

Country Youth Profile



EGYPT



Women and Youth Empowerment Division
Resilience and Social Development Department
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1. Socio-Economic Profile

1.1 The Arab Republic of Egypt is a transcontinental country spanning the corner of West Asia and northern Africa¹. Its estimated population of 100,698,509 in 2019, makes it Africa's third most populous country after Ethiopia and Nigeria². Egypt's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 4.2% in 2016/17 increased from an all-time low of 2.1% in fiscal year (FY) 2011/12 and 2013/14 to 4.3% in 2015/15. The GDP is projected to increase to 4.5% and 5.3% in 2017/18 and 2018/19 respectively³. Egypt, a lower-middle-income country, experienced its highest poverty level since 2000 in 2015. Egypt is ranked 115th out of 189 countries on the 2017 United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI) and is in the medium human development category⁴. The 2017 position is four steps lower than the country's 2016 standing of 111th⁵. While Egypt's 2017 HDI of 0.696 is above the average of 0.645 for countries in the medium human development category⁶.

1.2. Egypt's Ministry of Youth and Sports categorizes young individuals aged 18-30 years as youth⁷. Egypt's Central Agency for Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) defines youth as persons between 15-29 years age bracket⁸. In the political arena, a youth is anyone below 35 years of age⁹. According to CAPMAS, Egypt's youth population aged 18 to 29 years was estimated at 20.2 million or 21% of the country's population in August 2018,¹⁰. CAPMAS notes that 50.6% and 49.4% of the youth population are males and females respectively¹¹.

1.3 Egypt ranks 138th among 183 countries on the Commonwealth's Global Youth Development Index¹². The country is among the lowest positioned countries in the Employment and Opportunity domain¹³ and recorded a rapid deterioration in its health care systems¹⁴. The legal age of marriage for girls was increased to 18 years following the amendment of the Child Law in 2008¹⁵.

Table 1: Youth at a Glance in Egypt

Categories	Females	Males
Age of marriage	18	18
Labor force participation (ILO 2017)	18.7%	29.6%
Unemployment (ILO 2017)	38.4%	25.7%
NEET (ILO, 2017)	35.0%	19.6%
Net enrolment (UNESCO, 2017)	81.6%	81.3%
Literacy Rate (UNESCO, 2017)	86.81%	89.48s%
Out of school (WEF-GGGR, 2018)	23.9%	21.4%

2. Youth in National Development: Institutional and Policy Framework

1 World Population Review (2019), Egypt Country Population Data, <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/egypt-population/>

2 Ibid

3 African Development Bank (AfDB, 2018), Egypt Country Note, Africa Economic Outlook, https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Generic-Documents/country_notes/Egypt_country_note.pdf, P.1

4 UNDP (2018), Egypt Country Note, http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/EGY.pdf

5 UNDP (2017), Egypt Country Note, http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/EGY.pdf

6 UNDP 2018, op.cit:3

7 Sika, N. (2016), The Disguise of Youth Inclusion in Egypt, http://www.iai.it/sites/default/files/p2y_04.pdf, P.6

8 Ibid:6

9 GoE, (2014) Egypt's Constitution Translated, <http://www.sis.gov.eg/Newvr/Dustor-en001.pdf>, P. 48

10 Egypt Today (2018), CAPMAS: Youths Constitutes 21% of Egypt's Population, <http://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/55806/CAPMAS-youths-constitute-21-of-Egypt-s-population>

11 Ibid

12 Commonwealth Secretariat (2016), Global Youth Development Index, <https://youtheconomicopportunities.org/sites/default/files/uploads/resource/2016%20Global%20Youth%20Development%20Index%20and%20Report.pdf>, P.126

13 Ibid:44

14 Ibid:96

15 Girls Not Brides (2019), Egypt Country Profile, <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/egypt/>

2.1. The youth sector was first recognized in Egypt in 1956 with the issuance of Law No. 197 to establish the Supreme Council for Youth Care¹⁶. The sector has gone through several name change and roles since then¹⁷. The current institutional framework, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, was established in 2012. Its strategic goals for 2013-2017 include enhancing the political participation of youth, building cultural awareness, and developing training and research on youth¹⁸.

2.2 While Egypt does not have a national youth policy, youth were acknowledged in the 2014 constitution because of their active role in the country's 2011 and 2013 political uprisings. Subsequently, the government developed several initiatives to empower youth. The Government of Egypt (GoE) promised to follow up on the constitutional provisions in Articles 29, 82 and 180 to ensure youth engagement in all aspects of social and economic arenas and specifies a special quota in parliament, which resulted in 10% of elected MPs being under the age of 35¹⁹. There is also a quota of 25% for persons below 35 years for municipality elections, to ensure young people's active participation in forming the political agenda²⁰. Through Presidential Decree, 2016 was declared the "Year of the Egyptian Youth". In addition, the Government launched the Presidential Leadership Program, the Small and Medium-Sized Entrepreneurship Program for youth and the construction of 145,000 housing for youth in 2016²¹.

2.3. The 1996 Child Act was amended in 2008, and the legal age for marriage for girls was raised from 16 to 18 years. The change was reinforced in Article 80 of the 2014 constitution. However, since the registration of marriage below 18 years was not criminalized, child marriage continues. As UNICEF notes, 17% of Egyptians girls are married by their 18th birthday and 2% by age 15²². UNICEF also noted that Egypt has the 13th highest absolute number of child brides in the world standing at 683,000²³. Furthermore, a 2017 World Bank study reveals that ending child marriage in Egypt could generate \$ 2,893 million in earnings and productivity²⁴.

2.4 The GoE launched a five-year national strategy to prevent child marriage in 2014 to reduce the prevalence rate by 50% within 5 years²⁵. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health and Population announced plans to criminalize child marriages in October 2017²⁶. Egypt has committed to eliminating child, early and forced marriage by 2030 in line with target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)²⁷.

3. Education

3.1. Education is a right in Egypt and is engraved in Article 19 of the country's 2014 Constitution. The Article states that education is compulsory until the completion of secondary education or its equivalent²⁸. An allocation of not less than 4% of the GDP for spending should be increased annually to global levels. Article 21 stipulates that an additional 2% of the GDP should be allocated for university education, also to be increased yearly to global levels²⁹. The Government declared 2019 "The Year of Education" to solve the country's youth employment crisis and spending on public education was increased by 8% for the 2018/19 fiscal year³⁰. The education reform package also includes boosting funding for tertiary enrollment rates, the construction of eight new technical universities, expand technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and distance education, develop curricula more aligned with labor market needs, and improve student-to-teacher ratios and quality assurance and accreditation mechanisms, as well

16 Abdelhay, A.T. (2010), Studies on Youth Policies in the Mediterranean Partner Countries-Egypt, http://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Egypt_2010_Youth_Policy_Profile.pdf, P. 19

17 Barsoum, G. (2014), Institutionalizing Youth Aspirations in the Public Policy Process in Egypt, <http://dar.aucegypt.edu/bitstream/handle/10526/4272/Master%20Thesis%20Mohamed%20Kadry.pdf?sequence=1>, P.

18 Youth Factsheet (2014), Egypt-Youth Fact Sheet, <http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/egypt/>

19 GoE (2015), Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt's Vision 2030 And Planning Reform, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10738egypt.pdf>, P.40

20 Ibid:40

21 Egyptian Streets (2016), Egypt's President Sisi Launches 'Biggest Digital Library in the World', Declares 2016 as Year of the Youth, <https://egyptianstreets.com/2016/01/10/egypts-president-sisi-launches-biggest-digital-library-in-the-world-declares-2016-year-of-youth/>

22 Girls not Bride, op.cit

23 Ibid

24 Ibid

25 Ibid

26 Ibid

27 Ibid

28 GoE (2016), SDG Egypt 2030, <http://sdsegypt2030.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/8.-Education-Training-Pillar.pdf>, P.171

29 Ibid:171

30 WES (2019), Education in Egypt, <https://wenr.wes.org/2019/02/education-in-egypt-2>

as teaching and training³¹.

3.1.1. Egypt achieved the Millennium Development Goal 3 on eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary in 2014. The enrollment ratio of girls to boys increased to 102.3% and 107.4% in primary and secondary schools, respectively³². The literacy rate among 15-24-year old in 2017 was 94.96% for males and 92.84% for females³³. Female students had a lower repeater's rate in primary school compared to their male counterparts and higher survival rate to the last grade of primary school³⁴. They also had a higher transition rate from primary to secondary school and gross intake ratio into the last grade of primary school³⁵. While female levels of enrollment and completion rates are higher than that of boys, they also have a higher rate of youth that is not in education, employment, or training.

3.2. Skills-Based Training

3.2.1. Egypt's TVET sub-sector comprises formal and non-formal systems. The formal system is operated at three levels, the post-primary, the secondary and tertiary levels³⁶. The post-primary level is for primary school pupils who failed the preparatory exams after two attempts. The secondary level admits students from the preparatory level, who wish to follow a technical/vocational education. The track comprises of a three and a five-year program in three fields: industrial, commercial and agriculture³⁷. Tertiary level technical education is divided into two streams, middle technical institutes offering two-year courses and higher four-year courses³⁸. The non-formal training includes training through industry attachments, such as the dual system, and apprenticeship, in-service training, and re-training of workers³⁹.

3.2.2 As part of a broader program to solve the country's high unemployment rate, the GoE adopted the Technical Educational Strategy of 2011/12 to 2016/17⁴⁰. The strategy provides a framework for technical education in Egypt, aimed at improving technical education for it to play a critical role in economic and social development⁴¹. The strategy's focus includes improving infrastructure for school, raising teaching standards, and ensuring that students receive a technical education⁴². Despite these efforts of improving the TVET sub-sector, it is a challenge in Egypt, like in many Middle East and North African (MENA) countries to enrol students because of the prioritization of university certification over technical education⁴³.

3.2.3. In the 2014/2015 academic year, of the 32 million students enrolled in secondary school, 52% were in the Ministry of Education's administered vocational secondary schools⁴⁴. The most popular course of study was industrial (49%), then commercial (41%) and, lastly agricultural (10%)⁴⁵. Female students were 44% of the total enrollment in technical education⁴⁶.

3.3 Inclusive Education

3.3.1 Egypt ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People's with Disability in 2008. At the national level, Article 81 of the 2014 constitution guaranteed the rights of the people with disabilities. The Ministries of Social Solidarity and Education are responsible for protecting the rights of persons with disabilities⁴⁷. The Ministry for Social Solidarity is in charge of increasing employment for people with disabilities and for delivering social protection

31 Ibid

32 UNDP (2015), Egypt's Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals, http://www.eg.undp.org/content/egypt/en/home/library/mdg/egypt_s-progress-towards-millennium-development-goals-2015.html, P.20

33 UNESCO (2018), Egypt Country Data, <http://uis.unesco.org/country/EG>

34 Ibid

35 Ibid

36 UNESCO (2012), World TVET Database Egypt, https://unevoc.unesco.org/wtdb/worldtvtdatabase_egy_en.pdf, P.6

37 Ibid:7

38 Ibid:7

39 Ibid:6

40 Ibid:5

41 UNESCO 2012, op.cit:5

42 Oxford Business Group (2018), Focus on Vocational and Technical Training in Egypt, <https://oxfordbusinessgroup.com/analysis/area-priority-shift-focus-vocational-and-technical-training-aims-address-skills-gap>

43 Ibid

44 Ibid

45 Ibid

46 45 Ibid

47 Assets Publishing Service (2017), Disability in North Africa, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5b2378d340f0b634cb3dd823/Disability_in_North_Africa.pdf, P.8

schemes⁴⁸. The National Council for Disability, established in 2012, is responsible for ensuring compliance with existing legislation⁴⁹. As of 2017, children with disabilities struggle to access education. For instance, it is difficult for children with low vision to enrol in schools, and many dropouts before finishing secondary school. Children with hearing impairments have limited or no access to Egyptian sign language, which hinders their ability to acquire reading and writing skills⁵⁰. The lack of accessible transportation to school environment means children with physical impairments struggle to access education⁵¹. Concerning statistics, only 28.3% of people with disabilities completed primary school, half of the national rate of 58.3%⁵². The illiteracy rate among people with disabilities is 61% for males and 70% for females, with double the rate of illiteracy among the non-disabled⁵³.

3.3.2 Law NO. 10 of 2018 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was promulgated in February 2018. The law is the first legislation on people with disabilities since the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act, which was passed in 1975⁵⁴. At a general level, the Act provides a wide range of rights and protection for the disabled, including rights to non-discrimination in employment, health, political activity, rehabilitation and training, and legal protection⁵⁵. Specifically, the law also includes provisions for the rights of persons with disabilities in education at all levels⁵⁶. The legislation requires educational institutions to adopt policies to support disabled persons and provide equal opportunities in education. Most importantly, the law prohibits an institution from rejecting applications from students on the grounds of disability. The law imposes criminal liability on officials, who violate this provision, with a fine ranging from 500 to 2,000 Egyptian pounds (\$28 to \$113) with multiple fines for multiple offenses⁵⁷.

3.3.3 The number of refugees in March 2019 was 280,00, comprising refugees and asylum-seekers from Iraq, Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen⁵⁸. Syrian, Sudanese and Yemeni refugees and asylum-seekers have access to the educational system as Egyptian nationals⁵⁹. As of July 2017, 122, 203 Syrian refugees were officially registered in Egypt, 42,577 students registered in regular schools during the academic year 2016-2017, about 30, 075 (71%) are registered in public schools and 12, 502 (29%) are in private schools. In addition, about 4,300 refugee students were enrolled in Egyptian public universities and higher education institutes during the 2016-2017⁶⁰.

4. Economic Empowerment

4.1 Employment and Unemployment

4.1.1. Although youth employment is one of Egypt's most significant challenge, there is no policy framework to guide the Government's interventions in the sector. However, the following frameworks, the Youth Employment National Action Plan 2010-15, the Egyptian Observatory for Education, Training and Employment, and the Egyptian Forum for Youth Employment Promotion (YEP) guide activities and operations on youth employment⁶¹. Egypt's youth unemployment rate of 29.6% in 2017, more than double the national average of 11.7%⁶², and many young Egyptians are in unfavourable work: with no contract, social insurance, medical insurance coverage, and in low-quality workplaces⁶³. As of 2012, almost one-half of the working youth (48%) were in an occupation that does not match their educational qualification, and 9% were classified as overeducated⁶⁴. By August 2018, 49% of youth were employed,

48 Ibid:8

49 Ibid:8

50 Ibid:9

51 Ibid:9

52 Ibid:9

53 Ibid:9

54 Shalabi, M. (2018), New Law in Egypt Supports Disabled Students, <https://www.al-fanarmedia.org/2018/03/new-law-in-egypt-supports-disabled-students/>

55 Ibid

56 Ibid

57 Ibid

58 UNHCR (2019), 2019 Planning Summary, <http://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/pdfsummaries/GA2019-Egypt-eng.pdf>, P.4

59 Ibid:4

60 UNESCO (2018), Egypt Country Plan, https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/country_plan_egypt.pdf, P.1

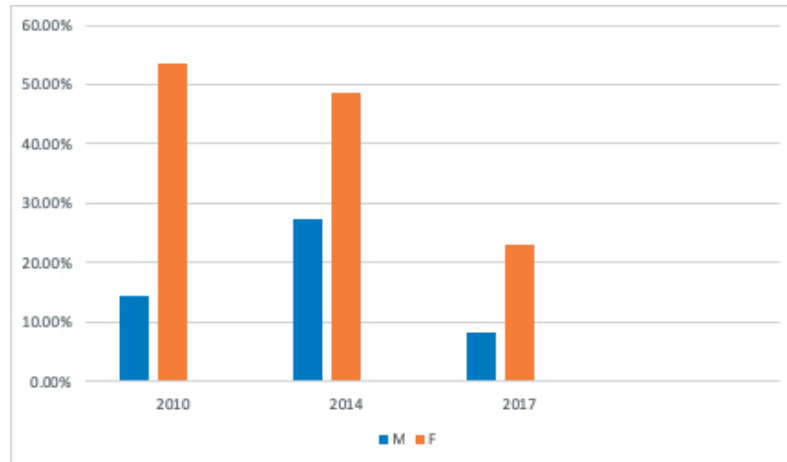
61 EU (2015), Policies and Interventions on Youth Employment in Egypt, <https://www.google.com/search?q=youth+employment+program+in+egypt&oq=youth+employment+program+in+egypt&aqs=chrome..69l57j33.19653j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>, P.22

62 ILO (2019), Egypt Country Data, https://www.ilo.org/ilostat/faces/oracle/webcenter/portalapp/pagehierarchy/Page21.jspx?_adf.ctrl-state=t-puynk3yo_4&_afLoop=992674067577609&_afWindowMode=0&_afWindowId=null#%40%40%3F_allILO_frWindowId%3Dnull%26_afLoop%3D992674067577609%26_afWindowMode%3D0%26_adf.ctrl-state%3D17ocd42y2l_4

63 EU 2015, op.cit :12

compared to 25.7% that were jobless, 38.3% of the unemployed were university degree holders, and 30.7% of them had technical diploma degrees⁶⁵. The percentage of youth not in education, employment or training in 2017 was 35.0% females and 19.6% males; and 23.9% females and 21.4% males were out of school in 2018 respectively⁶⁶.

Figure 2- Youth Unemployment in Egypt, 2010, 2014 and 2017



Source: ILOSTAT

4.4.2 Youth employment programs or active labour market programs (ALMPs) are implemented to improve the prospects of gainful employment of participants⁶⁷. These programs fall into four categories-training and skills development, entrepreneurship development, employment services and subsidized employment⁶⁸. A great number of these programs (66%) were in training and skills development, 24% in entrepreneurship, 8% in services and 2% in subsidized employment⁶⁹. The Egyptian Forum for Youth Employment Promotion (Egypt-YEP) was launched in 2014 to address the country's unemployment crisis among young people. The Forum aims to solve the country's youth unemployment with coordinated action from the Ministries of Planning, Education, and Manpower and Migration⁷⁰. The Egypt-YEP had four priorities for the promotion of youth employment:

- Introducing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for active labor market programs;
- Providing labor market at national and regional levels;
- Institutionalizing early-stage career guidance and counseling; and
- Public works program⁷¹.

•The World Bank signed a four-year agreement in 2014 with Egypt's Social Fund for Development to implement the Emergency Labor Intensive Investment Project. The agreement covers two programs (1) emergency Labor Intensive Investment Program (ELIIP), and the Emergency Employment Investment Program (EEIP), with a EUR 70 million grant from the European Union (EU). The EU program has three components: community services, infrastructure projects, and employability of young unemployed people. These programs aim to provide short-term employment to unskilled and semi-skilled workers on infrastructure projects and projects providing access to basic infrastructure services for the target population in impoverished areas in Egypt⁷².

Other youth employment initiatives include:

- The Youth Employment National Action Plan (YENAP) aims at increasing youth employment by providing

65 Egypt Today, op.cit

66 WEF-GGGR (2018), Global Gender Gap Report-Egypt Country Data, <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2018/data-explorer/#economy=EGY>

67 IFPRI (2016), Youth Employment Programs in Egypt: The Good, The Bad and the Ugly, <https://egyptssp.ifpri.info/2016/10/31/youth-employment-programs-in-egypt-the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly/>

68 Ibid

69 Ibid

70 EU 2015, op.cit :22

71 Ibid. :22

72 Ibid: 30

- decent and productive jobs for young people⁷³.
- The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) implemented an initiative to support youth employment through small and medium enterprises, opening a line of credit worth LE200 billion, with a low interest rate of 5%. The initiative aims are to encourage young entrepreneurs to start their businesses and help existing ones to expand, which is expected to create new job opportunities and lessen the unemployment rate among young⁷⁴.
 - The International Labor Organization's (ILO) Canadian-funded 'Decent Jobs for Egypt's Young People' (DJEP) project is a prime example of having achieved a successful intervention through national partnerships in the area of MSME development. The DJEP project has specifically adopted the ILO's entrepreneurship and enterprise development training to fit an Egyptian context to assist youth in understanding local and international markets, finance, business operation and growth, and provide vital links to business support services. These tool kits include the "Know About Business" (KAB) training, the 'Start and Improve Your Business' (SIYB) and the 'Gender and Entrepreneurship Together' (GET Ahead) training package⁷⁵
 - The Employment for Youth in Egypt (EYE) is a three-year (2016-2019) ILO-Norwegian project. Its objective is to contribute to increased productive employment and decent opportunities for women and men in Qalyoubia and Menoufia governorates, based on a framework of an interdisciplinary, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach:
 - a) Promoting sustainable enterprises;
 - b) Creating more and better jobs for inclusive growth and improved youth employment prospects; and
 - c) Promoting decent work in the rural economy⁷⁶.

The most notable program for female youth is Neqdar Nesharek.

- The Neqdar Nesharek (Neqdar) program or "we can participate", was implemented by the Population Council's Egypt office with funds from USAID-Egypt from September 2011 to December 2014. Neqdar is a social and economic empowerment program that targeted 4,500 young women aged 16-29 in the governorates of Fayoum, Qena, and Sohaq located in Upper Egypt. The Neqdar program aimed to adopt an integrated approach to female economic and social empowerment to enhance the transition to work for marginalized young women in rural Upper Egypt. The program intended to go beyond microfinance, to providing business skills, training and actual support in starting a business or getting employed. At the same time, it emphasized soft and life skills, health knowledge, legal rights, and the importance of involving the women's gatekeepers (husbands and fathers) and community leaders⁷⁷.

4.2 Ecosystem and Entrepreneurship

4.2.1 Youth entrepreneurship development is currently part of Egypt's development discourse as a pathway for self-employment and enterprise development to generate additional jobs to reduce the country's high unemployment rate among young people. Correspondingly, the government established the Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre (TIEC) in 2010⁷⁸. TIEC aims to drive innovation and entrepreneurship in ICT for the benefit of the national economy⁷⁹. Its mission is to stimulate an innovation-based economy through strategizing, facilitating, and promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, and the creation of intellectual property, in ICT and its applications⁸⁰. The Centre performs the following:

- Act as a catalyst among Government-Private Sector-Academia;
- Mobilize the different components of the ecosystem;
- Define, manage, and coordinate the various programs and initiatives derived from the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Strategy jointly from the different stakeholders;

73 GoE 2016, op.cit:40

74 Ibid t:40

75 ICSB (2019), Young Egyptian Driving Entrepreneurship Growth, <http://icsb2019.com/young-egyptians-driving-entrepreneurship-growth/>

76 ILO (2016), Employment for Youth in Egypt (EYE): Working Together in Qalyoubia and Menoufia, https://www.ilo.org/addisababa/technical-cooperation/WCMS_571875/lang-en/index.htm

77 ElSayed, A. and Roshyd, R (), Women's Social and Economic Empowerment: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from Rural Egypt, http://erf.org.eg/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Lbr_ERF23AC_RaniaRoshdyAhmedSayed.pdf

78 TIEC ND), Technology Innovation Entrepreneurship Innovation Center, <http://www.tiec.gov.eg/en-us/about/Pages/whatisTIEC.aspx>

79 Ibid

80 Ibid

- Focus on generating from the commercialization of Innovations and IP licensing;
- Solve the national existing problem; and
- Brand Egypt, as a global competitor in high value-added innovation.

4.2.2 The prominent incubators and accelerators include:

•Flat 6 Labs, Cairo being a member of the Global Accelerator Network, is instrumental in Egypt's successful start-ups focussing primarily on funding and mentoring, providing a space for ideas to be nurtured into viable businesses. The organization provides seed funding, networking opportunities, mentorship, and entrepreneurship-focused business-training has helped launch more than 90 companies in MENA in its five years of operation⁸¹.

•The American University in Cairo (AUC) also has an active program to foster the entrepreneurship ecosystem. Its Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program (EIP), established in 2010, incubates, connects and supports talented young people and facilitates their success beyond AUC, in Egypt and further afield in the MENA region. Since its launch, the EIP has engaged in raising awareness, mentoring, competitions, training and incubation programs, as well as connecting entrepreneurs with investors. Over a short period, EIP activities have helped more than 5,000 entrepreneurs from all over Egypt, including Cairo, Giza, Mansoura, Alexandria, and Aswan, as well as in Lebanon and Dubai. Part of EIP's development has been the launch of the AUC Venture Lab to contribute to job creation by enabling innovative start-ups to capitalize on AUC's knowledge, extensive network, outstanding facilities, and alumni network⁸².

•Enpact, another non-profit organization runs a mentoring program for young entrepreneurs from Egypt, Tunisia, and Germany. It focuses on young innovative business. Its goal is not only to connect the participants with renowned mentors from the Enpact network but also to foster knowledge sharing between young entrepreneurs⁸³.

•Nahadet El-Mahrousa is one of Egypt's earliest startup incubators and the first incubator of early-stage social startups in Egypt and MENA. El-Mahrousa works on supporting young social entrepreneurs in Egypt during the ideation phase. The incubator helps entrepreneurs build their social startups from the ground up, providing training for and running social projects, as well as a variety of resources. El Mahrousa has helped launch more than 40 social enterprises in areas that include youth development, education, employment, health, arts, and science. Its social entrepreneurs impact about 50,000 people in Egypt on an annual basis⁸⁴.

•The Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP-Egypt) was launched in 2016 to support the aspirations of young Egyptian men and women who wish to pursue entrepreneurship as a career pathway to contribute to the economic development of their country. The YEP is part of the Citi Foundation's pathways to progress global approach to prepare urban youth to thrive in today's economy. Programs that make up this approach are focused on developing economic opportunities for youth through activities such as, entrepreneurship education, engagement in the formal economy through first jobs, and the acquisition of leadership, financial, and workspace skills. Over two years period, this partnership of AMIDEAST/Egypt and Citi have provided training, coaching, incubation, and other support to more than 40 aspiring young Egyptian entrepreneurs, with more than 16 companies among them⁸⁵.

•Microsoft Egypt launched a female empowerment campaign, "#MakeWhatsNext" in 2018 to encourage young females to consider careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) related industries. #MakeWhatsNext aims to develop the skills of more than 100,000 young women, with a target up to 10 women and families. The initiative works to create an integrated environment to empower and encourage girls to pursue careers in ICT⁸⁶.

Other incubators include Badaya, Cairo Angels, Ebni, Endeavor Egypt, Gesr, The Greek Campus, Hmaa, Injaz, Egypt,

81 Steep Feed (2017), 8 Organizations that Helped Shape Egypt's Thriving Startup Scene, <https://stepfeed.com/8-organizations-that-helped-shape-egypt-s-thriving-startup-scene-5132>

82 Ibid

83 Ibid

84 Ibid

85 AMIDEAST (2019), Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP)-Egypt, <https://www.amideast.org/our-work/develop-a-skill/entrepreneurship/youth-entrepreneurship-program-yep-%E2%80%94-egypt>

86 Microsoft (2018), Microsoft Partners with Egyptian Ministries, NGOs to Train Over 1,500 Egyptian Women as Part of its #MakeWhatsNext Global Campaign, <https://news.microsoft.com/en-xm/2018/05/08/microsoft-partners-with-egyptian-ministries-ngos-to-train-over-1500-egyptian-women-as-part-of-its-makewhatsnext-global-campaign/>

Innoventures, Juicelabs, Rise Up Egypt, Sustaincubators, 1864, among others⁸⁷.

5. Youth Engagement and Civic Participation

5.1. The Government launched its own youth civic participation program for young people's engagement in the country's political space. The program started with the launch of the Presidential Leadership of Program (PLP) in 2015. The PLP is a custom-designed program to prepare the youth for leadership. It aims to raise young people's awareness of politics and development⁸⁸. The Government declared 2016 as the 'Year of the Egyptian Youth' and announced, at the National Youth Conference, the building of 145,000 housing units for Egyptian youth, and the Central Bank of Egypt's initiative to implement a small, medium-sized enterprises loan program for youth⁸⁹. A presidential decree was issued in August 2017 establishing a National Academy to train, empower and enhance the capacity of youth in various fields including leadership⁹⁰. The Academy aims to follow France's Ecole Nationale d'Administration⁹¹.

6. Development Partners in the Youth Sector

- UN System
- The World Bank
- The European Union
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
- The British Council

7. Recommendations

- i. The IsDB should provide technical support to CAMPAS for age and sex-disaggregated data in the youth sector;

IsDB should assist the GoE in mainstreaming youth development across all sectors of the society;

IsDB should provide technical support to assist the GoE implement SDG target 8b (develop and operationalize a national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy); and,

- ii. IsDB should work with the Ministry of Education to integrate out of school youth into skills program.

⁸⁷ Steep Feed (2017), op.cit & Wamda (2016), The Lucky 13: Egypt's Incubators, <https://www.wamda.com/2016/10/egypts-incubators>

⁸⁸ GoE 2015, op.cit: 40

⁸⁹ Egyptian Streets (2016), Egypt's President Sisi Launches Biggest Digital Library in the World, Declares 2016 as Year of the Youth, <https://egyptianstreets.com/2016/01/10/egypts-president-sisi-launches-biggest-digital-library-in-the-world-declares-2016-year-of-youth/>

⁹⁰ Egypt Today (2017), National Academy for Youth Leadership Opens in October, <http://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/20046/National-Academy-for-Youth-leadership-opens-in-October>

⁹¹ Ibid



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