nearly 600,000 university graduates join the workforce each year. Egypt is strategically shifting its focus from simply consuming technology to designing the core components that power the digital world. In the heart of the New Administrative Capital's Knowledge City, Egypt has inaugurated its future with the Siemens Industry 4.0 Innovation Center, the first facility of its kind in the Middle East. Underlining the government's commitment to digital transformation, the Prime Minister's visit highlighted this joint project's role as the nation's launchpad into the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The center operates as a three-part ecosystem, featuring a Smart Factory Showroom with AI-powered robotics and 3D metal forming, a certified Training Lab for industrial upskilling, and a vital Innovation Lab where enterprises and students can design and test virtual prototypes. This pioneering hub is committed not only to boosting local manufacturing competitiveness and adopting advanced technologies but also to promoting environmental sustainability, including the use of digital solutions for smart water stations and the transition toward net-zero carbon emissions. By transferring cutting-edge knowledge and supporting indigenous innovation, the center is actively shaping an Egyptian industrial sector that is smart, efficient, and globally competitive.



► **Mostafa El-Bagoury**
CEO of Siemens Egypt

The Siemens Industry 4.0 Innovation Center includes the latest programs and technological solutions from Siemens and serves as a catalyst for Egypt's industrial digital transformation. This transformation relies on cutting-edge applications of artificial intelligence, digitalization, automation, advanced manufacturing technologies, and more. These innovations will bring an unprecedented leap to the local industrial sector.”

HIGHLIGHTS

➔ INCLUSIVE E-COMMERCE ADOPTION – THE RABEHA PROGRAMME



The Challenge: Women-led MSMEs, particularly those in rural or traditional sectors, were often excluded from the economic benefits of digitalization due to lack of digital literacy and e-commerce skills.



The Solution: The Rabeha Programme integrated targeted training modules on digital marketing, online sales platforms, and e-commerce readiness, ensuring that marginalized women entrepreneurs could access broader domestic and international markets.



Voices from the Field: Shrouk Agag's journey began not in a boardroom, but selling snacks in her schoolyard, cementing her identity as a natural trader. That passion blossomed into an online clothing business during college, yet she faced relentless opposition from her father and young husband, who insisted her only place was at home. Despite their disapproval, Shrouk was fiercely persistent, often hiding her merchandise just to continue the work that thrilled her and earned her own money. Her personal defiance soon transformed into a deep sense of social responsibility for her fellow community members. Recognizing the need to grow for everybody's sake, Shrouk joined the Rabeha Joint Programme, where she learned critical business skills like supply chain optimization and strategic marketing, leading to a 50% income increase in just nine months. Today, Shrouk is developing her own B2B e-commerce app, Yalla Jomla, a digital platform designed to further empower hundreds more female entrepreneurs toward financial independence.



► Shrouk Agag

Participant of Rabeha Joint Programme and the founder of Yalla Jomla

My business is not only important to me, but it is a lifeline for more than 400 women – mainly divorcees and widows – who buy from me in order to run a business and support themselves and their children.”



STRATEGIC OUTLOOK: BUILDING A RESILIENT FUTURE

The first phase of the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) in Egypt (2020–2024) has established a robust foundation for inclusive and sustainable industrial transformation. By leveraging nearly \$62 million in technical cooperation, the PCP has successfully aligned global expertise with national priorities, driving measurable progress in green industry, institutional capacity, and social inclusion.

However, sustained economic stability, climate resilience, and competitive growth require a deliberate acceleration of the green and digital transitions. The Strategic Outlook for the next phase is focused on consolidating the governance achievements, scaling up climate finance, and mainstreaming advanced technology to maximize Egypt's long-term competitive potential.

1. Lessons Learned: From Pilot to Policy

The implementation of the PCP provided invaluable insights into the structural needs of the Egyptian industrial ecosystem, highlighting that success depends on a holistic approach that bridges policy, finance, and community empowerment:



► Governance

Lesson: Centralized coordination is vital.

Action: Institutionalize the Policy Support Unit (PSU) to streamline cross-ministerial alignment.



► Circular Economy

Lesson: Technical viability isn't enough.

Action: Create regulatory frameworks including financial incentives (tax breaks, quality labels) to drive secondary market demand.



► Inclusion

Lesson: Training alone doesn't bridge the gap.

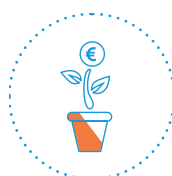
Action: Move to gender-responsive finance products and formal market linkages to overcome structural barriers



► Digitalization

Lesson: Pilots are limited in scope.

Action: Scale digital skills across the TVET system and support the launch of a National Digital Integration Strategy.



► Green Finance

Lesson: Catalytic funds are small scale.

Action: Focus on de-risking large investments for hard-to-abate sectors (steel/cement)

2. Strategic Pathways for the Next Phase

Based on the lessons learned and the successful groundwork laid across the six components, the next phase of the UNIDO-Egypt partnership will concentrate on three strategic, high-impact pathways:



PATHWAY 1: GOVERNANCE

The immediate priority is formalizing the governance structure to ensure the longevity and effectiveness of the policy outcomes achieved to date:

- **The PCP Support Unit (PSU):** Operationalize it as single interface for all industrial partners. This unit will manage data, reporting, and cross-ministerial alignment.
- **Monitoring and Learning:** Implement a systemic approach that tracks policy impact against national development indicators, ensuring adaptive management and robust evidence for policy adoption.
- **Strategy Launch:** Provide support to the new national industrial strategy and associated policy frameworks (IDTES, NCCS 2050), with Green Industry and Industry 4.0 pillars fully embedded and resourced.



PATHWAY 2: DECARBONIZATION

Building on the success of Component 3 (Accelerating the Green Industrial Revolution), the focus shifts to attracting the massive investment required for climate-resilient industrial infrastructure and energy transition. This pathway encompasses a holistic approach to net-zero. Examples:

- **Green Hydrogen:** Accelerate large-scale Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia pilot projects, particularly for decarbonizing heavy, hard-to-abate sectors like cement and steel.
- **Renewable Energy & Efficiency:** Promote the widespread deployment of renewable energy technologies (Solar PV, Wind, Solar, Thermal) and enforce rigorous energy efficiency measures to lower the energy intensity of industrial processes.
- **Advanced Technologies:** Facilitate technology transfer and pilots for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and utilization, ensuring the industry is future-proofed against global carbon regulations.
- **Circular Infrastructure:** Scale up successful circular economy pilots (textiles, plastics) through new regional projects that focus on investment in sorting infrastructure, traceability systems, and large-scale recycling technologies.
- **Resilience:** Advance the integration of climate-smart methodologies into infrastructure investment planning, for coastal protection and sustainable tourism.



PATHWAY 3: DIGITALIZATION

To ensure the digital transition is inclusive, the next phase will focus on embedding digital skills development across the workforce:

- **Industry 4.0:** Launch comprehensive programs to scale up the adoption of digital technologies across MSMEs.
- **SME and Women's Digital Capacity:** Expand technical support to regional clusters and women-led enterprises.

The success of PCP I has generated a high-quality pipeline of projects, indicating strong partner confidence and alignment with the government's ambitious trajectory. The Hard Pipeline alone represents the immediate, actionable portfolio for the next phase of the partnership and is estimated at ~\$54.6 million in potential future investments, setting the agenda for the next phase of the partnership:



► Decarbonization of Industries

Decarbonization of heavy industry and establishing a low-carbon energy export pathway



► Inclusive Green Growth – Phase II

Scaling up successful green MSME finance, green jobs, and bio-economy policy work in Upper Egypt



► Wood and Furniture

Strengthening human capital and manufacturing capacity through holistic skills training



► FARM+ Program

Climate resilience in the agri-food sector



► Rabeha Extension

Sustaining women's economic empowerment and expanding job creation efforts



► Trade Support

Enhancing trade policies and capacity for export competitiveness, focusing on green and sustainable development

Acronyms List

- AfCFTA:** African Continental Free Trade Area
- Afreximbank:** African Export-Import Bank
- BCI:** Better Cotton Initiative
- CDA:** Community Development Association
- CDWS:** Chamber of Diving and Water Sports
- CEA:** Cotton Egypt Association
- CIP:** Capital Investment Plan
- CLIEU:** Climate and Environment Investment Unit
- CSR:** Corporate Social Responsibility
- EGP:** Egyptian Pound
- EHA:** Egyptian Hotel Association
- EIP:** Eco-Industrial Park
- ENCPC:** Egyptian National Cleaner Production Center
- EOS:** Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality
- ESCO:** Energy Service Company
- EU:** European Union
- FAO:** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- FDI:** Foreign Direct Investment
- FWD:** Future Work is Digital
- GAFI:** General Authority for Investment and Free Zones
- GCF:** Green Climate Fund
- GDP:** Gross Domestic Product
- GEF:** Global Environment Facility
- GEIPP:** Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme
- GHG:** Greenhouse Gas
- GMP:** Good Manufacturing Practices
- GOEIC:** General Organization for Export and Import Control
- GWP:** Global Warming Potential
- HACCP:** Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
- HCFC:** Hydrochlorofluorocarbons
- HEPCA:** Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association
- HSE:** Health, Safety, and Environment
- ICT:** Information and Communications Technology
- IDTES:** Industrial Development and Trade Enhancement Strategy
- IGGE:** Inclusive Green Growth in Egypt
- ILO:** International Labour Organization
- IMEEP:** Industrial Motors Energy Efficiency Programme
- ISID:** Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development
- ISO:** International Organization for Standardization
- ITFC:** International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation
- ITIDA:** Information Technology Industry Development Agency
- JPPF:** Joint Project Preparation Facility
- MAPs:** Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
- MLF:** Multilateral Fund (for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol)
- MSMEs:** Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
- MVA:** Manufacturing Value Added
- NAC:** New Administrative Capital
- NBE:** National Bank of Egypt
- NCCS:** National Climate Change Strategy
- NDC:** Nationally Determined Contributions
- NREA:** New and Renewable Energy Authority
- NSC:** National Steering Committee
- NSRP:** National Structural Reform Programme
- ODS:** Ozone-Depleting Substances
- PCP:** Programme for Country Partnership
- PSU:** Policy Support Unit
- RAC:** Refrigeration and Air Conditioning
- RRR:** Recovery, Recycling, and Reclamation
- SDC:** Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- SDG:** Sustainable Development Goals
- SEA:** Strategic Environmental Assessment
- SECO:** State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (Switzerland)
- SEZ:** Special Economic Zone
- SHIP:** Solar Heating for Industrial Process
- SME:** Small and Medium Enterprise
- SWITCH2CE:** Switch to Circular Economy Value Chains
- SWH:** Solar Water Heater
- TIGARA:** Trade, Industry, Growth and Rapid Market Access
- TLSC:** Tomato Learning and Service Center
- TVET:** Technical and Vocational Education and Training
- UN:** United Nations
- UNDP:** United Nations Development Programme
- UNIDO:** United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- UNSDCF:** United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
- WFP:** World Food Programme
- WMQL:** Waste Management Quality Label



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UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION