The MDG-F in Egypt

Joint Programmes: 3  
Total Budget: USD 14,594,790

Joint Programmes Information

Joint Programme  | “Mobilization of the Dahshour World Heritage Site for Community Development (MDGF-1775)”
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Thematic Window  | Culture and Development
Budget  | USD 3,095,086
Participating Agencies  | WTO, UNDP, ILO, UNESCO, UNIDO
Participating Government Agencies  | Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of International Cooperation; Supreme Council of Antiquities; Ministry of Tourism; Industrial Modernization Centre; Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency; Social Fund for Development.
Dates  | 14 April 2009 – 14 April 2013
Regions of Intervention  | Dahshour seasonal lake and the surrounding villages

Programme in Brief:
This joint programme’s goal was to protect the area of the Dahshour pyramids and its ecosystem while fostering sustainable development, cultural and ecological management and revenue generation. The intervention was a pilot based on the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) master plan to conserve and preserve cultural heritage in Egypt, aimed at: expanding employment opportunities in UNESCO world heritage sites by supporting local community production of arts; promoting the development of creative industries, and small tourism businesses; building capacity for cultural management and protection of world heritage cultural assets; promoting public awareness of the social value of world heritage sites, the importance of natural resources, and providing forums for cross-cultural exchanges.

Key Achievements

- The project was successful in drawing attention to Dahshour, particularly from supported governmental partners, which dedicated extra commitment and resources to the area.

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• An integral tourist plan was developed with the community and the MoT at the initial stages of the programme. Following the recommendations of the tourist plan the MoT allocated 50 mill EGP for basic infrastructure in Dahshour (three roads) and allocated 4.4 million EGP to build the visitors centre on the plot of land that the MoA gave to the project. This has been the most significant contribution that the project has done on providing “basic infrastructure”.

• The programme produced a quality environmental assessment and a protected area report. Advocay efforts also contributed to having the area declared as “environmentally managed”, which provides the framework to control hunting activities and protects bio-diversity.

• A salient and tangible result essential to protect the archeological site has been the production of a master plan of the area. The plan redefined the boundaries of the Memphis Necropolis World Heritage Site Core Zone and Buffer Zones. This plan also includes several areas surrounding the World Heritage Site of which the Date Palm Groves and the Dahshour Lake represent a major component.

• The project conducted wider training in a number of sectors related to tourism and business development. For example, over 3,000 people received trainings on different types of potential tourist industries (basic hospitality, horse cart driving, tourist guides, etc), over 300 people received specific training on entrepreneurship. Trainings were very well received by the community, and they created curiosity and increased expectations.

• In the case of trainings for artisans, the programme support translated into an incipient sector of artisans who have gone to the level of being able to produce product prototypes with the potential to be marketed widely.

• The component that has proven to have a deeper impact in building an entrepreneurship culture in the area has been the microcredit line implemented by BEST foundation. 294 loans of up to 3,000 EGP had been disbursed at the time of the programme’s final evaluation (25% women).

• The project has succeeded in building relations of trust with important sectors of the community through the numerous training programmes and most relevantly through the creation of different handcraft associations and particularly through the articulation of the LED Forum. However, the LED Forum in its present form is still far from sustainable. On the one hand, it lacks the social base to be considered representative of the area and it still has no sustainable activities to support itself.

More information
http://www.mdgfund.org/content/dahshurworldheritagesitemobilizationculturalheritagecommunitydevelopment

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<th>Joint Programme</th>
<th>“Climate Change Risk Management in Egypt (MDGF- 1675)”</th>
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<td>Environment and Climate Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
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<td>Participating Agencies</td>
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<td>Participating</td>
<td>Supreme Energy Council (SEC) in the Cabinet of Ministers (COM), the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) in the Ministry of State for</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Agencies</td>
<td>Environment Affairs (MEA), the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI), and the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR).</td>
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<td>Regions of Intervention</td>
<td>All of Egypt, national level</td>
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**Programme in Brief:**

The main objective of the joint programme (JP) was to help Egypt to align its climate risk management and human development efforts in pursuing the achievement of MDGs. It sought to reduce poverty and mitigate risk by developing mitigation and adaptation strategies with a special attention given to the vulnerable poorest populations of Egypt. The JP built awareness and capacity of key decision makers and development actors to support the systematic integration of climate change as a new variable in key policy, regulatory, institutional and operational frameworks. The implementation strategy of the JP was three-fold and included the following expected outputs: (i) Mainstreaming GHG mitigation into national policy and investment frameworks, including increased CDM financing opportunities; (ii) Enhancing the country’s capacity to adapt to climate change, through adaptation of the water resources sector and adaptation of the Agriculture Sector; (iii) Advocacy and Raising
Awareness.

Key Achievements

- The programme contributed to the establishment of the Energy Efficiency Unit (EUU) that advises the Cabinet of Ministers on Energy Efficiency (EE) related issues.

- The EEU has initiated market dialogues in 3 targeted sectors to promote Solar Water Heaters to evaluate various incentive schemes.

- The Supreme Energy Council (SEC) with the support of the programme and the World Bank, developed a national Energy Efficiency roadmap.

- Regarding the expansion of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), the CDM Awareness and Promotion Unit facilitated the import from Ukraine of an environmentally friendly charcoal kiln with the support of the Environmental Protection Fund with revenues from the sales of carbon credits.

- In the Water Sector, the JP supported the modeling of various climate change scenarios, building on existing work that had been done to model water flows. It provided resources to develop the forecasting capacity of the Ministry including IT materials and training of staff. As a result, long-term forecast analysis of climate change impact on water flows became more accurate.

- In the Agriculture Sector, the JP supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) and its affiliated research centers to develop methodological approaches and planning tools, with particular emphasis on zoning and mapping tools, as well as conduct research activities (mainly concentrating on deficit irrigation) and simulation exercises on the impacts of climate change on key crops.

- Within the context of the outreach and advocacy strategy, activities conducted to increase public knowledge include the preparation and viewing of a documentary film titled “The Future of Climate Change in Egypt” to increase public awareness on climate change.

http://www.mdgfund.org/content/climatechangeriskmanagementegypt

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<th>Joint Programme</th>
<th>“Pro-poor Horticulture Value Chains in Upper Egypt (SALASEL, MDGF-2047)”</th>
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<td>Development and the Private Sector</td>
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<td>Dates</td>
<td>4 December 2009 – 30 June 2013</td>
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Programme in Brief:

The SALASEL Joint Programme aims to support pro-poor horticulture value chains in Upper Egypt with a view to improving their position in export and domestic markets. This was done by promoting equitable partnerships between small farmers and private sector investors in efficient pro-poor horticulture value chains in the poorest six Upper Egyptian Governorates. The programme approach is innovative with an integrated concept of assisting service providers and end beneficiaries with the objective of developing sustainable agribusiness. The JP implementation strategy is built upon improving the existing structure and capacities of 3 Post-Harvest Centres (PHCs) and 6 Farmers’ Associations (FAs) developed in previous donor assistance in Upper Egypt.

Key Achievements³

- The SALASEL joint programme has generated important knowledge about how to develop the horticultural value chain in Upper Egypt, and has developed ways to unlock incremental innovations and processes to win new markets, through Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

- The programme succeeded in introducing some good practices to help farmers to overcome some technical problems. Optimizing usage of fertilizers and pesticides contributed to reduce production costs and environmental impacts, as well as avoiding problems caused by not respecting the pre-harvest period with a doubly positive effect: Food Security/Safety for the general Egyptian population and possibly enabling export of Egyptian horticultural products to European markets.

- Farmers: through direct technical support of 1,960 farmers (60 visits per agronomist/month), the introduction of various good agricultural practices (GAP), there was an average 24% increase in productivity in the five selected crops (tomatoes 16%, potatoes 12%, pomegranates 15%, onions 55% and green beans 42%). Also, production costs decreased in some cases, due to better usage of inputs (fertilizers and pesticides). Around 56% of farmers have applied all technical recommendations and 40 % partially. The amount of farmers fully satisfied with SALASEL technical assistance is almost 83 % and 17 % are partially satisfied.

- Farmers’ Associations (FA): the linkages of FAs with processors, exporters and retailers are a great achievement of the programme. The amount of production supplied increased from 585 tons in 2011 up to 4,655 tons (January-May 2013), greatly exceeding the target of 2,500 tons. Also, 8 FAs have newly registered in retailers/processors lists. This means that companies formally accept these FAs as good horticultural suppliers. The level of farmers’ satisfaction with services provided by FAs is almost 54 % and 30 % are partially satisfied.

- Post-Harvest Centres (PHC): strategic investments (air conditioning, dock levelers, air curtains and external fences) were implemented in the 3 PHCs, in order to be certified and improve global efficiency. These improvements, plus training to PHC workers, increased productivity by 3 times.

- A total of 52 farmers were certified as producing in accordance with Global GAP option 2 (40 tomato farmers in Luxor and 12 farmers in Beni Sueif). Also, The PHC Beni Soliman and PHC Bayhoo were ISO 22000 certified.

• Women related activities are clear achievements: evidence from focus groups showed the big improvement in women self-confidence. Six women’s committees in the targeted FAs have been elected and 3 are being assisted in starting their own business plans. 75 women were receiving assets through the project for their income activities of horticulture and cattle-raising (in partnership with Misr El Kheir Foundation.)

• Another big achievement was the improvement in human capital. The SALASEL JP young technical team has developed an interesting agricultural experience. Moreover the projects have trained 150 fresh grad agronomists from South Valley University, to meet employment market needs.

• The SALASEL programme gave much importance to enabling a legal framework. Actively forging relationships with farmers’ syndicates and the Central Agricultural Cooperatives Union (CACU), SALASEL organized a major Forum for key decision makers, including the Egyptian president's assistant for economic development, the head of the Cooperatives Branch at the Ministry of Agriculture, leading figures from all major political parties, leading privates’ sector figures, especially in the Upper Egypt agro-industry. The conference was followed by a study tour to Turkey to view cooperative mechanisms there and invitees included representatives of government. In addition, 2 studies have been done on cooperative law and assessment on all bottlenecks affecting FAs.

More information http://www.mdgfund.org/content/propoorhorticulturevaluechainsupperegyp