



EMPOWERING WOMEN AND YOUTH TO IMPROVE HOUSEHOLD FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN EGYPT

Economic stagnation, rising poverty, and a high unemployment rate have all contributed to a lack of household food and nutrition security in Egypt. This situation has negatively impacted the nutritional outcomes of vulnerable households, and especially children, whose health status has deteriorated in recent years. This project was designed to foster the creation of a food-secure environment that would improve access to food and increase local knowledge of nutrition in some of Upper Egypt’s poorest villages. The primary beneficiaries of the project interventions were women and children. Government staff from relevant ministries also benefited from training to increase their technical and managerial skills. The overall objectives of the project were to build capacities, to improve and increase food production and income generating activities, to raise awareness of health and nutrition, and to create a monitoring and evaluation system to track the results of project interventions.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project targeted villages with high rates of food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty in five governorates: Aswan, Asyut, Beni Suef, Faiyum and Sohag. Through a combination of field interventions and education, the objectives of the project were achieved. Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLSs) were set up to increase the agricultural knowledge and entrepreneurial skills of 703 young people. Community Nutrition Kitchens (CNKs) were established, and training materials were developed for them so that participants could learn to make nutritious meals. Community Model Gardens (CMGs) were created, and some beneficiaries received plantlets to start their own gardens at home. Food Processing Schools (FPSs) were established, where beneficiaries learned to convert fresh ingredients into pickles, jams, and other foodstuffs. The food processing, preparation, preservation and processing skills of 6 685 women were improved through the interventions of the project. A total of 1 581 food-based microprojects were also developed, thanks to a revolving fund that provided financial support for starting up activities in the areas of small animal rearing, homestead food production and community gardening. A Training of Trainers (ToT) session was held for 148 women on good practices for child feeding, diets and food safety. These women then shared this information with other women in their communities. More than 700 women also benefited from training sessions on basic business skills and financial literacy. Finally, over 1 600 Government officials and community workers participated in workshops that led to the development of a communication strategy for improving nutrition and health behaviour.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 3 000 000

Duration

February 2012 – July 2019

Resource Partner

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy

Partner

Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reformation (MALR)

Beneficiaries

Vulnerable rural women and youth from food insecure households; Government staff at central and province levels



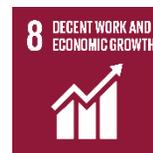
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IMPACT

The results of the project are expected to improve the nutritional status of women, children and households in the targeted villages in Egypt by increasing .

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Capacity-building activities were held for members of Community-based Organizations (CBOs), Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) community leaders, and employees from decentralized government institutions, focusing on strengthening their technical and management skills.
- Partnerships were developed among CBOs, NGOs and community organizations.
- Guided by the Food Policy Advisory Board (FPAB), the interventions of the project were coordinated and integrated at national level, using a framework based on human rights to support sustainable livelihoods, food security, and nutrition.
- A campaign to raise awareness and increase knowledge of nutrition and health was carried out.
- Household access to diverse foods and income generating activities was improved through the development of microprojects supported by the revolving fund.
- Women benefited from capacity-development activities on food production, preparation, preservation and processing.
- The level of agricultural knowledge and entrepreneurial skills of young people was increased through JFFLSs.
- Information on nutrition and food security status was collected in the targeted villages.
- A database was established for the planning and management of the project activities.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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Project Code

FAO: GCP/EGY/024/ITA

Project Title

Improving household food and nutrition security in Egypt by targeting women and youth

Contact

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Partnerships and Outreach

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