

Canada



WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN EGYPT JOINT PROGRAMME



Rabeha Theory of Change

If (1) there is increased productivity and job opportunities generated by women entrepreneurs;



If (2) there is an increased employment of women by businesses; and



If (3) there are reduced gender-specific barriers to women's entrepreneurship and to women entering into and remaining in the workforce;



THEN (4) we will witness an increase in women's empowerment for sustainable economic growth;

BECAUSE (5) the root causes and drivers of gender gaps in economic participation have been removed.

Value-chain and governorates



Palm dates and derivatives

1)Fayoum, 2)Wahaat Al Bahareya (Giza)



Information and communication (services)

3)Cairo, 4)Alexandria, 5)Beheira



Medicinal and aromatic plants

6)Beni Suf & Fayoum



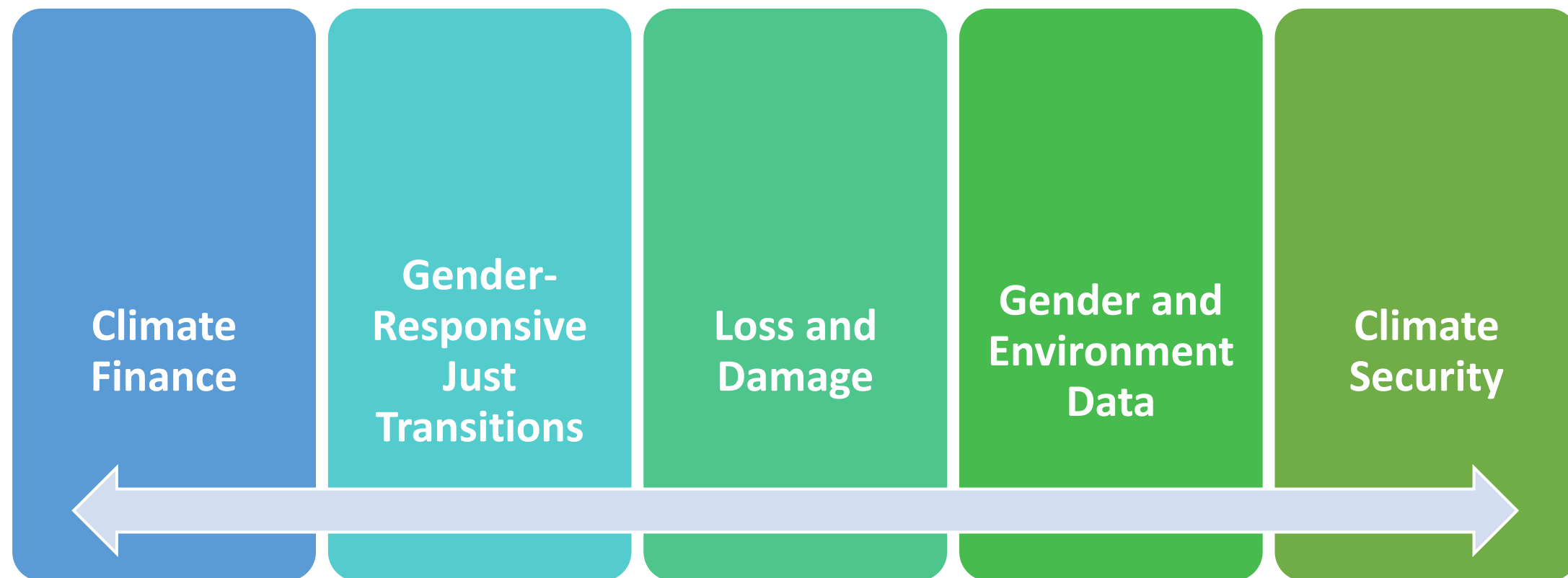
Handicrafts

7) Minya

Key Partnerships

- Main programme partners: The National Council for Women (NCW); The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI); The Micro Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (MSMEDA); The Ministry of International Cooperation (MoIC); Governorate authorities. Collaborating with key NGOs and private sector.
- In addition:
 - The Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS)
 - The Ministry of Local Development (MoLD).
 - The Ministry of Finance (MOF)
 - The Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS)
 - The Ministry of Planning and Economic Development
 - The Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA)
 - Business Associations
 - The Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center (TIEC)
 - The National Management Institute (NMI)
 - HP-LIFE (Learning Initiative for Entrepreneurs):
 - Banque Misr

Global Vision and Thematic Focus for COP28



Context and program relevance to national priorities

Challenges

- Water scarce country with high population growth
- Reliance on import of certain food commodities impacted by global context;
- Devaluation of Egyptian pound since March 2022 as a result of the war in Ukraine.
- Inflation reached 16% in rural Egypt by August 2022, while inflation of food and beverages reached 25% during the same period (CAPMAS)
- Negative impact on consumers, businesses, and women job seekers/entrepreneurs.

Opportunities

- Egypt's Presidency of COP 27 (2022-2023) showcased its leadership in championing water management, adaptation, just transition, food security, alternative energy, and innovative climate financing, while highlighting the importance of gender equality.
- Under Egypt's COP27 Presidency for Africa group, the NCW released Egypt's global perspective: Women, Environment, and Climate Change. "Egypt's Global Perspective: Women, Environment, and Climate Change" actions: [Egypt's Global Perspective: WECC \(ncw.gov.eg\)](https://ncw.gov.eg/en/press-releases/2022/08/22/egypt-s-global-perspective-women-environment-and-climate-change)
- National Climate Change Strategy 2050 as the first comprehensive national strategy based on national and international normative frameworks. [EgyptNSCC-2050-Summary-En.pdf \(eeaa.gov.eg\)](https://eeaa.gov.eg/en/press-releases/2022/08/22/egypt-s-national-climate-change-strategy-2050)
- Egypt's Sovereign Sustainable Financing Framework 2022:
<https://mof.gov.eg/en/archive/publicDept/5fef221390744800073130a8/Public%20Debt>

Gender Responsive Just Transitions

UN Women Egypt works in close cooperation and coordination with the Government of Egypt to implement the country's national priorities and the commitments it has taken to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and respond to the threats of Climate Change.

During COP27, Egypt launched the African Women's Climate-Adaptive Priorities (AWCAP) Initiative which seeks, through regional collaboration, to ensure women's inclusion in the just transition to a climate-resilient future.

COP27 Presidency Initiative

AFRICAN WOMEN'S Climate Adaptive Priorities (AWCAP)



COP27
SHARM EL-SHEIKH
EGYPT 2022



Women as equal players
in the just transition
#WinWinforAll

African Women's Climate-Adaptive Priorities (AWCAP)

UN Women as AWCAP's global partner, together with UNDP, have been committed to partnering with the COP27 Presidency in supporting the AWCAP's vision, working closely with the Government of Egypt, through the National Council for Women, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to determine next steps in rolling out the AWCAP in Africa. The AWCAP focuses on achieving UNFCCC's goals through women's empowerment – specifically:

- Increased Cooperation among African Member States

- Enhance Existing Structures and Frameworks (NAPs & NDCs)

- Strengthen regional, national, and local commitments for investing in women

- Capitalize on existing Public-Private-Partnerships

- Promote gender-responsive social protection policies and measures

Alignment of the Rabeha JP with global, regional and national priorities

Environmental Sustainability mainstreaming across the JP results framework

Support **private sector companies in their environmental and social compliance**, as well as raise their capacity on climate resilience in the framework of support to WEPs signatories

Facilitate **dialogues with women entrepreneurs around environment sustainability** approaches in doing business

Support the **National Initiative on Green and Smart Projects** with Ministry of Planning and Economic Development

Raise the **entrepreneurial capacity of women led businesses operating** in the environmental sector through tailored trainings

Support and assist in the creation of **the first Gender/SDG Bond contributing** to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment through financial mechanisms

Gender-focused skills development for green business and job creation

Green entrepreneurship skills for women-led micro-enterprises

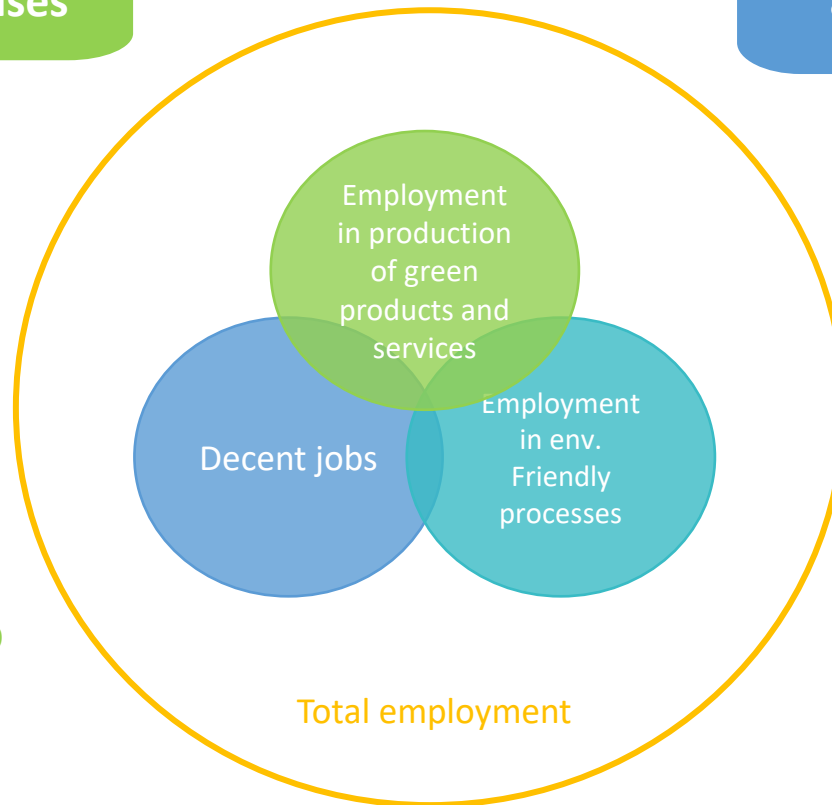
Focus on **smaller value-chain actors** in rural communities who create benefits for themselves, create jobs, act as agents of knowledge sharing, and change for their community

Customised **green entrepreneurship** and **circular economy training**

Skills for good agricultural practices and climate smart techniques

Enhancement of capacities of female university graduates who wish to work as consultants in **agriculture or agro-food**

Consultant **development programme** that builds technical skills in good agricultural practices and climate smart techniques



Based on ILO 2016

Green entrepreneurship results and lessons learned

Results

- 400 entrepreneurs developed **environmental sustainability plans** for their business
- 150/300 entrepreneurs (45% Beni Suef, 55% Minya) developed their skills to plan a **business model focusing on waste management**
- 150 entrepreneurs applied the **Green Assessment Tool** to establish baselines in their businesses.
- More than 50 women entrepreneurs **started their own business in the environmental sustainability sector**

Category	Question	Answer	Weight
Nature of Business (Green Product/Service)	Do you provide environmentally friendly products or services	-	15
Process Foundation	Have you created a sustainability plan	-	10
Process Foundation	Have you started implementing this sustainability plan? (Please state your steps in the comments section)	-	10
Launching a Green Program	Do you have an internal environmental assessment for your business	-	9
Launching a Green Program	Have you communicated the goals and the plan with your employees/suppliers/clients	-	5
Environmental Initiatives	Do you have a Green Procurement Policy for your business	-	7
Environmental Initiatives	Do you recycle	-	9
Environmental Initiatives	Do you use recycled material	-	8
Environmental Initiatives	Do you eliminate/reduce plastic from your process	-	9
Environmental Initiatives	Do you eliminate/manage waste in your process	-	9
Environmental Initiatives	Do you use resources efficiently (Energy, Water, Materials) ... (please give examples in the comments section)	-	9
		Total	100

from 0 to 10	Not green business
More than 10, less than 40	Potential for being green (needs improvement)
from 40 to 79	Good green practices (some interventions needed)
80 or more	Highly Green



Green entrepreneurship results and lessons learned

Lessons learned

- Training enables women entrepreneurs to **network and create B2B linkages** that tap into waste conscious business operations and processing techniques
- The majority of entrepreneurs operate micro/**home-based handicrafts businesses**, where more common green actions include **recycling** and **converting waste into products**
- Key gaps include **weak business planning and financial management to expand business**, and **lack of record keeping to track costs/benefits of introducing new green technologies**
- The imperative of providing substantial support to women led startups in green businesses **with access to essential production inputs encompassing in-kind contributions such as materials and equipment**



Consultant development programme results and lessons learned

Results

- 5-day practical training in partnership with Beni Suef University's Research Institute for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (RIMAP)
- 50 female university students/graduates enhanced their capacities in environmental standards and climate change impact and adaptation techniques for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) and Date Palm value-chains
- 40% overall increase in knowledge and skills among trainees

Lessons learned



Linkages to more markets and specifications are beneficial for consultants to widen and apply knowledge across broader regions



Thank you