



**WEBINAR:
WOMEN AND LAND ACCESS RIGHTS IN NORTH AFRICA**

**ADVANCING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO LAND IN EGYPT:
POLICY FRAMEWORK & COLLABORATIVE PROGRESS**

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WHAT 'LAND' MEANS TO WOMEN

- The relationship between women and land is not just a legal or technical relationship.
- It is mediated by socio-cultural norms and ideas.
- Leading to limited access to land rights and insecure property rights
- Undermines women's empowerment, preventing them from participating in the economic and political spheres.
- Improving women's access to land solves a common social problem in Egypt and Africa and enhances gender equality

CHALLENGES ACROSS THE REGION

- Women in MENA has limited access to formal land tenure, with **less than 25% having official title to land** (Adnane, S., 2018).
- The rate of active formal savings among women is lowest in the region, **4% within urban women**.
- Access to loans among women-owned formal small and medium enterprises (SMEs) is also **lowest with less than 6%** (Khodary, Y., 2022)
- Lack of formal legal property rights: an estimated number of **25 million urban women** in the MENA are affected by the lack of equal constitutional and statutory property rights (Adnane, S., 2018).
- Despite the existence of laws, women are prohibited from exercising their legal rights due to customary laws and cultural norms

THE CASE OF EGYPT

- The *Egyptian Civil and Commercial Code* gives women the right to own and access land.
- A study by Egypt's National Council for Women in cooperation with the World Bank has revealed that socio-cultural barriers hamper women's ownership of agricultural land leading to **only 5.2% of agriculture land owned by women.**
- Women have a relatively high representation in Egypt's agricultural sector,
 - ❑ the country's second-largest employer after construction,
 - ❑ employing 21.1% of the labor force
 - ❑ providing a livelihood for 55% of the general population (CAPMAS, 2019).

WOMEN CHALLENGES IN ACCESSING LAND; OWNERSHIP & REGISTRATION

- Registering land/ real estate is an **exhausting and costly process** that increases the challenges that women face when trying to obtain title deeds..
- Women appear reluctant when it comes to **inheritance rights** and still **favor granting land to their sons** rather than their daughters.
- **Persistent discriminatory societal norms** deprive women of their land and basic financial stability.
- The **absence of legal protection mechanisms** subject women to different manifestations of gender discrimination especially in case of separation or divorce.
- The **lack of recent sex-disaggregated data** specific to forms of housing and land tenure and control is a persistent issue.

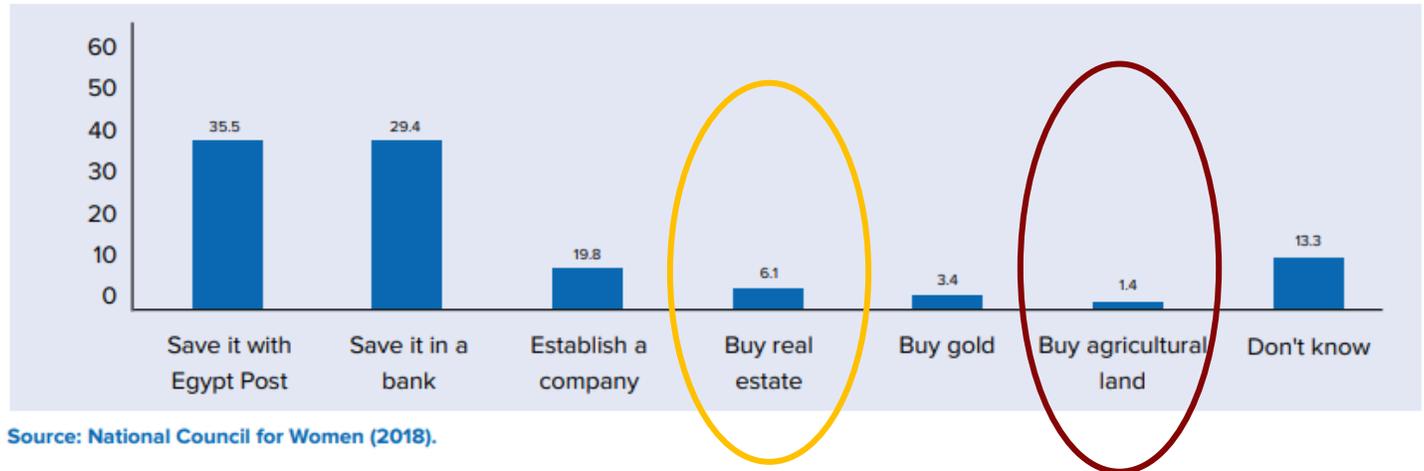
WOMEN WORKFORCE CHALLENGES IN AGRICULTURE UPPER EGYPT;

- **One-third of working women in Egypt work in agriculture**, more than half in Morocco and Sudan, and one-tenth in Tunisia.
- Women constitute approximately **43% of the agricultural labor force** and provide the majority of **unpaid labor** on family farms.
- Women in these value chains are often concentrated in **seasonal, informal, and low-paid positions**.
- Access to training for women is **limited**.
- Female farmers are often **excluded from decision-making** processes that impact agricultural production and their daily work arrangements in irrigated agriculture.
- Female participation in Water User Organizations (WUOs) ranges from **3-5% due to cultural norms and traditions**. (GIZ)

RURAL WOMEN ACCESS TO AGRICULTURE LAND;

- The **2018 survey of rural women** indicated that
- least popular response (**1.4%**) was to store wealth via purchasing agricultural land.
 - And (**6.1%**) for purchasing real estate

A survey by Baseera, in cooperation with the National Council for Women and the World Bank.



- Almost **12% of female holders' portion is less than 1 feddan**, lower than the average in the Arab world (FAO).
- Only 6% of women aged between 18-64 own any form of assets or properties. (Built environment observatory, 2022)
- 8 out of 10 women in this age group lack independent income

https://www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/country-profiles/countries-list/general-introduction/en/?country_iso3=EGY

Women and Housing 3: Systemic Barriers to Women's Right to Adequate, Safe and Independent Housing in Egypt - (مرصد العمران marsadomran.info)

LEGAL REFORMS AND AMENDMENTS

Egypt's is committed to the 'Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women' **CEDAW** and **African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights**.

Amendments of 2014 Constitution:

- **Article 9**, refers to the principle of equal opportunity and condemns discrimination against women,
- **Article 11**, ensures women's protection against violence, their equality and access to economic, social and civil rights.
- **Article 17**, rural women are also granted social security from their states

LEGAL REFORMS AND AMENDMENTS

Social

Law No. 10 of 2004 established specialized family courts, known as *Personal Status Law* courts, to handle family matters in Egypt.

Economic

Law No. 11 of 2004 created the *Family Insurance Fund*, ensuring the enforcement of judgments on maintenance or alimony payments to wives, divorcees, children, and relatives.

Political

Amendments to the Nationality Law, pursuant to Law No. 154 of 2004, enabled Egyptian mothers to pass on their *nationality* to their children.

LEGAL REFORMS AND AMENDMENTS

Social

Amendments to the Inheritance Law (Law No. 219 of 2017) revised provisions originally established in Law No. 77 of 1943, with the intention of *ensuring gender equality*

Economic

The Investment Law (Law No. 72 of 2017) underwent amendments to *ensure women's empowerment in opportunities and rights*. It offers incentives, tax breaks, and customs exemptions to support these businesses, encouraging their development and contributing to economic growth and job creation.

Political

Law No. 144 of 2020 was enacted to amend **the House of Representatives Law (Law No. 46 of 2014)**, mandating that women hold *no less than 25 percent of the total seats in the Egyptian Parliament*.

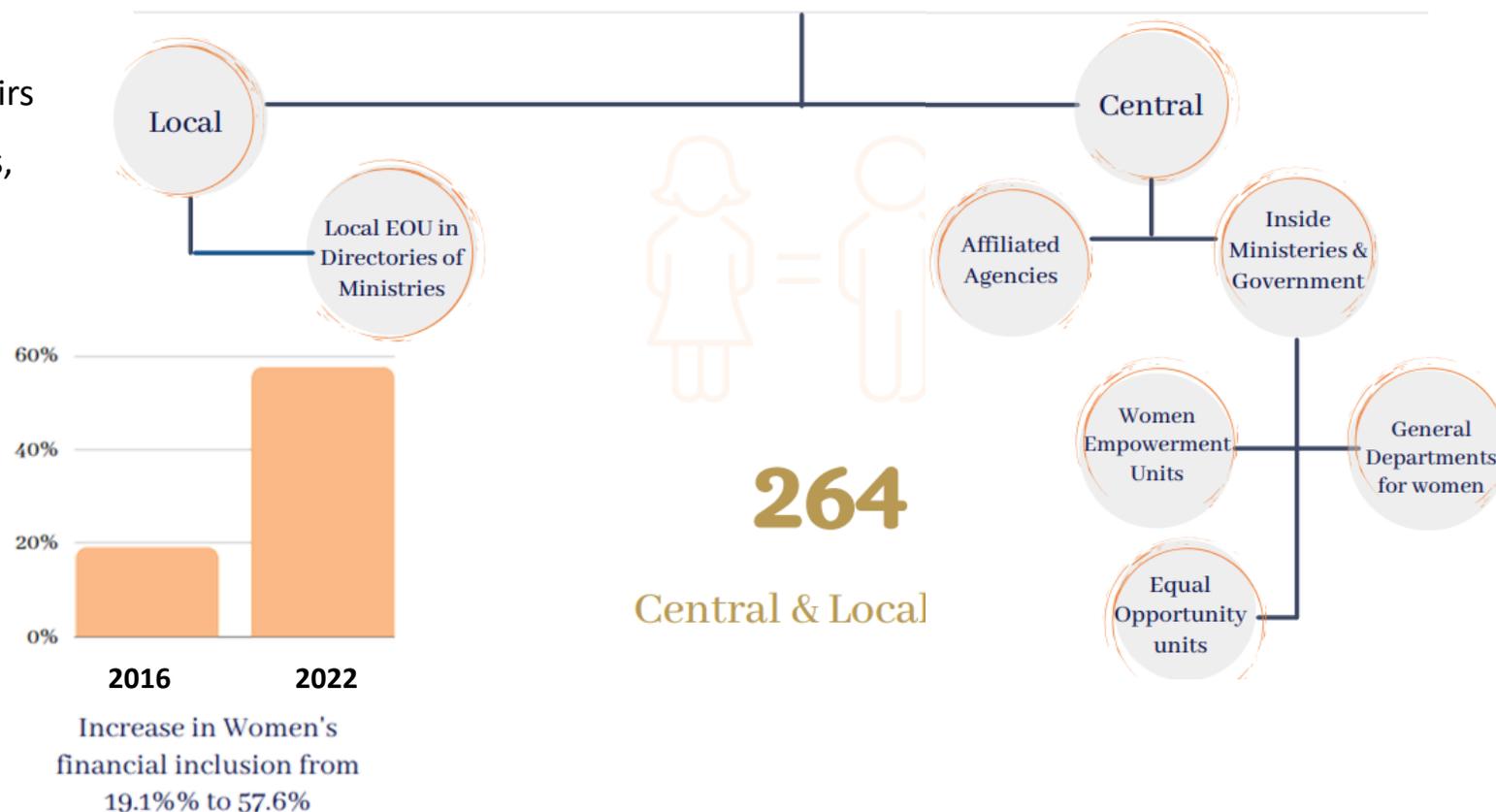
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR WOMEN (NCW)



Established in 2000, aligned with Egypt Vision 2030

- propose general policies that advance women's affairs
- integrate women's efforts in development programs,
- develop a national plan to advance women's issues
- monitor and evaluate public policies
- present suggestions to competent authorities
- provides expert commentary on draft laws and recommends new laws related to women's issues

Gender Equality & Women Empowerment Architecture



THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF EGYPTIAN WOMEN 2030

Year 2017 was the designated year of Egyptian Women

➤ 1st Pillar; Political Empowerment

legislative representation at the national and local levels/ leadership positions in executive and judicial institutions

➤ 2nd Pillar; Economic Empowerment

equal participation in labor force and employment opportunities

➤ 3rd Pillar; Social Empowerment

create opportunities for social participation, preventing unjust and harmful practices within the family

➤ 4th Pillar; Protection

eliminate all forms of violence against women

• Government Action Programme Principles

1. equality before the law;
2. political rights;
3. educational rights - including equal educational opportunities and compulsory education laws;
4. labor rights - including the right to hold public office and to equal pay;
5. maternity protection
6. laws regulating abortion;
7. Development of family arrangements



MAINSTREAMING GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN EGYPT

EGYPTIAN WOMEN'S OBSERVATORY



- Established In 2017 by the National Council for Women
- A mechanism to follow up on the implementation of goals related to the status of women during the period 2017-2030
- Monitoring indicators of the strategy
- Preparing a set of periodic reports on the status of Egyptian women, gender-based gaps, and listing and presenting laws related to women

Check online: [مرصد المرأة المصرية\(enow.gov.eg\)](http://enow.gov.eg)

EGYPTIAN WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP GUIDE



- Published in 2018
- Jointly prepared by the National Council for Women, the Egyptian Centre for Economic Studies, and Canadian Aid, seeks to advance the economic empowerment of women in Egypt.

Check online [WomEnt-Guide-Full-v.2.0-for-website.pdf](http://woment-guide-full-v.2.0-for-website.pdf) (eces.org.eg)

CLOSING THE GENDER GAP ACCELERATOR

- In 2020- National Council for Women (NCW), the Ministry of International Cooperation, and the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- First public-private collaboration model in the MENA region
- The hub for all the initiatives under the **WEP** Women's Economic Empowerment Pillar of the 'Egyptian National Strategy for the Empowerment of Women 2030'.
- Private sector engagement - **Egyptian Gender Equity Seal (EGES)**



The Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs)

- 1 Establish high-level corporate leadership for gender equality.
- 2 Treat all women and men fairly at work—respect and support human rights and nondiscrimination.
- 3 Ensure the health, safety and well-being of all women and men workers.
- 4 Promote education, training and professional development for women.
- 5 Implement enterprise development, supply chain and marketing practices that empower women.
- 6 Promote equality through community initiatives and advocacy.
- 7 Measure and publicly report on progress to achieve gender equality.

COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

The **'Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation' MALR**

engaging Egypt's smallholder farmers and prioritizing key value chains for investment potential impact of these investments on the broader agri-food sector.

In 2015-2019, the **'Water Management Reform Programme' WMRP**, in cooperation with GIZ-Egypt, MALR and farmer organizations – empowering women in irrigated agriculture

In 2023-2026, the **'Agricultural Innovation Project' AIP, GIZ**

introducing green innovations resulting in higher incomes for smallholder farmers and rural businesses in Upper Egypt.



COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

‘Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy’ SADS- 2009 by MALR / FAO

In alignment, the ‘National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030’ emphasizes the need for social insurance and income security

Roles of women in rural development stimulating institutional support for implementation through creating new credit lines and financial support

Women’s Employment Promotion in the Agriculture Sector’ WEPP- 2015, UN Women partnered with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Following the WEP framework

‘She Feeds the World’ program - 2020, Care Egypt Foundation

implemented the in cooperation with ‘Agricultural Research Center’ ARC

Provides VSLAs ‘Village Savings and Loans Associations’

Around 20 women in each village to develop an evidence-based road map for decision-makers.

Capacity development CAAES. ‘Central Administration for Agricultural Extension Services’



COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

EGYPT INCLUSIVE HOUSING FINANCE PROGRAM

Housing Finance Program-for-Results (PforR)

- Since 2015, funded by World Bank
- Among female-headed households, 8% include spouses and children, while the majority are composed of divorced, widowed with children, and unmarried individuals.
- With the help of local NGOs, the program has reached out to over 60,000 potential women beneficiaries (behavioral change trainings / economic inclusion activities).
- Around 4,000 women to date have received assets through which they can sustain their livelihoods.

Check online <https://www.shmff.gov.eg/>

[Egypt's Inclusive Housing Finance Program \(worldbank.org\)](https://www.worldbank.org/)



Results:

As of June 2022, the PforR has:

- Supported the delivery of demand-side subsidies to over **420,000 low-income households** across all **27 governorates** since program inception.



- Contributed to greater social and youth inclusion, with **51.5%** of program beneficiaries **below the age of 45** and **18%** below the age of 30.



- Prioritized families, with **55.6%** of beneficiaries being **married couples with young children**.



- Prioritized women, contributed to increased gender inclusion, and addressed the asset ownership gap, with **22%** of beneficiaries being women. This is a significant percentage as only **5%** of women in Egypt own assets (either alone or jointly), compared to **95%** of men.



GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS

HAYAH KARIMA

- Social Protection Programme 'Haya Karima', 2019
- An integrated rural development program/ presidential development initiative.
- The initiative works to achieve economic empowerment for women by enhancing their participation in the labor market.
- Covers 5,000 poor villages and marginalized rural areas through an integrated gender-transformative participatory approach
- Women benefit from loans provided through microfinance associations (220,000 women in 2021)
- Women represent 78% of the total beneficiaries of the Takaful and Karama program.

Check online www.hayakarima.com

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

2.9 BILLION

Dedicated for women

75%

Women beneficiaries of
Conditional Cash Transfer

1,200,000

ID cards for Women

FINANCIAL INCLUSION
FOR WOMEN

Targeting 500,000 Women

HAYAH KARIMA

Infrastructure enhancement, social
& economic programs

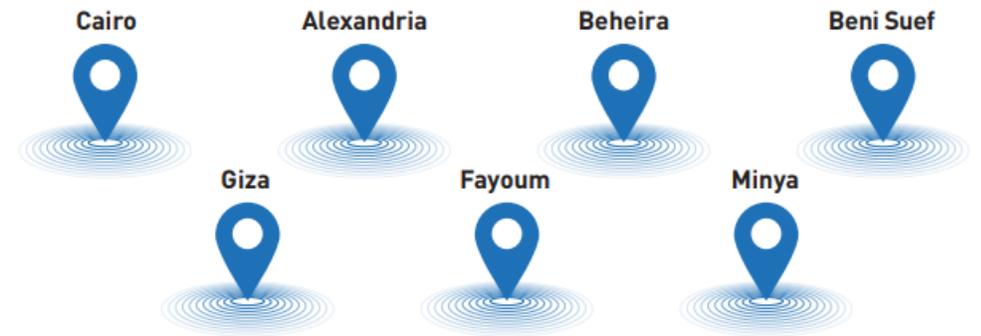
MEGA Developmental Program in
Egypt & around the World with women
included & Gender sensitive planning

50% of the
beneficiaries are going
to be women

COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS

'RABEHA' PROGRAM IN UPPER EGYPT

- 'Women Economic Empowerment for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Egypt' known as "RabeHa" program
- Implemented by UNIDO and UN Women in partnership with the National Council for Women (NCW), the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) and the Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises Development Agency (MSMEDA), with the generous support of Global Affairs Canada (GAC).
- 2022- 2023, 'RabeHa' supported **300 rural women** in the governorates of Beni Suef, Fayoum, and Minya.
- Provides technical support and employability skills training.
- UNIDO team supported job matching with companies, boosting women's confidence and financial independence.



THE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL SECTOR: EGYPT

BRIEF

MARCH 2023

- Egypt ranked **4th** out of 19 countries in the **Middle East and North Africa in the Global Gender Gap Report 2021**, with a score of 0.639, ahead of Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania.
- This is **Egypt's highest ranking in the last 10 years**, and a significant improvement from its 8th place ranking in 2020.
- Egypt is the first Arab country to apply the **Gender Equality Seal Certification Programme** in private and public institutions that offers guidance to Egyptian businesses on tackling women's challenges in areas.
- The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency **MSMEDA** was awarded the seal in 2019.
- '**Country Gender Assessment in the Agriculture and Rural Sector report- 2021** , current insights on the status of women in Egypt's rural sector
- Egypt has launched '**Global Vision of Women, Environment and Climate Change**' in New York last March 2022 as a lead-up to COP27.



COUNTRY GENDER ASSESSMENT SERIES

NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



Activating the Role of the Private Sector in Promoting Gender Equality in the MENA Region

Pilot Project Experience in Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco



THANK YOU

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