



Women Empowerment in Egypt

2014-May2021



The National Council for Women in Egypt



NCW, the official national machinery for the advancement of women in Egypt

- Established by Presidential Decree 90, in 2000.
- Law no.30/2018 sets its structure and mandates
- 2014 Constitution:

- ✓ Article: 93: International agreements and conventions
- ✓ Article: 214: National Councils, Independent Bodies



المجلس القومي للمرأة
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR WOMEN



The National Council for Women in Egypt

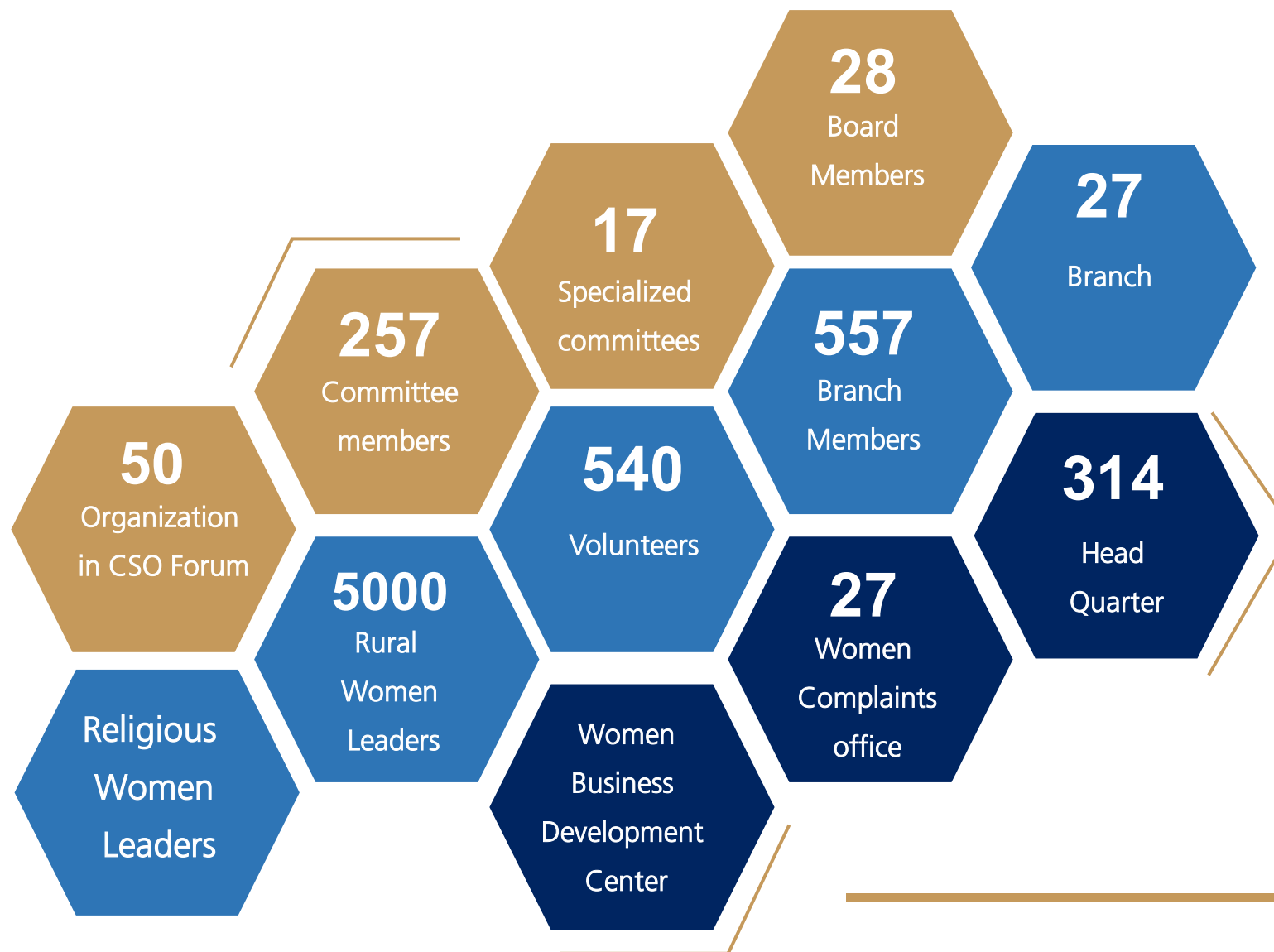
Entrusted with

- Proposing draft national plans for the advancement of women
- Coordinating with government agencies that implement programs, activities and development projects for women
- Following up and evaluate the implementation of the state's general policy in the field of women
- Proposing policies & Legislations for women's development and empowerment
- Expressing opinions on international and regional conventions and agreements related to women, and following up on what has been ratified
- Representing Egyptian women in international and regional forums for women's affairs
- Contributing to drafting the reports that the state submits periodically in accordance with international conventions related to women
- Reporting to public authorities any violations of women's rights
- Holding conferences, seminars, preparing research and studies on topics related to women
- Raising awareness and conducting training programs



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Normative & Policy Framework

Egyptian Constitution 2014



- The 2014 constitution includes articles for citizenship and equality between Egyptian citizens and the criminalization of discrimination through various article such as articles 9, 11, 53, 59, 89



Normative & Policy Framework



Egyptian Constitution 2014 (Article 11)

The state ensures protection & care for motherhood & childhood, & for female heads of household, elderly women, & women most in need

- Protection of women against all forms of violence
- Ensures women empowerment to reconcile their duties toward family & work



- The state commits taking the measures to ensure appropriate representation of women in Upper & Lower House
- It grants women the right to hold decision making positions in entities & judicial bodies without discrimination

Achieving equality between women and men in all civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights

Normative & Policy Framework

Strategic Framework



Egypt's Vision 2030

National Strategy for the empowerment of Egyptian Women
2030

National Strategy to combat VAW

National Strategy to combat FGM

National Strategy to combat Child Marriage



#سر_قوتك
THE SECRET OF
YOUR POWER

Normative & Policy Framework

Strategic Framework



National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030

- Egypt is the First country globally to align and launch its Strategy 2030 to both the SDG Global Agenda 2017
- It is aligned to Egypt's Sustainable Development Strategy 2030.
- Endorsed by the Egyptian President in 2017 "Women's Year" to be the **national policy and guiding document** for the Government.
- The Establishment of **The National Egyptian Women observatory**.



Normative & Policy Framework

Strategic Framework

National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030

The Strategy's Pillars:

The strategy used a Participatory approach

175,000 contributed in developing of the strategy

(Ministers – Governors – parliamentarians – youth – 180 civil society)



34
Indicator

23
Intervention

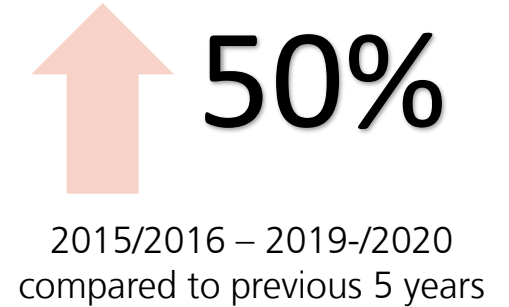
2 Mainstreamed Pillars: Legislation & Behavioral Ideational Change

Normative & Policy Framework

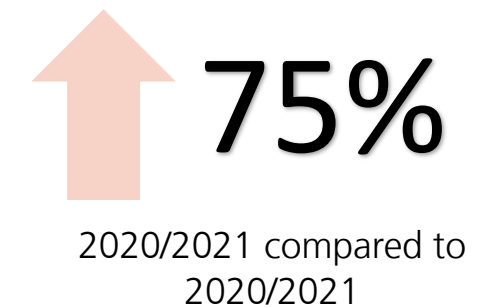
Financing Gender Equality & Women Empowerment



14% of the National budget is directly allocated to women's issues within the period 2015/2016 – 2019-/2020 which is **50% increase** in the budget allocated to women issues compared to amount allocated in the past 5 years.



In 2021/2022 **75% increase** of the allocations to women issues will be conducted compared to the amount allocated in 2020/2021



Normative & Policy Framework



Women During COVID-19

- Egypt was the first country globally to issue a **rapid response policy towards women situation during covid19**
- Egypt was also the first country globally to issue a **'Women Policy Tracker'**. (5 editions until Jan 2021)

165 policy
considering
women needs

Normative & Policy Framework



Women During COVID-19

Social Protection & protection from violence against Women

Fiscal & economic measures

165 policy considering women needs

Labor Market measures

Gender Sensitive measures

Protection from violence against Women



Normative & Policy Framework



Women During COVID-19

- The UNDP & UNWOMEN COVID19 **Global Gender Response Tracker** indicated that Egypt is the first country in the middle east, north Africa region & Arab region to take gender sensitive measures
- The United Nations “General Assembly” unanimously adopts an **Egyptian resolution on Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls**



Legislative Framework

Laws and Decrees issued: Institutional



- A law **organizing the institutionalizing the National Council for Women** as an independent National Women Machinery (2018);
- Issuance of law No. 11 of 2019 of the **National Council of People with Disabilities**



Legislative Framework

Laws and Decrees issued: Economic & social empowerment

Laws:

- **Recognition of women as breadwinner** in accordance with the unified tax law No. 91 of 2005 and amended by Law No. 11 of 2013
- The **Law Governing the Family Insurance Fund was amended** (Law No. 113 for 2015) to increase its resources to respond to the needs of women
- Investment law article No. 2 in the **investment law** explicitly stated **equal investment opportunity between men and women** (2017);
- Civil Service Law granting working mothers **4 months maternity leave** instead of 3 months
- The **inclusive Health Insurance** Law No. 2/2018



Legislative Framework

Laws and Decrees issued: Economic & social empowerment

Laws:

- **Social security and pension law** issued in 2019
- Issuance of No. 6 of 2020 regarding evading **the payment of alimony**
- Amending some provisions in Personal Status Matters "Article 47" regarding matters of **guardianship over money** where women deal the most with these matters [Law No. 176 of 2020].
- A presidential decree for the protection of **Motherhood for women in Prison** to (keep her child until reaching 4 yrs old, & visitation rights after this age) and **delaying the execution penalty for the mother** until her child reach the age of two





Legislative Framework

Laws and Decrees issued: Economic & social empowerment

Decrees:

- The Minister of Education periodic book No. 29 of 2017 proving the **educational guardianship of a divorced mother**
- The 2018 decision of the Minister of Housing to **add breadwinning women among the priorities of applicants for apartments** in the ministry's projects.
- In 2019, two decrees (123, 124) issued by the Financial Regulatory Authority stated that **at least one women should be represented on boards** of the financial companies
- Minister of Education issued a decree **exempting female heads of household from school fees**. (2020)
- Minister of Manpower issued Decrees number 43 and 44 in 2021 to **lift restrictions on women's ability to work at night and restrictions on working in specific industries/profession** while assuring provision of protection and safety measures to women.



Legislative Framework

Laws and Decrees issued: Violence against women



Several laws protecting women from different kinds of Violence against them criminalizing:

- Sexual Harassment
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Sexual Intercourse without consent (Rape)
- Indecent Assault
- Kidnapping
- Public and non-public indecent acts
- Intransigence in paying alimony
- Bullying
- Forced/child/bargain marriage
- Cyber crimes
- Deprivation of inheritance
- Disclosing data of women victims of violence
- Human trafficking and illegal migration

Legislative Framework

Laws and Decrees issued: Violence against women



Several laws protecting women from different kinds of Violence against them criminalizing:

The NCW submitted to the Government of Egypt a **comprehensive bill for Violence against women** including **definitions of different forms of VAW and domestic VAW**.

The NCW also submitted a law against **child marriage** which is passed to the Parliament.

Women in Leadership & Decision Making

Efforts towards political participation, Leadership & Decision Making



28% in
Parliament
(164)

14% in Senate
(40)
(with a Women Deputy)

25%
Egypt
Cabinet

27%
Deputy
Ministers

31% in
Deputy
Governors

13%
women on
Boards

30%
women
diplomats

Woman National Security Advisor to
the President of Egypt

Two women appointed as
Governors

Woman Head of
Economic court

First woman Deputy Governor of the
Central Bank

Women in the public prosecution & state council for the first time ever

Economic Empowerment for Women



Women unemployment rate is 21,7% in 2019

Women labor force participation rate is 18% in 2019.

Percentage of women owning private companies 16%

Percentage of women holding bank accounts has increased from 9% in 2015 to 27% in 2017.

51% of women benefited from the microfinance loans & less than 1% the rate of women defaulting on loans, while 69% of women benefited from small enterprise loans

Percentage of women investors in stock exchange is 30%

The Government of Egypt is prioritizing the work on **Financial inclusion & economic empowerment for women**. The NCW and Central Bank of Egypt has signed an MOU (which is the first partnership of its kind globally) to work on Financial inclusion and **Village Savings and loans Association Model** as well as **digitization and use of technology**.



Social Empowerment for women



Social Protection policies safety & integrated safety net



**Health
Care**



**School
Feeding**



**Food
Ration
Cards**



**Cash
Transfer**



**Decent
Housing**



Emergency



**Employment
& FI**



**Insurance &
Social
Pension**



**Village/Slum
Development**

Gender mainstreaming Models



Gender Equality Seal Award (public Sector)



Egyptian Gender Equality Seal (private Sector)



Women Empowerment Principles



Closing Gender Gap Accelerator (public/private)





Gender mainstreaming Models

Closing Gender Gap Accelerator – WEF Model

The World Economic Forum Accelerator Model is a platform that facilitates **public-private collaboration**. It provides a national ecosystem for leaders to drive actions; insights & analysis for evidence-based decision-making & practical guides & tools for impact. NCW and MoIC along with WEF are collaborating to bring together multi-stakeholder actors across the public & private sectors to generate local insight & develop an action-plan and drive its execution for the **women economic empowerment** in Egypt.





National Institutional Arrangements

Women Empowerment

- **Equal Opportunity units** in all ministries
- **Family court established** to safeguard women & children
- A **Special unit for VAW** is established within **the Ministry of Interior**; Human rights departments in all security directorates and police departments
- **“Women & Child Rights” Sector** in the Ministry of Justice

Enhancing coherence and coordination of national mechanisms for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, with relevant government agencies





National Institutional Arrangements

Violence Against Women Efforts

Upgrading & upscaling Existing mechanisms



Upgrading NCW Women
Complaints office and hotline



Upgrading previously
established Shelter for
women survivors of violence

Creating Institutional Mechanisms



Specialized Criminal Departments
within the courts of appeal at the
republic level



VAW Unit within the NCW



24 Anti-Harassment Unit within
Universities



First Shelter for victims of
human trafficking



3 VAW Clinics within the department
of forensic medicine



4 Women Safety Medical Units
within the university hospitals



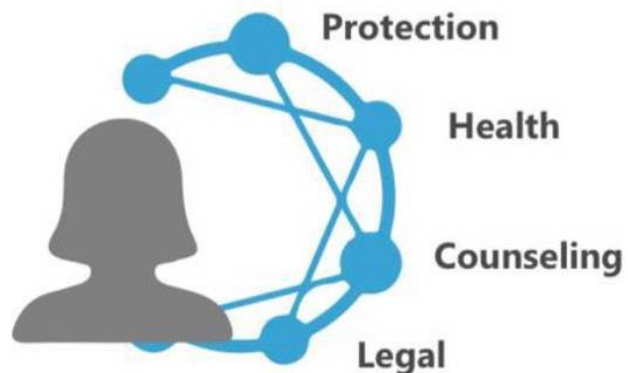


National Institutional Arrangements

Violence Against Women Efforts

Egypt was among first 10 countries to qualify to pilot UNFPA/UNWOMEN **Global Essential Services Package (ESP)** and the **first national referral pathway** to reporting violence cases was established

Essential Service packages



Moreover, and in response to **COVID-19**, the PPO announced the opening of digitized office for the prosecution of family courts in different governorates.



National Institutional Arrangements

Violence Against Women Efforts

SAFER CITIES, SAFER ENVIRONMENTS

Decent housing to the residents of informal settlements

- **Improved physical urban environment** in various spaces
- A **women friendly community space** built up such as "Zaneen" market
- **Safe public transportation**
- **Awareness raising campaigns**



Complemented with the provision of

- 1) **Accessible services** to protect women from violence
- 2) **Social empowerment** programme to help women and their families adapt to the new environment
- 3) **Economic empowerment** initiatives to provide a source of income for women to support their financial independence.



National Institutional Arrangements

Violence Against Women Efforts

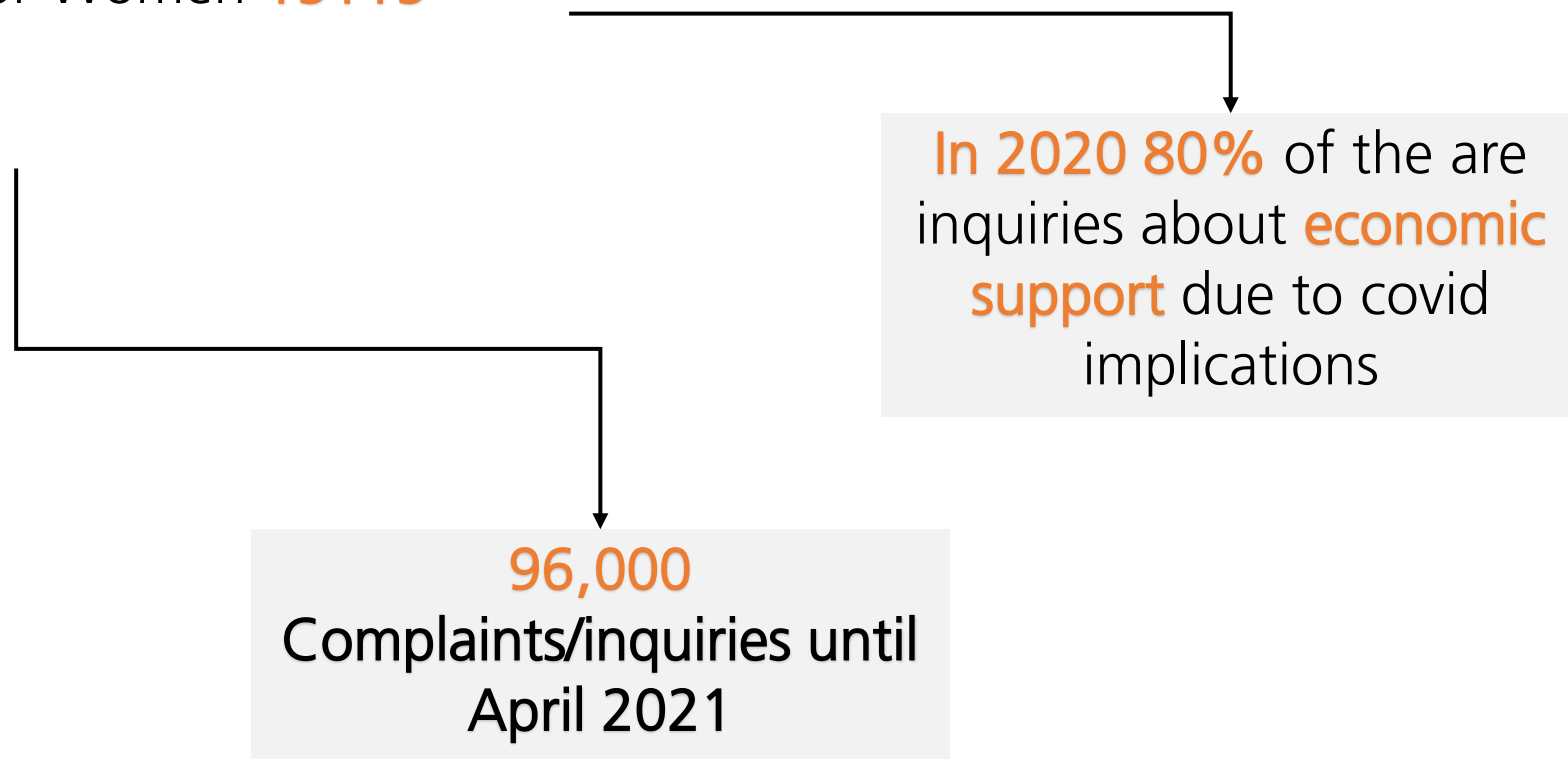
- Establishment of **Violence against Women unit within the Ministry of Justice**
- **Hotlines** linked to the VAW Department of the Ministry of Interior
- **Training of law enforcements**
- Manual on Violence against Women (VAW) in Islam was launched by Al Azhar to train religious leaders.
- PM decree to establish the first **one stop shop** for protection of women in Egypt
- .
- **Code of Conduct by Ministry of Transportation** to assure **safe transportation for women** as well as mega campaigns within metro stations & Railways



National Institutional Arrangements

Violence Against Women Efforts

- Women complaints office within National Council for Women **15115**





National Institutional Arrangements

Violence Against Women

Public Prosecution office announce the opening of digitized office for the prosecution of family courts in different governorates. (3 in Cairo: Madinet nasr – Masr Gedida - Shoubra, Alexandria, Gharbeya, Luxor, Mansoura, El Mahala)

8 Digitized offices Family Prosecution Offices



National Institutional Arrangements

Violence Against Women

Cyber Crimes Awareness Raising campaigns in partnership with Facebook platform and Instagram platform and other national campaigns

"Speak Up ... protect yourself and others"

"Choose your words wisely" campaign in cooperation with Instagram

"Women Safety Resources" campaign in cooperation with Facebook





National Institutional Arrangements

Violence Against Women:

Establishment of National Committee for the Eradication of FGM for the first time in Egypt in May 2019

OUTREACH

Child help line 16000

NCW 15115
Complaints office



Marie Asaad and Aziza Hussien yearly Award was launched for the efforts done against FGM

Total reach of the campaign during the two years

76,215,533

Partners





National Institutional Arrangements

Women and Health

Presidential Women Health Initiative was launched under the umbrella of

“100 million health” initiative

Led by Ministry of Health, Screening for breast cancer reached **13 million women**



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Ideational & Behavioral Change

Awareness Raising initiatives



#سر_قوتك

Secret of your power
reached 135 million
views/follows



Safe transportation for
women



Because I am a man
campaign and sports



Knocking Doors
reaching 35 million
Visits



#سر_قوتك
THE SECRET OF
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Thank You