



LANDSCAPE STRATEGY FOR BUILDING SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE LANDSCAPE UPPER EGYPT (LUXOR AND QENA GOVERNORATES) SGP EGYPT

April 2023

Summary:

Qena and Luxor governorates are both located in Upper Egypt sharing common burdens such as economic growth, employment generation, connectivity, and access to services. Qena is the third poorest governorate in Upper Egypt with a poverty rate of 57.8%, Luxor is the sixth with a poverty rate of 41.2%.¹ The Upper Egypt landscape has low sewerage coverage in the range of 12-33%.² Formal private sector employment in upper Egypt represents only 7-13% of total employment upper Egypt, whereas the informal sector represents an astounding 46-54% of employment and 18-29% of the workforce are employed in the public sector³.

Egypt has been recently giving more attention to the climate change and emerging needs. GOE efforts in this regard is clear from the launch of the National Climate Change Strategy – 2050 (NCCS) by the Ministry of Environment in May 2022 and Egypt hosting the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) 27 in November 2022.

In order to prepare this landscape strategy, a multiphase approach was adopted starting with reviewing relevant documents on country and landscape levels. One of the key reference documents is the OP7 Project document that was developed after a set of consultations on landscape levels concluding the key identified gaps and potential opportunities. The desk review phase was followed by a consultation meeting conducted in Luxor in 31st of Jan 2023, under the auspices of the Governor and attended by 109 participants representing relevant stakeholders from Directorate of Youth and Sports, Education, Water Resources and Irrigation Agriculture, Housing, social solidarity, Ministry of Environment, CSOs/CBOs, National Council of Women , in addition to the SGP Program Management Team. Input from the consultation meeting along with the data gathered from the desk review were analyzed and guided the drafting of this landscape strategy.

¹ Localizing the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals at Governorate Level, January 2018

Report Prepared by Baseera, UNRCO and The United nations Population Fund (UNFPA, Egypt)

² Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), Statistics, Censuses, Percentage of households connected to public sewage network, map of the indicator by governorate (2017 numbers).

³ World Bank. More jobs, better jobs: A Priority for Egypt, 2014.





The baseline survey provides the material to develop strategies to improve community resilience in Upper Egypt Landscape. Based on the community resilience's scores assessment, in general the participants provided high scores for the "Governance and social equity" and "Biodiversity (including agriculture biodiversity".

Based on the baseline survey and consultation with the community, issues such as the poor solid waste management system and the unsafe disposal of agriculture waste, Poor irrigation practices, Lack of awareness among community members, the inefficient energy use during irrigation and on household levels, the excessive use of chemical fertilizers in agricultural lands, land degradation and lack of sewage collection and management have been identified. Based on the community resilience scoring and identified issues by community members, potential community-based projects may include: (1) enhancement of agriculture practices by enabling farmers to replace chemical fertilizers with organic fertilizers and biocides, (2) Adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions in irrigation and household consumption practises, (3) The recycle of agriculture waste into other in-demand industries such innovative handicrafts (e.g., Banana Trees waste), fodder and compost., (4) Use of creative tools and methods to raise the awareness of community members on different environmental issues, consequences and offered alternatives, (5) Recycle of sewage waste into cultivating special crops (e.g., Khaya trees), or production of organic compost, (6) Introduction of modern irrigation practices that can save water and reduce economic burden on farmers, and (7) Establishment of a sustainable solid waste management system, and (8) Work on boosting soil fertility through sustainable environmentally friendly practices.

The four targeted landscapes showed common issues that need immediate attention such as excessive use of chemical fertilizers, lack of awareness of the community members of key environmental threats and alternatives, inefficient energy use, and agriculture waste management. Additionally, each targeted landscape showed special needs based on the nature of the landscape. Implementing partners shall capitalize on the learnings from the previous phase addressing the identified needs and linking their projects to GEF full size projects to maximize the benefits generated from the implemented intervensions. Gender and youth were highlighted across the four landscapes as the two main targets to benefit from the proposed interventions and creation of livelihood opportunities is a cross cutting approach to be adopted by implementing partners.

Introduction:

The Seventh Phase of the Egypt Small Grants Programme (SGP) seeks to build socio-ecological resilience in Greater Cairo, Fayoum, Delta, and Upper Egypt landscapes through community-





based activities for global environmental benefits and sustainable development. As such, the project will support community-based oorganizations, which are the driving force in rural development strategies, to take the lead in role managing natural resources sustainably for social and ecological resilience and global environmental benefits, and in concert with other stakeholders and communities to multiply results. The landscape approach integrated into the project strategy is predicated on strengthening socio-ecological resilience. Involving multiple stakeholders in the landscapes-seascape in identifying priority issues and developing strategies for addressing these increases the overall social capital of the local communities. SGP Egypt has used a COMDEKS driven approach to formulate its landscape strategy for OP-7.

The Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative Project (COMDEKS) was launched in 2011 as the flagship of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative, and is implemented by UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Environment of Japan, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies. The Project is designed to support local community activities to maintain and rebuild socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS) and to collect and disseminate knowledge and experiences from successful actions for replication and up-scaling in other parts of the world. The project aims to develop sound biodiversity management and sustainable livelihood activities with local communities by providing direct and flexible funding opportunities to willing communities.

The developed landscape strategy is contributing to the GEF SGP OP7 Component 2: Durable landscape resilience through participatory governance and strengthened capacities for upscaling, Outcome 2.1: Strengthened community institutions for participatory governance to enhance socio-ecological resilience, Indicator 10: Participatory landscape management, as indicated by the number of landscape strategies developed or strengthened through participatory consultation and based on the socio-ecological resilience landscape baseline assessments endorsed by multi-stakeholder landscape platforms.

A landscape-wide baseline assessment of the Socio-Ecological Production Landscape (SEPL) was conducted to assess the overall performance of SEPL. The set of indicators for resilience in SEPL developed by the Satoyama initiative was used during the assessment. The resilience indicators of the scorecard exercise were developed in line with the five major goals, namely landscape/seascape diversity and ecosystem protection, Biodiversity (including agriculture biodiversity), Knowledge and innovation, governance and social equality and livelihood and wellbeing. Participants covering a diversified group of stakeholders in targeted landscapes, including local authorities, CBOs/CSOs, NCW, etc. have participated in this exercise, which was





performed as per the guidelines provided by the COMDEKS project by rating (scoring) with a scale between 1 to 5.

1- Priority Area: The Landscape, Issues and Assets, Boundaries and Biodiversity

One of the targeted landscapes for the Seventh Operational Phase of the Small Grants Program is the Upper Egypt landscape including Luxor and Qena governorate. The rationale for the selection of this landscape is based on a number of factors; the richness of natural and cultural assets, threats and opportunities in the area, unique and diverse biodiversity and the willingness of communities and other stakeholders for long-term engagement and to facilitate the collaborative landscape management effort. Also, important for selection is that Upper Egypt landscape was one of the landscapes for the sixth Operational Phase of the Small Grants Program, which shall offer opportunity to build on the work done and address lessons learned produced from OP6. The section below summarizes the landscape issues, assets and biodiversity within the landscape.

Luxor and Qena are two of the governorates selected to represent the Upper Egyptian region, which is largely rural, housing more than approximately 40% of the country's population. According to the Household Income, Expenditure and Consumption Survey completed in 2018 by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), income poverty in Egypt has increased from 27.8% in 2015, up to 32.5% at 2018, with 6.2% living in extreme poverty.⁴ Upper Egypt has the highest percentage of poverty, with seven out of the 10 poorest governorates and 941 of 1000 poorest villages are located in the region. ⁵ According to the latest statistics, 40.3% of the poor live in Upper Egypt.⁶

⁴ Household Income, Expenditure, and Consumption Survey, HIECS 2015

Egypt, Arab Rep., 2015 (last modified in 2018)

⁵ Profile of Poverty Across Egypt and Recommendations, Egypt Network for Integrated Development, Policy Brief 015, 2015

⁶ Ibid







Figure (1): Luxor and Qena governorates maps

The Upper Egypt governorates lag significantly behind the rest of the country in terms of economic growth, employment generation, connectivity, and access to services. Qena is the third poorest governorate in Upper Egypt with a poverty rate of 57.8%, Luxor is the sixth with a poverty rate of 41.2%.⁷ Rural areas of Upper Egypt are found to have the lowest living standards in Egypt as measured by household consumption (2009)⁸. The Upper Egypt landscape has low sewerage coverage in the range of 12-33%.⁹ Formal private sector employment in upper Egypt represents only 7-13% of total employment upper Egypt, whereas the informal sector represents an astounding 46-54% of employment and 18-29% of the workforce are employed in the public sector¹⁰.

Since COVID-19, Egypt's unemployment rate rose to 9.6% in the second quarter of 2020 (Q2. 2020) compared to 7.5% in the same quarter of 2019. Young people (15-29 years old) represent 60.4% of all unemployed in the country and most are women. ¹¹This is especially true in rural areas where unemployment rose despite unemployment figures being lower than in urban areas. According to CAPMAS statistics for the same period (Q2.2020), in urban areas unemployment rose to 12.5% of the labour force compared to 11.1% and in rural areas it rose to 7.4% compared to 5.1% in the same quarter of the preceding year. ¹² The Gender gap in employment rates in most rural Egypt is significantly higher than the national ratio of approximately 3 to 1 (8.2 % for

¹⁰ World Bank. More jobs, better jobs: A Priority for Egypt, 2014.

¹² Ibid

⁷ Localizing the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals at Governorate Level, January 2018

Report Prepared by Baseera, UNRCO and The United nations Population Fund (UNFPA, Egypt)

⁸ Reshaping Egypt's Economic Geography: Domestic Integration as a Development Platform, Volume II, World Bank, 2012

⁹ Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), Statistics, Censuses, Percentage of households connected to public sewage network, map of the indicator by governorate (2017 numbers).

¹¹https://enterprise.press/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/202081710522_labour-force.pdf





males compared to 23.1% for females in 2017).¹³ This is more evident in the case of Luxor where it is 9.9% for males compared to 45.3% for females. ¹⁴ In Qena, despite the existence of a number of factories and small industries as well as the Aluminum Complex and two industrial zones, the unemployment rate of males is 8.1% compared to 24.7% for females.¹⁵

In Upper Egypt, 61% of the population is under the age of 30 with 40% between the ages of 10 and 29.¹⁶ This means that any sustainable development initiative must focus on youth and take into account livelihoods and potential employment opportunities as any loss of assets or reduction of economic activities which as a result of environmental deterioration will consolidate poverty and spread its pockets.¹⁷

The impact of income poverty is exacerbated by poor living conditions and inadequate access to infrastructure and a poor ecosystem of services, including health and sanitation. This is especially true of rural areas where deprivation of sanitation is as high as 87% in rural Upper Egypt compared to 47 % in rural Lower Egypt. Food insecurity is also a problem in Upper Egypt, more so in rural areas, where the head of household is either absent, unemployed or engaged in casual or seasonal agricultural activities.¹⁸

Upper Egypt is the most conservative region of the country, with social norms that severely restrict women's mobility, employment, and education. Illiteracy is high, more so among rural residents and women. In Upper Egypt, illiteracy rates are higher than the national average, especially for women. According to CAPMAS statistics, the Illiteracy rate is 20.1% nationwide with the rate for men at 14.4% and for women at 26%. ¹⁹ In Qena and Luxor, the gender gap is even wider with (37.7%) for females and (20.9%) for males in Qena, and 32.5% for females and 19.7% for males in Luxor.²⁰

Prepared by: Eco Con Serv

¹⁶ Young People in Upper Egypt: New Voices, New Perspectives, September 2012 file:///Users/Neama/Desktop/UNDP%20GEFF/Young%20People%20in%20Upper%20Egypt:%20New%20Voices,%20New%20Perspectives.html

¹⁷ Profile of Poverty Across Egypt and Recommendations, Egypt Network for Integrated Development, Policy Brief 015, 2015

¹⁸ http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/egypt/overview

http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/276662/Egypt/Politics-/More-than--million-Egyptians-unable-to-read-and-wr.aspx ²⁰ Localizing the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals at Governorate Level, January 2018

Report Prepared by Baseera, UNRCO and The United nations Population Fund (UNFPA, Egypt)

¹³ Eleven Years of Data shows Unemployment Hits Women in Egypt Harder Than Men, August 2019

https://infotimes.org/eleven-years-of-data-shows-employment-hits-women-in-egypt-harder-than-men/theory and the state of the state of

¹⁴ Localizing the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals at Governorate Level, January 2018 Report Prepared by Baseera, UNRCO and The United nations Population Fund (UNFPA, Egypt)

¹⁵ ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

NATURAL GAS CONNECTION PROJECT IN 20 GOVERNORATES IN EGYPT

⁽January 2017) submitted to the Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company EGAS

http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/pt/456061499336405881/pdf/Executive-summary-of-updated-environmental-and-social-impact-assessment-framework-for-20-governorates.pdf

¹⁹ More than 14 million Egyptians unable to read and write: CAPMAS September 2017





The Upper Egypt landscape comprises the hyper-arid desert of Upper Egypt, where annual rainfall is typically negligible, and irrigation from the Nile River is generally the only water source to sustain permanent agriculture and other forms of primary production. However, over the past years, the Egyptian government has implemented various large-scale water management and diversion schemes to stabilize water delivery for irrigation. The Upper Nile is one of the KBAs designated in Egypt. The river forms an elongate wetland that meanders through the densely populated agricultural landscape of the Nile valley. Since the closure of the Aswan High Dam in 1964, dense swamp vegetation became established in many downstream riverbanks, creating important water bird habitats. About 40% of the arable land in this section of the Nile valley is cultivated with sugarcane; other crops include date-palms, maize, wheat, and alfalfa.

Qena and Luxor governorates together cover an area of 12,525 km². The largely rural governorate of Qena has a total population of 3.4 million inhabitants. The governorate comprises 203,978 feddans (85,671 ha) of cultivated lands and hosts 182 agricultural associations and cooperatives²¹. Luxor has a higher proportion of urban residents and cooperatives. Qena is the largest producer of sugarcane in Egypt, with a production of 5.8 million tons in 2016/2017; while neighboring Luxor produced 3 million tons in the same year.²² In 2012, it was estimated that sugarcane was grown by 309,000 farmers across Egypt, as well as providing employment to a further 30,000 workers at the factories and mills processing the crops. In turn, sugar crops accounted for 7.5% of Egypt's total agricultural area, and 10% of agricultural GDP. In addition to sugarcane, Qena has a competitive edge in agriculture thanks to its microclimate, which enables the cultivation of some typical summer crops like tomatoes during the winter season.²³

Luxor on the other hand is heavily dependent on tourism with around 70% of its workforce working in the sector. The governorate is home to 1.3 million inhabitants and a myriad of archaeological and historical sites (70% of Egypt's antiquities), making it one of the largest tourist destinations for both domestic and international visitors. Thanks to the global significance of its ancient heritage, Luxor has been the subject of several past and current development efforts aiming to turn the city into an open museum. However, Luxor's heavy dependence on tourism mean that a large sector of its population is highly vulnerable to the economic downturns of this volatile sector. Luxor is an obligatory stop for the 'cultural' tourist to Egypt for its incredible wealth of antiquities and the natural beauty of the Theban Mountains and the Nile River. Nile cruises are the most valuable nature-based tourism in this landscape of Luxor and Qena Governorates. Although the landscape possesses the important Dababia protected area, this site has been largely neglected and has not been considered as tourism destination due to the lack of marketing and awareness. Dababia is listed as a tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site, for its geological significance.

²¹ Annual bulletin of the agricultural sector cooperative activity 2016/2017

²² Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), Statistics, Censuses, Percentage of households connected to public sewage network, map of the indicator by governorate (2017 numbers).

²³ Upper Egypt Local Development Program-For-Results project appraisal document, World Bank, 2016





Qena is one of the highest priority Egyptian governorates in terms of the need for solid waste management investment, with a collection rate of only 0.08 kg/capita/day²⁴. Agricultural waste presents a particular challenge in this landscape, sugar cane straw is especially abundant and amounts to more than 500,000 tons per year in Luxor and more than one million tons per year in Qena²⁵. A significant proportion of agricultural waste ends up burned in open fields or dumped into waterways, creating air and water pollution, contributing to soil degradation, poor health and increased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

2- Situation Analysis

In order to build the landscape strategy a multiphase approach was adopted. First documents such as OP7 project doc, gender analysis action plan, stakeholder plan, Social and Environmental Screening Procedure, OP6 Upper Egypt landscape strategy, and the toolkit for the indicators of resilience in socioecological production landscape and seascapes were reviewed. OP7 project document is one of the key references guided the landscape strategy drafting. The landscape strategy integrates the key identified gaps and potential opportunities shared in the project document as a result of consultations conducted at a landscape level and the identified gaps and opportunities were further discussed and validated during the consultation meeting conducted in Fayoum in 2023.



Figure (2): Landscape strategy methodology

²⁴ MoLD/EEAA/KfW, National Solid Waste Management Programme Egypt, 2011

²⁵ UNIDO activities in Egypt 2017-2018





Second, a consultive meeting was held in Luxor governorate in 31st of Jan 2023. The consultation has been organized at the Luxor Governorate building under the auspices of the Governor. It was attended by 109 participants representing relevant stakeholders from Directorate of Youth and Sports, Education, Water Resources and Irrigation Agriculture, Housing, social solidarity, Ministry of Environment, CSOs/CBOs, National Council of Women, in addition to the SGP Program Management Team. Full details of the participants are provided in Annex II. During the consultive meeting, all participants were encouraged to share their thoughts on the actual needs and priorities of local communities within the areas of the program, the proposed practical and innovative solutions to address the challenges faced by local communities, the major projects (may be funded by other donors), local plans, or initiatives related to this matter, and the partnership opportunities that exist, whether at the governmental, civil or private sector levels, to maximize benefit. Besides the discussion they took place for 4 hours, all participants received a form to share their ideas about the four listed topics above and rate the SEPLS indicators using the Satoyama Indicators Scorecard.

The COMDEKS excel template was used to derive the SEPLS radar diagram. The results are given in the table below followed by the radar diagram:







	Landscape/seascape diversity and ecosystem protection	Biodiversity (including agricultural diversity)	Knowledge and innovation	Governance and social Equity	Livelihoods and well- being
Lowest third	2.62	2.83	2.84	2.98	2.97
Mean rating	2.87	3.06	2.76	3.02	2.97
Highest third	3.03	3.08	2.42	2.93	2.99
Standard dev.	0.862126486	0.852691144	0.777333325	0.687566068	0.774863272

While the general scoring for the five COMDEKS dimensions is low, knowledge and Innovation scored the lowest among the five dimensions, and biodiversity and governance/social equity scored the highest.

During the consultation meeting the participants agreed on the following key identified problems the landscape is currently facing:

Poor waste management (agriculture waste)	Poor Irrigation Practices	Lack of community members awareness	
Inefficient energy use	Excessive use of Chemical Fertilizers	Land Degradation	
Poor Sewage collection and management (Incl. Industerial sewage)	Water Pollution	Biodiversity risks	

- 1- Both the OP7 project document and the consultation meeting responses confirmed that the poor solid waste management system especially in Qena and the unsafe disposal of agriculture waste (sugar cane straw agriculture waste and Banana trees waste) are persisted challenges. A significant proportion of agricultural waste ends up burned in open fields or dumped into waterways, creating air and water pollution, contributing to soil degradation, poor health and increased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- 2- Lack of sewage collection and management especially industrial sewage causing pollution of water drains as explained in the OP7 project document and validated during the





consultation meeting that the Upper Egypt landscape has low sewerage coverage in the range of 12-33%. $_{\rm 26}$

- 3- The project document added the negligence of Dababia protected area in Luxor as tourism destination due to the lack of marketing and awareness. Besides, distortion of biodiversity in Upper Egypt including birds hunting and Nile ecosystem biodiversity.
- 4- The consultation meeting added the poor irrigation practices that cause water loss and affect the quality of cultivated land.
- 5- The consultation meeting added the lack of awareness among community members (especially young generations) on environment challenges and consequences.
- 6- The consultation meeting added the inefficient energy use during irrigation and on household levels leading to environmental and economic burdens.
- 7- The consultation meeting added the excessive use of chemical fertilizers in agricultural lands which negatively affects the cultivated land, crops, bees feeding on the crops and pollute water.
- 8- The consultation meeting added Land degradation affecting the quality of cultivated land.

3- Landscape Strategy (Outcomes and Impact indicators)

The overall long-term objective of the SGP Egypt Landscape Strategy during its Seventh Operational Phase is to "to build social, economic, and ecological resilience in landscapes and seascapes through community-based activities.". The landscape strategy is recognized as a living document, which will continue being refined in view of the experiences and lessons learnt over time. This Landscape Strategy for Upper Egypt adopts the following five outcomes and defines key performance indicators for each outcome. These are consistent with and contribute towards the outcomes, indicators, and targets in the OP-7 Project Document. The targets, however, will be finalized after finalization of grantee proposals. The SGP projects selected within Upper Egypt Landscape will be expected to contribute to one or more of these outcomes along with relevant indicators.

Outcome 1.1: Strengthened conservation of biodiversity and protection of ecosystem services through participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood interventions.

One measure of socio-ecological resilience in the target landscapes is the genuine involvement of local communities in collaborative conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood interventions. Through additional grant support and leveraging of resources and engagement from enabling partners, as well as advocating for policy reform and expanded incentive mechanisms, landscape resilience will continue to be strengthened.

²⁶ Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), Statistics, Censuses, Percentage of households connected to public sewage network, map of the indicator by governorate (2017 numbers).





Indicator 6: Strengthened agroecological systems, as indicated by the number of households (gender disaggregated) gaining livelihood co-benefits from improved agroecological practices.

Indicator 7: Strengthening gender quality and women's empowerment in control of natural resources, as indicated by the number of projects that are contributing to equal access to and control of natural resources by women and men

Outcome 1.2: Increased adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and mitigation solutions at community level

This outcome targets community projects that demonstrate and/or disseminate renewable energy or energy efficiency applications that have been solidly tested during previous phases of the SGP in Egypt (e.g. efficient lighting, bicycle transport systems, biogas) or which may benefit from demonstrations to enhance awareness or generate evidence for application.

Indicator 8: Livelihood cobenefits and strengthened resilience through low carbon agricultural practices, as indicated by (a) the amount of compost produced that displaces chemical fertilizer use and improves soil fertility (tons), and (b) the number of households benefitting from biogas cooking energy and digestate-sourced fertilizer (number of households, gender disaggregated)

Indicator 9: Strengthened resilience and increased energy security, as indicated by the number of solar PV agricultural pumping systems replacing diesel-powered units.

Outcome 2.1: Strengthened community institutions for participatory governance to enhance socio-ecological resilience

The landscape approach requires engagement by multiple stakeholders, with cross-sectoral representation from government, civil society, private sector, and academia-research. Multistakeholder collaboration will help leverage resources and facilitate impact at scale, and further strengthen mainstreaming of participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood initiatives into local planning frameworks.

Indicator 11: Empowering women in natural resource governance, as indicated by the number of projects that improve the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance

Indicator 12: Strengthening socioeconomic benefits for women, as indicated by the number of projects that target socioeconomic benefits and services for women





Outcome 2.2: Upscaling enabled through capacity building and knowledge management.

The durability of the interventions implemented on the project will largely depend on building capacities of the CBOs/CSOs in the target landscapes, as well as generating and sharing knowledge on best practices and lessons learned.

Indicator 14: Knowledge shared, as indicated by the number of project and portfolio experiences and lessons systematized and codified into case studies produced and disseminated, and cumulative number of views of the case studies from the SGP website.

Indicator 15: Mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment, number of women-led projects supported.

Indicator 16: Upscaling initiated, as indicated by the number of instances of scaling up or replicating best project practices and/or the number of policy advances approved by local or central government entities.

Outcome 3.1: Sustainability of project results enhanced through participatory monitoring and evaluation.

The outcome focuses on delivering participatory and timely M&E feedback, consolidating inputs from the individual grantees and evaluating progress towards achievement of the overall project objective. The findings of the M&E activities will inform adaptive management measures, aimed at ensuring the durability of project results.

Upper Egypt landscape projects are also expected to contribute to the **GEF core indicators**:

Core Indicator 3: Area of land restored (hectares)

Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Core Indicator 6: Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (metric tons of CO2e)

Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment.

- 4- Typology of potential community-based projects and criteria for project selection
- 1- Enhancing the agriculture practises to benefit biodiversity, restoring degraded agricultural land, and enhancing water conservation.





- a. Improved agricultural practices (agriculture waste to animal feed and organic fertilizer). Increased utilization of organic fertilizers and an associated decrease in chemical fertilizers improve the diversity and integrity of soil biodiversity.
- b. The myriad of organisms that make up soil biodiversity contribute to a wide range of essential ecosystem services, such as nutrient cycling, regulating soil organic matter, soil carbon sequestration, etc.
- c. Adoption of good agroecological practices, not only will the functioning of ecosystems be enhanced, but habitats for flora and fauna will be improved, generating biodiversity benefits.
- d. Improved agroecological practices (beekeeping). Through promotion of agroecological practices, including diversifying on-farm production, pollination by bees can help facilitate diversity and provide improved and expanded habitats for fauna and flora, thus generating biodiversity benefits.
- e. Enhancing water conservation by clearing of irrigation canals of aquatic invasive alien species (IAS), e.g., water hyacinth will result conservation of irrigation water, improvements in irrigation processes, and enhanced soil fertility.
- f. Restoring degraded agricultural land and boosting soil fertility through sustainable environmentally friendly practices
- g. Introduction of modern irrigation practices that can save water and reduce economic burden on farmers.
- h. Introduce crops that combat climate change effects on land.
- 2- Expanding application of renewable energy solutions
 - a. Solar PV systems for surface and groundwater pumping for irrigation replacing diesel-powered units.
 - b. Solar PV for lighting (residential schools commercial).
 - c. Biogas for cooking and digestate to replace artificial fertilizer.
- 3- The recycling of agriculture waste (Sugar Cane Straw and Banana Trees waste) into other in-demand industries such as innovative handicrafts (e.g., Banana Trees waste), fodder and compost.
- 4- Use of creative tools and methods to raise the awareness of community members on different environmental issues, consequences and offered alternatives.
- 5- Combatting desertification, sand fixation and wind breaks through construction of fencing-barriers made of woody plants cultivated with irrigation from recycled-reused wastewater.
- 6- Strengthen Participatory conservation arrangements between local communities and protected areas (e.g., community patrol).
 - a. Participatory monitoring and management of reserved areas.





- b. Community-supported ecotourism, e.g., including, but not limited to (a) promoting citizen science initiatives connected with ecotourism activities, thus providing direct support to the monitoring of globally significant biodiversity, as well as increasing the awareness of biodiversity values; (b) reducing damage to critical habitats by tourists through increasing awareness, e.g., through training of community biodiversity guides; (c) facilitating establishment of community-level business models that involve CBOs producing handicrafts for tourists that provides alternative livelihood options for local communities and reduces pressure associated with unsustainable activities in habitats of globally significant biodiversity.
- c. Improved agroecological practices (beekeeping). Through promotion of agroecological practices, including diversifying on-farm production, pollination by bees can help facilitate diversity and provide improved and expanded habitats for fauna and flora, thus generating biodiversity benefits.

Table (1): Mapping of potential projects to the main outcomes:

#	Suggested SGP projects	Enhancing ecosystem service	Strengthening the sustainability of production systems	Developing and diversifying livelihoods and income generation	Strengthening institutions and governance	Women focused	Youth focused
1	Enhancing the agriculture practices to benefit biodiversity, restoring degraded agricultural land, and enhancing water conservation.	X	X	x	X		X
2	Expanding application of renewable energy solutions	X	x	x	X	x	X
3	The recycle of agriculture waste (Sugar Cane Straw and	X	x	X	x	X	X





	Banana Trees waste) into other in-demand industries such as innovative handicrafts (e.g., Banana Trees waste), fodder and compost.						
4	Use of creative tools and methods to raise the awareness of community members on different environmental issues, consequences and offered alternatives.				X	X	X
5	Combatting desertification, sand fixation and wind breaks through construction of fencing-barriers made of woody plants cultivated with irrigation from recycled- reused wastewater.	X	X	X	X		X
Total		5	4	4	5	3	5

Criteria for project selection:

The selected projects under SGP OP7 Egypt will adhere to the defining aspects of the COMDEKS programme, i.e. the centrality of "community-based" organizations in rural development





strategies and taking the lead role in project planning, landscape governance, execution and monitoring. This approach is also consistent with SGP's historical focus, organizational mandate, and the spirit of the Small Grants Programme philosophy. There is recognition, however, that partners will need additional orientation and support on landscape management-related issues and methodologies. This requirement would be addressed through increased focus on training, orientation, and on-going mentoring of grantees.

The call for proposals will be made through the SGP Egypt website, social media platforms, the steering committee networks, the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Social Solidarity. The document will include background information and guidelines for submitting technical and financial proposals. The local social solidarity directorate and the governor team will approve the submitted proposals before sharing the proposals for screening by the National Steering Committee. Field visits by the SGP National team may be undertaken to actual sites/offices for validation and/or additional information.

NSC meeting(s) will be held for finalization of short-listed proposals. After receipt and short-listing of proposals, potential partners may be provided additional information and/or support to refine proposals, if needed.

Written scoring/rating criteria for proposals will be shared amongst all members of the proposal selection committee. The following criteria will be adhered to for reviewing and appraising the organizations and proposals for implementing SGP projects in Upper Egypt landscape (which may differ from other SGP projects outside the landscape):

Eligibility Criteria for Partners/Organizations:

- 1. The community-based organisation should be registered at the Ministry of Social Solidarity with an established presence within the boundaries of the landscape.
- 2. A permanent location/office at the project site will be an advantage, but not mandatory.
- The organization proposing work related to the GEF SGP priorities or themes should demonstrate a strong ability to deliver such projects, which includes organization's profile which illustrates the CBOs/CSOs capabilities and experience to deliver community projects
- 4. Possessing inclusive and broad-based membership/affiliation with communitybased groups, youth groups/committees or indigenous groups will be an advantage.
- 5. The project team should include at least one technical staff proposed for implementation, who will also act as focal person and assume responsibility for reporting.
- 6. Adequate gender balance within the team will be desirable.





Criteria for project proposals:

- Project proposals should be aligned with the Landscape Strategy and should directly contribute to one or more of the outcomes of the Landscape Strategy. The project proposal should be aligned to the National Climate Change Strategy – 2050 (NCCS), prepared by the Ministry of Environment and launched in May 2022.
- 2. Project proposals that respond to additional areas will be given preference such as those addressing multiple threats/needs, innovations, replication potential, and policy inputs.
- 3. The proposed project site should be within the target landscape and based on a documented community needs assessment.
- 4. Each project should allocate at least 10 percent of the budget to knowledge management products at the landscape level, e.g. case study, audio-video documentation, best practices.
- 5. Project proposals should include a time-bound work-plan, M&E section, sustainability plan, partnership plan and log- frame.
- 6. Project proposals need to include a section showing the project's alignment to the programme's areas of work and landscape outcomes.
- 7. Gender considerations should be mainstreamed as appropriate e.g. collection of and reporting on gender disaggregated data, gender analysis etc.
- 8. Project proposals should explicitly state any capacity development inputs/gaps/requirements pertaining to implementation.
- 9. In-kind and in-cash contribution must be met by CBOs/CSOs, local community members and/or other partners (government, local authority, private sector, academia, national or international agency, etc.)
- 10. Project cost must be no more than USD 50,000.
- 11. Project proposals should explain their partnership model and the key stakeholders identified to support the project's implementation and sustainability.
- 12. Project proposals shall demonstrate a new technology/innovations support and adoption to maximize the project's results and possesses scope of replication.

13. Project proposal should specify clearly any activities focused on women or youth (if any) **Strategic projects grants:**

- 14. Resources have been allocated in the OP7 budget for strategic grants, to help facilitate durable impacts. The strategic grants are envisaged to be awarded to experienced CBOs/CSOs for delivering technical and strategic support, guiding local stakeholders in the implementation of landscape approaches and delivering advocacy for policy reform and upscaling.
- 15. Two to three strategic projects will be granted across the four landscapes.





16. Terms of reference will be developed for the strategic grants in consultation with the SGP National Steering Committee (NSC), Country Programme Management Unit (CPMU), the UCP Global Coordinator, and the UNDP Country Office (CO), and then awarded through competitive procurement and agreed by the NSC.

Table (2): Scoring Matrix for project's proposals.

Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Score
Organization	- Registered local organisation with no	20
	known conflicts/risks	
	- Maintains some local presence.	
	- Holds required technical expertise to	
	deliver the proposed project	
Technical Approach	- Aligned and responsive to OP-7	25
	Prodoc and LS	
	- Contributes to more than 1 outcome	
	of the LS	
Budget/ M&E Arrangement	- Within permissible budget	15
	- Includes SMART KPIs	
	- Includes Knowledge Management	
	products	
	 Includes co-financing (cash/in-kind) 	
Scope/Innovation	- Demonstration of new	20
	technology/innovations	
	- Possesses scope of replication	
Team composition	- Technical focal person	5
	- Gender-balanced team	
Partnerships	- Stakeholders mapping and analysis	15
	- Partnerships plan	
Note:		
 Total score of 50 and abov 	e – shortlisted and recommended for NSC cons	ideration

- Total score below 50 points – not recommended for NSC consideration

5- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan at the Landscape Level

The method employed during the consultation process in the baseline survey is a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches. A list of SEPLS indicators and scores for each indicator is used as a guideline.

SGP will continue such interactions in the future with the relevant key stakeholders to update partners on the landscape strategy and on M&E aspects for grantees. More specifically, at this early stage, participants were more forthcoming on discussing key issues, sectoral and thematic thrusts, and typology of projects. The section below on the M&E plan is indicative and will be refined at the stage of project proposal submission and approval.





The regular on-going M&E for SGP Egypt will be conducted in accordance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the <u>UNDP POPP</u> and <u>UNDP Evaluation Policy</u> procedures. Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the <u>GEF</u> <u>Monitoring Policy</u> and the <u>GEF Evaluation Policy</u> and other <u>relevant GEF policies</u>²⁷.

Each SGP grantee will indicate the specific Landscape Outcome(s) that it is contributing towards, and the M&E plan will be tailored according to the outcomes and KPIs in the Strategy thereby making explicit which of the key performance indicators it is contributing towards and how in the final approved proposals.

The schedule and frequency of the individual SGP projects monitoring activities will be defined in the proposals. A key lesson learnt for SGP is that the M&E plan at the project level must adhere to the SMART standards. The applicants will require additional guidance and details for this purpose, and it is expected that short-listed partners will be coached accordingly. SGP will build the capacities and provide adequate institutional support to SGP grantees to enable them to fulfill their role in serving their local communities, assessing their needs, and successfully designing, implementing, and monitoring SGP-funded projects. Besides the SGP support to grantees, the formal multi-stakeholder groups and partnerships established and formalized on landscape levels to provide strategic advice and policy guidance on landscape management will also ensure ongoing monitoring of projects and of their results and exchange knowledge across grantees.

SGP grantees are requested to submit semi-annual progress reports (including KPIs progress) along with a financial report as a requirement for disbursement of next installment, besides, periodic monitoring visits will be carried out by the SGP Egypt National Programme Manager and members of the NSC, as needed. SGP grantees will also submit a final report summarizing global benefits and other results achieved, outputs produced, and lessons learned. The final report should also include a final financial statement. Partner submitted progress reports will be used to track progress against overall outcomes and identify gaps. Partners will also be required to document best practices, case studies and lessons learnt as relevant, which will be compiled at the end for the entire SGP portfolio.

SGP will also build on and promote innovations in monitoring and effective reporting through use of new technologies (e.g., tablets and online surveys). The overall M&E report of SGP will aggregate results at the level of the overall outcomes and indicators specified in the Prodoc.

Table (3): M&E plan at the individual project level:

²⁷ See <u>https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines</u>





Activity	Responsible party	Timeframe	
Proposed M&E plan indicating	Grantee	At time of proposal submission	
outcomes, activities and KPIs			
Project work-plan	Grantees, CPM, NSC	Project duration (quarterly)	
Baseline data collection	Grantees, CPM	At project's proposal/ early stage	
On-site monitoring visits	CPM, NSC	At-least once per year and as-	
		needed	
Participatory project	Grantees, CPM, NSC and other	At least once per year (can include	
monitoring/review and capacity	stakeholders	partners'	
building		meetings, network exchanges)	
Project progress reports (technical	Grantees, CPM	As per the project proposal and	
and financial)		with each disbursement request	
Project final report	Grantees, CPM	At project completion	
Project evaluation report	CPM, NSC, External party	One Month prior to project	
		completion	
Lessons learnt and knowledge	CPM, NSC, External party	Mid-term and end-term of the	
generated		project life.	

Moreover, a multi-stakeholder landscape platform will be formed to provide guidance and support to all grantees. The multi-stakeholder landscape platform will include local government units, CBOs/CSOs received grants, MoSS representative and MoE representative, NCW among other relevant stakeholders at local level. The multi-stakeholder landscape platforms will provide direct linkages with local government development planning mechanisms and opportunities for funding upscaling and replication. Involving multiple stakeholders in the landscape platforms will enhance the likelihood that project results will be sustained after GEF funding ceases. Representatives of local government entities are important members of the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms, helping to foster linkages with complementary government programmes and to identify incentives for upscaling project interventions.

The plan above provides a basis for continuous improvement and refinement of the planning and management of individual projects as well as helping communities to assess and adapt their approaches for rebuilding SEPLS, and in identifying gaps and collecting and disseminating experiences in target areas through periodic reviews. In line with COMDEKS guidelines, it is also proposed that at least two partner organizations – who are identified as "lead" partners for capacity building on COMDEKS – can be given a proactive role in mentoring and steering the M&E and knowledge management processes.

6- Knowledge Management Plan at the Landscape level

In Egypt OP6, a stand-alone Capacity Development project supported the production of case studies and disseminated them at national and local levels through different knowledge





channels. It produced factsheets, newsletters, knowledge management and audio-visual materials. These knowledge products along with the individual case studies make up a "living" knowledge platform, which can be further strengthened and expanded during Egypt OP7. At the broader landscape level, the SGP Egypt Country Programme has been producing case studies of the landscape planning and management experience. These case studies highlight the processes of stakeholder participation, as well as the progress toward the targets selected during landscape planning. The results of these studies are planned to be published and disseminated throughout landscapes through print and digital media and SGP's institutional partners, CSOs/CBOs, SGP-supported CSO networks, universities and others.

The project will implement an inclusive knowledge management strategy across the four landscapes as a standalone project that is also linked with the Upgraded Country Programme (UCP) and Small Grants Programme (SGP) knowledge management priorities, facilitating collaborative interactions across local, national, regional, and global levels. The receptiveness of stakeholders to knowledge inputs is an important impact driver in this regard. The coordination, collaboration, and knowledge management strengthened by the project will foster systemic change and replication, thus maximising the effectiveness, durability, and scale of socio-ecological resilience.

Building on the OP6 efforts to document and share good practices and lessons learned, each grant project has as a primary product a case study, and each grant a summary of lessons learned based on evaluation of implementation results and their contributions to GEB, local development objectives and landscape level outcomes, including the development of social capital. The knowledge products will be disseminated using print media, social media, radio, or other communication approaches. At least one of the knowledge products is envisaged to highlight women's role in ensuring social and ecological resilience. This knowledge is being systematized and codified for dissemination at the landscape level through policy dialogue platforms, community landscape management networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and knowledge fairs and other exchanges. The individual grant project case studies are anticipated at project design and based on a participatory methodology, so that the production of the case studies strengthens the community organization's capacities for reflection and action through learning-by-doing.

To record and disseminate the knowledge gained through the implementation of the community small grants, the CBOs will be trained on collecting, recording and documenting knowledge and experiences on community development initiatives. The increased capacity of community-level stakeholders to generate, access and use information and knowledge is expected to increase the sustainability of project activities beyond the life of the grant funding. Knowledge sharing and





replication will help ensure that the impacts of the project are sustained and expanded, generating additional environmental benefits over the longer-term. Another channel for knowledge sharing and dissemination is the multi-stakeholder landscape platform to be formed after the CBOs/CSOs proposals are approved. SGP team will put efforts to influence the multi-stakeholder landscape platform activeness and encourage participants to meet frequently and provide support whenever needed.

The knowledge obtained from project experiences and lessons learned will be socialized through SGP's well-established national network of stakeholders and SGP's global platform, and it will be used in upscaling successful initiatives. The project will facilitate dissemination through global ongoing South-South and global platforms, such as the UN South-South Galaxy knowledge sharing platform and PANORAMA²⁸. Considering the mature UNDP country programme in Egypt and the long-standing experience of SGP in the country, Egypt is in a unique position to share experiences and lessons to younger, less experienced programmes in the region. The project will furthermore provide opportunities for regional cooperation with countries that are implementing initiatives on conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity and community-level clean energy solutions in geopolitical, social and environmental contexts relevant to the proposed project in Egypt.

²⁸ <u>https://panorama.solutions/en</u>





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Details of consultive meeting

No.	Name	Organization
1.	Mohamed Abdel Rehim	Directorate of Youth and Sports- Qena
2.	Hanady Qasem Ahmed	Ministry of Environment – Luxor
3.	Abdel Naser Ibrahim	Directorate of Agriculture – Luxor
4.	Mohamed Gelany Ibrahim	Directorate of Agriculture – Qena
5.	Kamal Fouad Mansour	Directorate of Social Solidarity
6.	Gamal Aziz	Water Resources and Irrigation Engineering – Luxor
7.	Salah Mohamed Rashwan	Directorate of Youth and Sports
8.	Manal Abdel Wahab Mohamed	Directorate of Education
9.	Ahmed Bashir	Mehna w Mostaqbal Foundation
10.	Azza Masoud	Ruyati Foundation
11.	Mohamed Abdel Aal	Islamic Charity – Dair
12.	Huda Mahmoud	Al Nesaeia Association for Rural Woman Development
13.	Lotfy Mohamed	Islamic Charity – Zaniqa
14.	Mohamed Nasr El Din	Al Emam Al Hussein Charity
15.	Gamal Khodry Hussein	Rieayat Almarda Association – Esna
16.	Youssef Abdel Salam	Al Sheikh Khoudery Association
17.	Fatema Abdel Fattah	Rieayat Almarda Association





No.	Name	Organization
18.	Eman Kamel	Rieayat Almarda Association
19.	Faten Said Abbas	Moftah el Hayat Association
20.	Nesma Ahmed Sadeq	National Council for Women
21.	Mostafa Abdo	Ana Al Masry Association for Development and Tarining
22.	Mohamed Ramadan	Al kheir W Al Baraka Association
23.	Yasmeen Saad	Al kheir W Al Baraka Association
24.	Abeer Khirish Mohamed	Charity Association in Gamalia
25.	Ahmed Abdel Sattar	Sonaa El Mostaqbal Association – Esna
26.	Moheb Shawqy Habib	Housing Directorate – Luxor
27.	Samah Abdel Mohsen	Al Ber w Al Rahma Charity – Bayadia
28.	Elham Salah	Haq Al faqir Association- Al nadafayn sharq
29.	Eman Ramadn Abdel Maksoud	Al Ber w Al Rahma Charity – Bayadia
30.	Huda Salam Mohamed	Women Association in Baroud- Kaft
31.	Sanaa Sayed Abbas	Women Association in Baroud- Kaft
32.	Abdelhady Gad El Rab Abd Allah	Community Development Association in Qous
33.	Mona Salem Mohamed	Nile Palace Charity Association
34.	Fatema Youssef Mohamed	Community Development Association-Qalaa
35.	Helmia Ibrahim	Community Development Association-Qalaa





No.	Name	Organization
36.	Hussein Okasha	Luxor for Development and Training Association
37.	Mohamed Abdel Monaim	Rural Woman Development – Zaferia
38.	Abd El Hares Mohamed Sayed	Al Sheikh Hassan Association
39.	Ahmed Tayea	Community Development Association – Bear Anbar
40.	Ameen Masloub Abady	Community Development Association in Kalaheen
41.	Haitham Hasanein	Om El Qura Association for Development
42.	Ahmed Mohamed	Om El Qura Association for Development
43.	Mohamed Abdel Fattah	Om El Qura Association for Development
44.	Hanaa Abdel Reheem Mohamed	Al Tharwa Al Mahalia wal Mogtamaa Association- Qena
45.	Wafa Zein el Abedein	Ahbab Al Quran Charity for Development
46.	Mohamed Ahmed	Environment and Community Development Association – Dandara
47.	Nashwa Ahmed Sayed	Rural Woman Development Association – Matana
48.	Sobhy Badry Attia	Dorat El Manar Charity Association
49.	Montaser Mahmoud	Islamic Charity – Nagaa El Dar
50.	Basry Gomaa	Kheir Misr Association for Development and Training
51.	Amr Abd El Rady	Integrated Rural Development Association– Asfoun
52.	Mohamed Abdel Hakam	Community development Association – Nagaa El Tawil
53.	Ahmed Sabry Mohamed Amin	Dorat El Manar Charity Association





No.	Name	Organization
54.	Nahed Gamal	Al Masry Association for Development and Training
55.	Eman Mobarak Kamal	Sustainable Development Association
56.	Mohamed Meskin Abdel Galil	Sustainable Development Association
57.	Nabil William	Regional Federation of Societies
58.	Abdel Sattar Mohamed	Islamic Charity – Mareis
59.	Mahmoud El Sayed	Al Tayseer Association
60.	Abdel Reheim El Nouby Mansour	Ahl El Kheir Association
61.	Om Kalthoum Ali Al Sawabi	Al Shouroq Association for Rural Woman Development
62.	Fatema Omar	Al Shouroq Association for Rural Woman Development
63.	Asmaa Khalil	Al Shouroq Association for Rural Woman Development
64.	Mohamed Mahmoud Ismail	Community Development Association in Naqada
65.	Hasanein Moheb Mousa	National Council for Women
66.	Ayman Al Sayed Rashwan	Rowad El Mostaqbal Association
67.	Mohamed Abdel Fatah	Om El Qura Association
68.	Sayed Kamel Abdel Sattar	Al Mostaqbal Charity Association in Awlad Amr
69.	Mgahed Abdel Mohsen Amin	Al Sheikh Sultan Association in Luxor
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71.	Raafat Kamal Ramses	El NahdA Al Kebtia Association





No.	Name	Organization
72.	Afaf Louis Helmy	Al Rahma Association for Community Development - Qus Qena
73.	Abdel Rasoul Saad	Reayat el Omoma w Al Tofola w Hemayt El Beiaa Association
74.	Hamdy Bakry	Community Development Association – Oliqat
75.	Mostafa Saleh Hussein	Community Development – Ashraf – Shwaikhat
76.	Ayman Mohamed Mostafa	Shabab Misr Associastion
77.	Omar Fawzy	Lewaa El Islam Association – Qena
78.	Sherifa Noor El Din	Modern Women Association in Hella - Qena
79.	Ahmed Feisal Youssef	Feda Association
80.	Hamdy Mohamed Kamel	Al Toud Association for Community Development – Ngada
81.	Sara Abdel Baset	Al lo'lo' Al Maknun Association
82.	Heba Ramadan	Al lo'lo' Al Maknun Association
83.	Ahmed Mohamed	Karama Association for Development – Nagaa Qot
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91.	Mohamed Abdo	Ministry of Environment
92.	Khaled Hasan	Misr El Mahrousa Association
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95.	Kamal Kelhy	Social Services Association in Shanhour
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97.	Gihan Gad	Islamic Charity Association in Qena
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