

EGYPT



General Information

🏠 Population: **94,798,827**
 ♀ Female Population: **45,907,309**
 👶 Population Under 20: **52%**
 💰 GDP Per Capita (2016): **US\$ 3,478**
 📊 Unemployment: ♀ **23.3%**/ ♂ **7.8%**
 👤 Labour force participation: ♀ **22%**/ ♂ **73%**
 🏥 Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births): **49**
 ⚖️ Legal Age of Marriage: ♀ **18**/ ♂ **18**
 ⚖️ Gender Inequality Index: **135** (out of 159)
 💵 \$ Population Living Below National Poverty Line: **27.8%**
 📖 Adult Literacy Rate: ♀ **69%**/ ♂ **79%**
 🗳️ Women in Parliament: **14.9%**

🌐 CEDAW Reservations: Article **2** (Policy Measures), Article **16** (Marriage and Family Life), and Article **29** (Disputes and Arbitration)



Data on Violence

- **25.2%** of ever-married women aged 15-49 years have experienced intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime (EDHS, 2014).
- **43.8%** women aged between 10-29 were exposed to sexual harassment (Panel Survey of Young People in Egypt, 2014).
- **90% of men** and **71% of women** consider that wives should tolerate violence to keep the family together (IMAGES 2017).
- More than **half of men** and around **a third of women** agreed with the statement that there were times when a woman deserved to be beaten (IMAGES 2017).
- **A third of women** and **a fifth of men** reported witnessing their mothers being beaten by their father or another male relative in their childhood (IMAGES 2017).
- **17.4%** women aged between 20-24 were married before 18 (EDHS, 2014).
- **87.6%** of ever-married women aged between 15-19 have been circumcised (EDHS 2014).

Laws and Policies

Constitutional Provision to Protect Women from Violence: Yes ✓ Article 11 (2014)	Law against Child Marriage: Yes ✓ Article 2 Child Law No.126 (2008) *does not criminalize the practice
Law against Domestic Violence: No	National Strategy on EVAW: Yes ✓ National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women (2015-2020)
Law against Sexual Harassment: Yes ✓ Article 306 of the Penal Code (2014)	National Action Plan on EVAW: Yes ✓ Action Plan to Implement the National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women (2017)
Law against FGM/C: Yes ✓ Article 242 of the Penal Code (2016)	Inclusion of EVAW in other National Strategy: Yes ✓ National Strategy on Women's Empowerment

Services for Survivors

- **Social Services:** 8 government shelters in Cairo, Giza, Qalyubia, Alexandria, Mansoura, Beni Sueif, Fayoum and Menia that provide social, family and psychological counseling, family mediation/reconciliation, and referral to other service providers
- **Health Services:** Trained health services providers are available in all public general hospitals. Specialized clinics for survivors were established within the forensics offices in Cairo and Alexandria
- **Legal aid:** The National Council for Women's Complaints Office (hotline 15115) and a number of women's rights NGOs provide legal advice and legal aid services to women survivors of violence

Gender-Discriminatory Laws with regards to WEE

- **Article 1 of the Personal Status Law:** A married woman can leave the house only for purposes allowed by law or custom
- **Article 6 of Law 25/1929:** the wife can demand divorce (*taṭlīq*) upon suffering from harm while the husband has a unilateral right to divorce (Women often face lengthy and expensive court procedures to prove that they suffered harm)
- **Article 237 of the Penal Code:** a man who kills his wife and her adulterer-partner while discovering her in an act of adultery gets a lesser punishment than a man who commits any other form of murder

- Article 274 of the Penal Code: a married woman committing adultery receives a harsher penalty (up till two years) than a

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Recommendations from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

- “Urges the State party to give priority attention to combating violence against women and girls and to adopting comprehensive measures to address such violence, in accordance with its general recommendation No. 19. Such measures should include the expeditious adoption of a comprehensive law criminalizing all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, marital rape, sexual violence, sexual harassment, institutional violence and crimes committed in the name of honor. They should also include the development of a coherent and multi-sectoral action plan to combat violence against women”
- “Urges the State party to amend articles 17 and 60, as well as other applicable provisions, of the Penal Code to ensure that perpetrators of violence against women do not benefit from any reduction in penalty”
- “The Committee calls upon the State party to increase the number of shelters and ensure an adequate geographical distribution thereof, and it also calls upon the State party to lift age limitations on access to shelters for victims of domestic violence” (CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/7) (2010)

What We Do (project info)

UN Women provided technical and capacity development support to the Government of Egypt to achieve the following results.

Normative Work: 1) The Penal Code was amended in 2014 to introduce an article that clearly defines and criminalizes sexual harassment is drafted and issued (Article 306 b 2014), 2) A comprehensive strategy on EVAW was developed in April 2015, with input from 12 ministries, and an implementation mechanism in place for monitoring progress, 3) A policy on sexual harassment at Cairo University was developed with training provided to over 200 students and 23 faculty members on the management of cases of sexual harassment on university campuses.

National Capacity Development: 1) Technical and operational capacity of the Complaints Office at the National Council for Women enhanced that enabled over 2000 poor or marginalized women to receive free-of-charge legal advice and legal aid to resolve cases related to discriminatory laws and violence against women, 2) Capacities of 60 newly appointed female judges and 75 prosecutors were enhanced on effective justice and prosecution responses to eliminate violence against women, 3) Over 100 staff of shelters for women survivors of violence have enhanced capacities to provide support to women survivors of violence in line with global standards, 4) Over 20,000 community members mobilized, utilizing innovative awareness-raising and advocacy tools, to engage in different activities in the 3 intervention areas of the Greater Cairo Safe City Programme.

Gender Responsive Urban Planning and Upgrading: 1) A playground and school were upgraded in *Ezbat Elhagana* and a women and child friendly space was developed in *Imbaba*, 2) A gender responsive assessment for the Bus Rapid Transit system in Greater Cairo was conducted, 3) The physical infrastructure of two shelters for women survivors of violence were upgraded to be more suitable to receive women survivors and their dependents.

Impact Story: Safe Cities Free from Violence against Women and Girls Programme

The programme piloted a unique model of targeting men; the interventions with *tuk-tuk* (auto rickshaw) drivers contributed to changing their perceptions about gender equality and women’s rights and fostered a public debate about the issue of sexual harassment in public spaces while improving the safety of women and girls utilizing this popular mode of public transport in informal areas.

“I am a tuk-tuk driver and, on the road, I now respect women who ride with me. Before, I used the street as if it belonged only to me while women do not have the right to even walk along the street. Even at home, I used to hit my younger sister and shout at her. I used to insist that my demands are met straight away, and if not, I shouted and quarreled which created problems. Since I joined the association, I knew, understood and felt that women have rights in the same way I have rights. I participated in the training provided by the association on interactive theater, graffiti, and choral singing. We went down the streets where we organized campaigns. When I joined and received the training, I realized that it is necessary for one to have a goal and that nothing is impossible, while before I lived my life without a purpose” - Mohamed Nimr (tuk-tuk driver)



Sources: Population, Female Population, Population under 20: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, Egypt Census 2017; GDP Per Capita: World Bank development indicators 2016; Employment and Unemployment data: CAPMAS 2017 and World Bank Labour Force Survey 2017; Women in Parliament: IPU 2018; Maternal Mortality Ratio: CAPMAS and UNICEF Egypt 2017; Legal Age of Marriage: Girls Not Brides; Gender Inequality Index: UNDP 2016 Human Development Report;

