

SDG5 (Gender Equality)

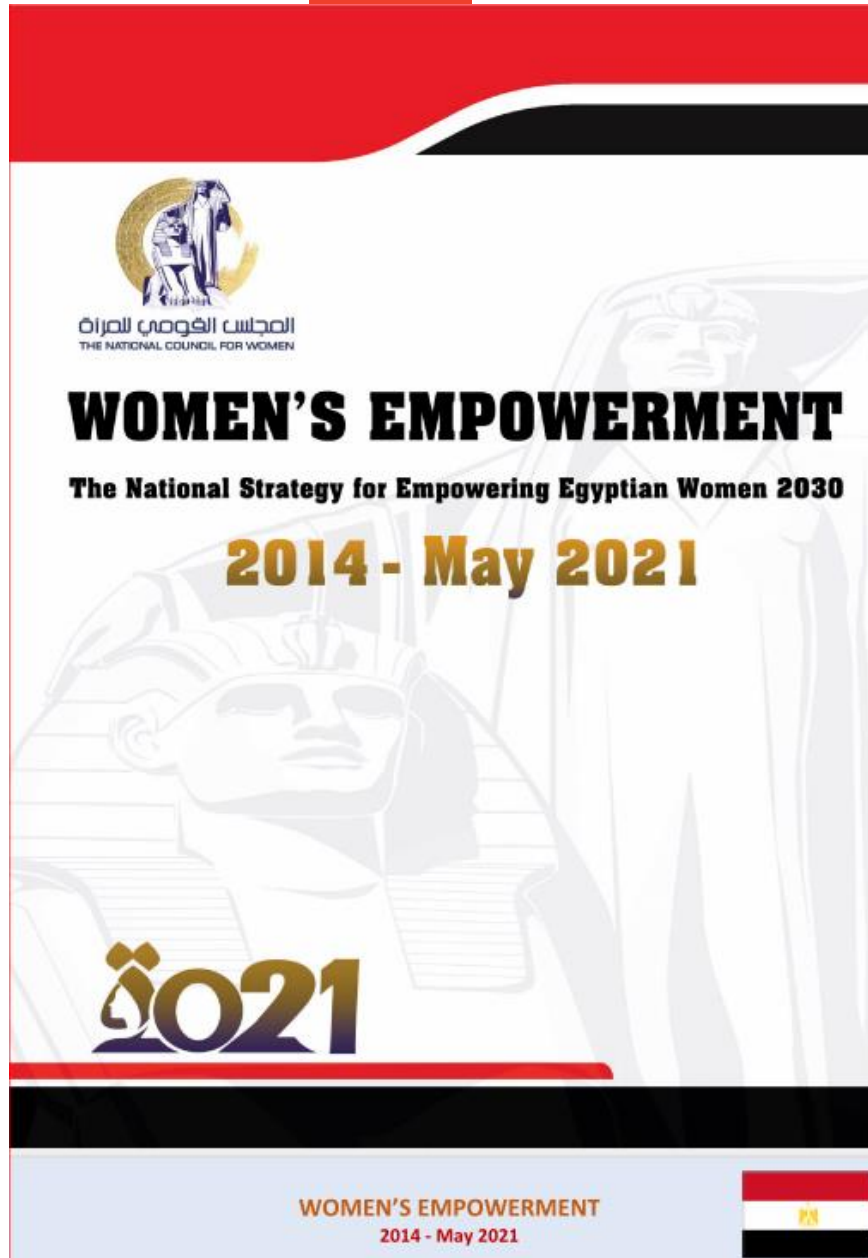
Metrics and indicators

5.6. Women's progress measures

5.6.1. Policy of non-discrimination against women Year: in place by 2021

Egypt is the first country in the world to launch a national women's strategy for 2030 that is aligned with the SDGs, confirming the country's commitment to achieving women's empowerment. Egyptian women and their determination to play an active role in women's advancement. The President of Egypt adopted the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030 in 2017. Directive to the Egyptian government to adopt all its contents and use them as a guide and a roadmap for all work related to women's empowerment.

MUST follows the laws enacted to protect women from discrimination, as well as the constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt Promulgation of 2014, Chapter Three: Public Rights, Freedoms, and Duties, Article: 53. "The state shall take all necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination," the law states, "and the establishment of an independent commission for this purpose shall be regulated."



Human Rights of Women, Children, Persons with Disabilities, Youth, and the Elderly are addressed in this focus area in five items, each highlighting strengths and opportunities, challenges and concluding with target results.

1. Women's Rights

Strengths and Opportunities

1. The Egyptian Constitution highlights the values of equality between men and women and ensures women's rights in all fields of life. Accordingly, the State commits to ensuring women's rights, realizing the principles of equality, justice, non-discrimination and equal opportunity.
2. The National Council for Women undertakes an active role in protecting and enhancing women's rights, freedoms and empowerment, and in promoting values of equality, equal opportunity, and non-discrimination.
3. The gender equality concept was integrated in Egypt's Strategy for Sustainable Development "Egypt Vision 2030".
4. Tangible progress was achieved in terms of the political, economic and social empowerment of women by implementing the "National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Woman 2030", which is the roadmap for the government to carry out all programs and activities related to women's empowerment and gender equality.
5. A mechanism was created to monitor policies and procedures taken to fight against Covid-19, considering women's needs, particularly those with disabilities, elderly and pregnant women.
6. Political Empowerment of Women:
 - a The Constitution enhances women's political participation, access to public and top management positions and appointment in the judicial authorities without any discrimination.
 - b The Constitution provides guarantees and protection for women. It ensures their right to vote in all public elections and referendums. They shall have the right to run for elections in all bodies where members are elected by public vote. The State provides all measures to ensure that women are properly represented in the parliament. It allocated a 25-percent quota for women in local councils. The 2019 constitutional amendments provided women

with a permanent representation of not less than 25 percent of the seats of the House of Representatives. Accordingly, the House of Representatives law was amended. The Senate Law stipulates that women shall occupy not less than 10 percent of the Senate seats.

- c There is an increase in women's participation in voting and nomination for elections. Women's representation reached 27 percent in the House of Representatives and around 14 percent in the Senate. In the context of continuous efforts towards enhancing the political participation of women, and their leadership roles as well as their roles in public work, women currently hold 25 percent of ministerial positions, 25 percent of top positions of the Central Bank and 12 percent of seats on boards of directors of banks. For the first time, two women were appointed as governors. Moreover, 31 percent of deputy governors' positions and 27 percent of deputy ministers' positions were accounted for by women. Women now preside over districts, city councils and villages. The first female advisor to the President for National Security Affairs was appointed.
 - d More women hold judicial positions. The State Council and the Public Prosecution started appointing a number of female judges. This is based on the State's approach to appoint women in the Public Prosecutor's Office and the State Council. This step gives effect to the constitutional entitlement of equality and non-discrimination, and stresses women's competence to hold different positions.
7. Economic Empowerment of Women
- a Many laws and legislative reforms were issued to enhance the economic rights of women, including the Civil Service Law, which provides benefits to working mothers.
 - b The law of inheritance was amended to punish those who withhold inheritance from those who have the right thereto.
 - c Article 2 of the new Investment Law No. 72 is drafted to ensure equal investment opportunities for women and men, and empower the small and medium enterprises, youth and entrepreneurship.
 - d Equal opportunity units were established in all ministries to realize gender equality in workplace and address discriminatory

practices against women. By virtue of Decree No. 1 of 2019 by the Minister of Manpower, a unit was created to achieve gender equality and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in the workplace.

- e More women participate in the labor market, with a lower unemployment rates among women as compared to men.
- f Women accounts for 78 percent of “Takaful and Karama” beneficiaries to realize their economic empowerment and improve their families’ conditions.
- g The Ministry of Social Solidarity provides soft loans for women’s small and micro enterprises, with the principal capital of these loans reaching EGP 1.4 billion directed to 240,000 women for small and micro enterprises. It should be noted that 70 percent of projects are concentrated in rural areas as a form of economic empowerment for rural women. Women accounted for 75 percent of total loans compared to 25 percent for men.
- h “Forsa” program was launched to empower women benefiting from “Takaful” pension program to have decent job opportunities through micro enterprises funded by the Ministry of Social Solidarity.
- i Several projects were carried out to enhance women’s economic empowerment, and to provide many programs of rehabilitation, training and awareness for women..
- j More small and medium enterprises are now chaired by women; small enterprises targeting women accounted for 69 percent in 2018.
- k Women’s financial inclusion is promoted by increasing women’s savings and entrepreneurship.
- l The Minister of Manpower issued two decrees in 2021 cancelling all previous decrees deemed discriminatory against women and lifting the ban on the employment of women in industries, professions and businesses. They explicitly stipulate the right of women to work during night shifts upon their request. All these procedures are part of efforts to observe principles of equal opportunity, gender equality, non-discrimination at workplace and ensuring the right to health and social care. In the same

vein, measures are taken, and services are provided in relation to safe travel, professional safety and working mothers' rights.

- m The Financial Regulatory Authority issued resolutions prohibiting any gender discrimination in dealing with clients of financial companies. Women-sensitive non-banking financial products were developed.
8. Social Empowerment of Women
- a More women are enrolled in education and hold university degrees; and the rates of illiteracy and dropout from schools have decreased among women and girls.
 - b The Constitution guarantees protection of and care for mothers and children, breadwinners, elderly and underprivileged women.
 - c Less maternal mortality is recorded.
 - d A Presidential initiative was launched to support women's health, targeting to examine 30 million women over 18 years. It seeks to achieve early detection of breast tumors and any other incommunicable diseases and provide family planning services. 11 million women had access to the initiative until December 2020.
 - e More awareness of reproductive health, family planning and healthy life is achieved. The "National Strategy for Reproductive Health 2015-2020" was issued.
 - f Women have access to social protection programs including conditional cash transfers program "Takaful and Karama" and "Haya Karima"(Decent Life) initiative.
 - g In 2018, the President launched "No more people detained for debts in Egypt" initiative to pay men and women's debts at a cost of EGP 42 million.
9. Protection of Women Against All Forms of Violence and Harmful Practices
- a In 2015, three national strategies were launched: "National Strategy for Combating Violence Against Women", "National Strategy against Female Genital Mutilation", and "National Strategy for Elimination of Early Marriage".

and Children's Rights Sector of the Ministry of Justice, women hosting and guidance centers of the Ministry of Social Solidarity, Anti-violence Unit of the National Council for Women, Anti-harassment and Violence Against Women Units in Universities, equal opportunity units, hospital-based units receiving cases of violence against women, three clinics for violence against women in the Forensic Medicine Authority and four "safe woman" units in university hospitals. The first shelter for women victims of human trafficking was established.

- h Many seminars and awareness programs were held to introduce the legal process due in cases of violence against women, to encourage women and girls to report to protect their rights.
- i Programs were carried out to strengthen capacities of law enforcement authorities, namely the Public Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Justice, Family Prosecutions' Assistants, forensic doctors and marriage registrars. Training manuals were issued for members of the Public Prosecutor's Office, judges, forensic doctors, police officers, and Ministry of Health to deal with victims of violence. Al-Azhar issued a manual to train religious leaders on women's issues. A number of services were provided for women and girls who are victims of violence.
- j Several campaigns were organized to raise awareness about the dangers of culturally inherited harmful practices including early marriage, early pregnancy, female genital mutilation, negligence of family planning and delivery without medical control, electronic crimes risks and the different forms of violence.
- k Issuing a number of guidelines for members of the Public Prosecution Office, policemen, forensic doctors, health service providers, and judges for case management and psychological support to combat crimes of violence against women.
- l Training courses and conferences were held to support male and female judges' capacities to address issues of violence against women.
- m The issuance of a number of important ministerial and administrative decisions: The Prime Minister's decision in 2021 to establish "The Combined Unit for the Protection of Women from Violence," which aims to assemble and coordinate the services

of the agencies and ministries concerned with dealing with violence against women issues in one place in order to facilitate the procedures and enable the access of abused women to these services. The decision of the Minister of Transport for the year 2021 to issue the national code of conduct for users, operators and workers in facilities and means of transportation, with the aim of combatting all forms of harassment and violence in facilities and means of transportation. The Circular Book No. 2021 for the Financial Supervisory Authority to urge companies listed on the Egyptian Stock Exchange and operating in non-banking financial activities to adopt the provisions of the ethical charter to prevent harassment, violence and harassment in the work environment.



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