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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 15.12.2021**

**on the financing of the special measure in favour of Egypt for 2021**

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## on the financing of the special measure in favour of Egypt for 2021

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/947<sup>2</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe and amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009, and in particular Article 23(4) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the special measure in favour of Egypt, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing Decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2021. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 (“Financial Regulation”) establishes detailed rules on financing Decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU<sup>3</sup>.
- (3) The objective pursued by the measure to be financed under the Neighbourhood geographic programme of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument is to contain the prevalence of COVID-19 among vulnerable groups in Egypt and pave the way for their longer term socio-economic resilience.
- (4) It is justified to adopt the special measure due to the unforeseen impact of the new waves of the pandemic which is particularly severe in Egypt. Only about 12 percent of Egypt’s population has been fully vaccinated so far. Delays in deployment of support and in delivery of vaccination doses stalled the government’s plan to inoculate 40 percent of the population by the end of 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

<sup>3</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu) Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

- (5) This measure will allow the EU to continue its support to the efforts undertaken by Egypt to mitigate the immediate socio-economic impact of the pandemic on the less advantaged groups and communities.
- (6) The action entitled 'EU 4 Egypt's immediate socio-economic response to the COVID-19 outbreak' is to contain the prevalence of COVID-19 amongst the most vulnerable groups and mitigate the immediate social impact of the outbreak.
- (7) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (8) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/947, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the measure.
- (9) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of the Financial Regulation .

To this end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation before a contribution agreement can be signed.

- (10) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (11) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the measure, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (12) The measure provided for in this Decision does not fall in the categories of measures for which the prior opinion of the Committee is required. The measure should be communicated to the European Parliament and to the Member States through the Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/947 within one month of its adoption.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The measure*

The annual financing Decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the special measure in favour of Egypt for 2021, as set out in the Annex 'EU 4 Egypt's immediate socio-economic response to the COVID-19 outbreak', is adopted.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the measures for 2021 is set at EUR 7 000 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the budget line 14.020110 of the general budget of the Union:

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

### *Article 3*

#### *Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons*

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 5.3.2 of the Annex.

### *Article 4*

#### *Flexibility clause*

Increases<sup>4</sup> or decreases of up to EUR 10 million and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated reassignments of funds between actions contained in an action plan not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph acting in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

### *Article 5*

#### *Grants*

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex. Grants may be awarded to the bodies selected in accordance with point 5.3.1 of the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 15.12.2021

*For the Commission*

*Olivér VÁRHELYI*

*Member of the Commission*

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<sup>4</sup> These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing Decision.



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**THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**ANNEX**

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the special measure in favour of Egypt for 2021

**Action Document for EU 4 Egypt's immediate socio-economic response to the COVID-19 outbreak**

**SPECIAL MEASURE**

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation and a measure in the sense of Articles 23 (4) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation No 947/2021.

<b>1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number</b>	EU 4 Egypt's immediate socio-economic response to the COVID-19 outbreak CRIS number: NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2021/043-598 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)	
<b>2. Zone benefiting from the action/location</b>	Egypt The action shall be carried out at community, governorates and national levels.	
<b>3. Programming document</b>	N.A.	
<b>4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG targeted: SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being Other significant SDG(s): SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth	
<b>5. Sector of intervention/ thematic area</b>	Sector 2: Social development and social protection	DEV. Assistance: YES
<b>6. Amounts concerned</b>	Total estimated cost: EUR 7 000 000.00 Total amount of European Union (EU) contribution EUR 7 000 000.00: under NDICI (budget line BGUE-B2021-14.020110) <sup>1</sup>	
<b>7. Aid modality(ies)</b>	Project Modality <b>Direct management</b>	

<sup>1</sup> An action under the title 'EU 4 Egypt's immediate socio-economic response to the COVID-19 outbreak' is already ongoing on the basis of Commission implementing decision C(2020)4973 and financed with the appropriations entered in the budget line BGUE-B2020-22.040102 (CRIS number ENI/2020/042-776 – EUR 10 000 000).

<b>and implementation modality(ies)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- through grants</li> </ul> <b>Indirect management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN)</li> </ul>			
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	12250 – Infectious disease control			
<b>b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	Non-governmental organisations and civil society – 20000 United Nations - 41000			
<b>9. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
	Aid to environment	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and Women’s and Girl’s Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
	Trade Development	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>10. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships</b>	N/A			

## SUMMARY

In spite of the socio-economic and fiscal measures adopted by the Government of Egypt since 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak bears the potential to **reverse the country's achievements** in relation to fiscal consolidation, macroeconomic stability and sustainable development. The economic downturn resulting from the pandemic has **exacerbated poverty, increased vulnerabilities and lead to disruption in the delivery of basic services** including social and healthcare services. Key exposed sectors, such as tourism, manufacturing, the Suez Canal and oil and gas extractives continue to be impacted by travel restrictions, the slump in demand and disruptions to domestic and global supply chains and trade.

Against this background, the EU is committed to continue supporting the efforts undertaken by the authorities and non-governmental partners to mitigate the immediate socio-economic impact of the pandemic on the less advantaged groups and communities, as outlined in the Commission decision C(2020)4973 of 27 July 2020. Interventions foreseen as part of this decision were implemented in a timely manner, and have already started yielding results.

The **expected impact** of the 2020 action was to contain the prevalence of COVID-19 amongst the most vulnerable groups and mitigate the immediate social impact of the outbreak. The **four expected outcomes** are: 1) Social protection mechanisms targeting vulnerable and marginalised groups are enhanced; 2) Groups and communities most at risk (including PwDs and elderly) are in a position to take protective measures and implement social distancing; 3) Women continue to be empowered and protected against Gender Based Violence in spite of the COVID-19 outbreak; 4) Women are economically and financially empowered and women's led clusters/enterprises are better integrated into existing value chains and markets.

In light of the continued constraints faced by Egypt in 2021 and acknowledging already the increasing demand for support, the action expands the mobilisations of local actors (local authorities and civil society organisations) in order to widen the coverage of the beneficiaries of the outcomes (1), (2), (3) and (4).

Given their urgency, the response measures foreseen capitalise on ongoing interventions that are being enhanced to address immediate and critical gaps identified. Innovative digital solutions and public-private partnerships will underpin the implementation of the action.

## 1 CONTEXT ANALYSIS

### 1.1 Context Description

The first COVID-19 case was reported in Egypt on 14 February 2020, and as of 21 April 2020, there were 3,490 confirmed cases in all 27 governorates, of which 870 recovered and 264 resulted in death. In addition to posing a health threat to 100 million Egyptians, with over a third of the population living below the poverty line, the **broader social and economic impact** of the pandemic is likely to be immense.

Egypt's recent macroeconomic and structural reforms stabilized the economy and have allowed the country to enter the global COVID-19 crisis with improving fiscal and external accounts. However, the adverse repercussions of the pandemic have since undermined this recent progress, shedding light on longstanding challenges. These include sluggish private sector activity and job-creation, especially in the formal sector, below-potential revenue mobilization, and an unfavourable budget structure, with limited allocations to key sectors, such as health, social protection and education.

In the second quarter of 2021, unemployment rate was at 7.2% (after spiking at 9.6%, six months earlier), with the gradual resumption of economic activity. Both labour force participation and employment rates remained below-potential at 43.5% and 40.4% of the working-age population. Key exposed sectors, such as tourism, manufacturing, the Suez Canal and oil and gas extractives continue to be impacted by travel restrictions, the slump in demand and disruptions to domestic and global supply chains and trade.

To prevent community transmission, the authorities have put in place **several public health measures**, as early as 15 March 2020. As of 8 September 2021, a total of 11 million doses of vaccines had been administered in Egypt, out of a total population of 100 million inhabitants. Authorities have announced a target of 40% of the population vaccinated by the end of 2021. Vaccination of less advantaged groups and isolated communities seems however to be rolling out at a slower pace, due to a number of factors, including access and awareness.

Cumulated inflation and unemployment caused by the current crisis is expected to **disproportionately affect the poorest households** and lead to a **rise in poverty rates**, causing around 12% of Egyptians to fall from poverty into extreme poverty and driving 44.4% (12.9 million workers) below the poverty line.

The short and medium-term impacts of the pandemic are expected to be particularly severe in the **informal sector**, representing 63% of total employment and close to 40% of GDP. Up to 90% of all micro and small enterprises in Egypt are informal with employees lacking health and social insurance, or paid leave. Around 1.6 million people in the informal sector, including thousands of unregistered migrants, are expected to lose their jobs by the third quarter of 2020. Moreover, being a net food importer, the country is also significantly vulnerable to global food price shocks and exchange rate fluctuations. Food expenditure accounts for almost 46% of the total average household expenditures of the poorest.

The economic slowdown resulting from the containment **measures increases the vulnerability of women** in the labour force, as approximately half of the working women in Egypt are informally employed with minimal wages and limited or no access to social protection mechanisms. As schools have closed and children have been at home since 15 March, Egyptian women are shouldering the additional burden of home-schooling. This risks further deepening the gender gap in unpaid domestic work. In addition, isolation at home may lead to a heightened risk of domestic **gender based violence**.

In this context, facilitating the immediate implementation of socio-economic measures would mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in Egypt.

## 1.2 Policy Framework (Global, EU)

With an ongoing portfolio of 1.4 billion EUR, the European Union has remained a key partner of Egypt. Under the Partnership Priorities and subsequent **Single Support Framework 2017-2020** signed in 2017, the EU and Egypt acknowledged the importance of building stability and prosperity and committed to co-operate in advancing socio-economic goals set out in Egypt's Sustainable Development Strategy, including co-operation on economic modernisation and entrepreneurship, trade and investment, social development and social justice, energy security, the environment and climate action.

With the adoption on 8 April 2020 of a Joint Communication from the Commission and the High Representative on the **Global EU response to COVID-19<sup>2</sup>** that foresees a total contribution to the Team Europe package of EUR 15.641 billion, the EU supports international co-operation and multilateral solutions. In line with the approach agreed at the G20 and promoted by the UN, the EU response addresses the humanitarian, health, social and economic consequences of the crisis and related short-term emergency needs as well as longer-term structural impacts on societies and economies, thus reducing the risk of destabilisation. The EU COVID-19 response in Egypt, of which this action is part, follows a **Team Europe** approach. It draws contributions from all EU institutions and combines the resources mobilised by EU Member States and financial institutions, in particular the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The draft **EU Gender Equality Strategy (2020-24)** encompasses priorities on 'gender-equal economy', and 'Ending gender based violence' which indicates that gender-related actions are included in the EU's actions in fragile, conflict and emergency situations. The Strategy refers

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<sup>2</sup> JOIN(2020) 11 final, 08.04.2020.



to digital inclusion and transition as important means for gender equality. The action will also contribute to achieving the objectives of the **EU Gender Action Plan (2016-20)**<sup>3</sup> in particular in relation to socioeconomic empowerment and access to assets and resources, prevention and protection from gender-based violence, as well as to women's voice and participation.

### **1.3 Public Policy Analysis of the partner country/region**

The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to adversely impact the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the national **Sustainable Development Strategy (Egypt's Vision 2030)**. Egypt was one of the early adopters of the Agenda and submitted two Voluntary National Reviews to the High-Level Political Forum in 2016 and 2018.

The Government of Egypt has announced a COVID-19 financial support package of **EGP 100 billion (approx. EUR 5.9 billion)** through emergency liquidity made available in the current fiscal year budget. The funding includes a tranche of EGP 187.6 million (EUR 10.9 million) immediately disbursed to the Health Ministry, of which EGP 153.5 million (EUR 8.62 million) was allocated for medical supplies and equipment and EGP 34.1 million (EUR 2 million) hazard pay to healthcare frontline workers.

The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) has directed banks to relax credit limits for small and medium enterprises, remove ATM and point-of-sale transaction fees and commissions, and raise daily limits on card transactions in addition to cutting interest rates by 3%. The move is meant to facilitate businesses' access to working capital and **pay employee wages, finance essential food and commodity imports, as well as ensure consumers have access to credit**. A one-off monetary compensation is foreseen for seasonal workers registered at the database of Ministry of Manpower through post offices.

Several measures were taken to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on **vulnerable groups**. The Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) announced the expansion of the number of households benefitting from the Takaful and Karama social safety net programme, targeting three million households with food rations, nutrition and medication in partnership with civil society and increase in payments to women leaders in rural areas from EGP 350 (approx. EUR 20) to EGP 900 (approx. EUR 53) per month. Wages in the public sector and the tax exemption ceiling are also to increase in fiscal year 2020/2021. The Government is working closely with telecom companies to ensure reduced communication charges when students access Egyptian Knowledge Bank (EKB), an online platform providing students with access to **digitised curricula** to mitigate the impact of school closures.

Emphasis was placed by the Government on **integrating the specific needs of women and girls in its COVID-19 response plan**. The National Council for Women (NCW) will be part, along with other state institutions, of the committee in charge of designing additional tailored measures to mitigate the impact of the crisis on informal sector workers. On 7 April 2020, NCW launched the first bimonthly **Women's Policy Tracker on Policies and Programmes during COVID-19 Pandemic** as part of Egypt's efforts to contain the spread of the ongoing coronavirus outbreak. It is used as a reference of women empowerment in a COVID-19 context, especially in terms of protection of women from all social, economic and psychological repercussions of the emerging virus, in line with Egypt's constitutional and international commitments to gender equality and women empowerment in line with the National Strategy for Women's Empowerment (2030).

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<sup>3</sup> Council conclusions of 26 October 2015.

In an effort to safeguard past achievements and commitments to sustainable development, the Ministry of International Co-operation presented on 5 April the **Protect, Provide, and Progress: Egypt's International Response in the COVID-19 Fight**, to the bilateral and multilateral development partners. This is underpinned by the **Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation vision** which aims to provide a platform for co-ordination of the immediate and longer term COVID-19 crisis response.

#### 1.4. Stakeholder analysis

##### Duty Bearers

The **National Council for Women (NCW)** is mandated to safeguard women's rights as well as to promote their political, economic and social empowerment and protection from all sources of violence. It serves as the national policy reference for gender equality and women's empowerment including the co-ordination and implementation of the National Strategy for Women's empowerment. With local branches in 27 governorates and a Complaints Office referring to and following up with relevant authorities, NCW provides support to women including through legal and psychological support and referral assistance.

The **Central Bank of Egypt (CBE)** leads the country's monetary policy and regulations. NCW and CBE work together to foster women's financial inclusion in Egypt, based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). One of the key objectives of the MoU is to expand the women's **Savings Groups (SGs)** which have been initiated as platforms for financial inclusion and economic empowerment of rural and vulnerable women.

The **Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS)** is responsible for social safety nets by targeting the poorest households and the most marginalised people across Egypt through the conditional and non-conditional cash transfer programmes Takaful (for family and children under 18) and Karama (for persons who cannot work, specifically the elderly and PwDs). The MoSS is also in charge of operating social centres in charge of the elderly and PwDs, as well as homeless. There are **168 Elderly Care Institutions** and **7 Homeless Shelters** for the elderly managed by MoSS. On average each centre hosts around 50–60 persons. The MoSS is also the lead Ministry granting authorisations to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to operate in the country.

Egyptian civil society organisations (**CSOs**) and community based organisations (**CBOs**) act as intermediaries between less advantaged groups or communities and relevant state and private stakeholders. Their capacity to engage in policy dialogue with national authorities, and in particular with MoSS, remains limited, with the exception of a few large and well-established Cairo-based organisations. At the local level and when supporting public authorities in local management of basic services, CBOs can play an active role but are often limited in scope and lack co-ordination. Enhanced co-ordination capacities of CBOs will underpin the implementation of the action.

Finally, the **private sector** plays an important role in responding to development of local needs, as well as developing innovative solutions to cope with social distancing. Partnering with the private sector, in particular with regards to digitalisation of cash transfers and fostering increased entrepreneurship and livelihood opportunities amongst the target group will be critical for a successful implementation of the action.

##### Rights holders

Cumulative and overlapping vulnerabilities are expected to **aggravate the situation of the following target groups**, who may not be able to claim their rights.

**Extreme poor, near poor and food insecure population:** 32.5% of the population lived below the national poverty line in 2017/18, more than 75% of poor workers had no employment contract and only 14% of the poor benefitted or participated in social insurance schemes. 10% of Egypt's population reportedly suffers from severe food insecurity and 26% experience moderate food insecurity.

**Women and girls:** Women make up 23.8% of the Egyptian labour force with 36.4% of women employed in the agricultural sector. On average, one in every four women is unemployed. Approximately half of working women in Egypt are informally employed with minimal wages and limited or no access to social protection mechanisms. 64% of health and social (paid or unpaid) workers are women, meaning that they will be at the front line of the COVID-19 response. It is estimated that **7.9 million Egyptian women experience violence each year**. Social isolation exacerbates the conditions for those already living in situations of domestic violence, while protection against gender based violence and response services will most likely be disrupted due to social distancing and shifting priorities towards COVID-19 in family planning clinics or health centres.

**People living in urban informal settlements and high-density areas, elderly, persons with disabilities<sup>4</sup>** are the most vulnerable group to Covid-19 as social distancing might be impossible to observe for them. There is a high risk of rapid community transmission of COVID-19 in high density areas and slums, with poor access to water sanitation, and where informal and unstable jobs impede preventive and quarantine measures.

Working in **the informal sector** makes households vulnerable to shocks and pushes them to reduce spending on health, food or education, with the risk of irregular migration or human trafficking. In the rural areas, women are more likely than men to hold seasonal, part-time and low wage jobs, which are unsecure and more at risk of being terminated.

**Refugees** (some 250,000 registered with UNHCR) and in particular **unregistered migrants** (estimated several millions) will see their specific vulnerabilities exacerbated due to limited access to social justice, education, healthcare and livelihood, while relations with already vulnerable host communities may worsen.

### **1.5 Problem analysis/priority areas for support**

The COVID-19 outbreak is expected to **exacerbate poverty, increase vulnerabilities and lead to disruption in the delivery of basic services** including social and healthcare services. The stakeholders' analysis outlines the cumulative and disproportionate impacts the outbreak will bear on specific vulnerable groups. These conditions are also exacerbated by the potential lack of awareness and access to information. As evidenced from past epidemics, provision of social services and healthcare may be disrupted or discontinued, as efforts to contain outbreaks divert resources from routine services and may exacerbate often limited access.

Within that context, immediate action is required in support of the response measures set by the Government of Egypt that will mitigate to some extent the consequences of the crisis and pave the way for early recovery. This will include **supporting governmental and non-governmental partners in maintaining and expanding social protection to reach vulnerable groups who are not in a position to claim their rights**, due to social distancing, or whose livelihoods were lost as a spill-over effect of the COVID-19 outbreak.

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<sup>4</sup> Over 10% of Egyptians are PwDs and 2.61% of Egyptians live with severe disabilities.

In the absence of a robust unemployment programme that covers laid off workers in most affected industries (e.g. hospitality and tourism sectors), the **short-term rapid response** requires measures to protect households and prevent individuals from falling below the minimum needed to maintain their welfare.

The socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic will have far-reaching gendered impacts from exacerbating already high levels of violence against women to interrupting women’s engagement in the labour market. In its **Policy Paper on response to women’s situation during COVID-19 outbreak**, the National Council for Women outlined the required immediate and early recovery response measures.

The Minister of Social Solidarity announced on 21 March 2020 that the existing conditional cash transfer **Takaful and Karama** programmes would expand to an aggregate of **3.5 million households** (10 million beneficiaries). Programme beneficiaries comprise poor households with children less than 18 years, as well as other vulnerable groups including elderly and PwDs. 88% of the Takaful and Karama’s card holders are women, so expansion is expected to mostly benefit female beneficiaries and female-headed households.

It is however important to stress that ongoing payments are being provided to beneficiaries through smart cards used at post offices. Therefore, there is a room to **facilitate the digitalisation of payments**, in an effort to comply with hygiene and social distancing norms.

To be successful, hygiene and social distancing norms necessitate a **targeted, comprehensive and inclusive communication strategy** in particular amongst the most vulnerable and isolated groups. While the Government’s communication campaign has mostly focused on TV and Radio, poor villages and informal highly dense areas should become a priority given the difficulties of social distancing and risk levels based on the **poverty map**. Social and community workers can provide a link between health and social protection programmes.

Financial inclusion is critical to build up productive assets, manage risks and respond to financial shocks. Around 33% of Egyptian adults hold an account at a formal financial institution and only 6% save formally. To support **women’s financial inclusion and economic empowerment**, there is room to enhance digital and financial inclusion efforts through the promotion of mobile banking and e-wallets, in particular towards rural women, in sustaining their access to entrepreneurship educational content during the outbreak and beyond. Scaling up graduation and livelihoods programmes, combining access to basic financial services and related business training could pave the way to early recovery, moving women and their families from extreme poverty into more secure livelihood opportunities.

**2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Risk level (H/M/L)</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
COVID-19 pandemic bears operational risk, particularly for logistics, delaying implementation of response programmes, hence causing additional shocks to vulnerable communities.	H	Authorities’ response plans supported by donors such as WB, EU & UN are expected to mitigate adverse impacts on people.
The Government of Egypt is not able to effectively co-ordinate policy response to the COVID-19 outbreak, including on	M	Government of Egypt has taken measures such as closing its borders and enforcing social distancing from an early stage. The

case management, surveillance, testing and communication.		EU engages in regular exchanges with key ministries and other development partners, including the WHO to assess the ongoing response.
Unavailability of PPE including protective gear and face masks as well as other required medical equipment necessary to implement the action.	H	Factories have started producing PPE to supply the local market. The Government is actively engaged in procuring medical equipment with the support of the World Bank and has pledged support to other Development Partners (EIB).
Security situation deteriorates, in part due the severe economic impact of measures to stop the spread of COVID-19, to an extent that implementing partners are unable to carry out activities.	M	Work with the Government, both on a national and county level to facilitate access to the areas where the action will be implemented. The EU will also support measures to mitigate the negative economic consequences.
Weak capacity and low experience of implementing partners to act during crisis.	L	Implementing partners will be selected based on their strong presence in the country and their proven ability to implement activities during crises.
<b>Assumptions</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of COVID-19 infections continues to increase steadily requiring additional health related responses including but not limited to case management, awareness raising and hygiene measures.</li> <li>• Key development partners co-ordinate their respective support in response to the COVID-19 outbreak to avoid potential overlaps in funding.</li> <li>• The security situation remains stable across the country.</li> </ul>		

### 3 LESSONS LEARNT AND COMPLEMENTARITY

#### 3.1 Lessons learnt

Past experience has demonstrated that in order to safeguard sustainable and inclusive development commitments in the long term, it is strategic that immediate mitigation measures capitalise on and enhance pre-existing actions that prioritise the poor and vulnerable mostly affected by shocks. The immediate response and early recovery support should be sustained through medium term actions in support of financial inclusion, social protection, growth and job creation that will unfold in parallel.

The COVID-19 outbreak can also be used as an opportunity to accelerate the introduction of innovative tools and methodologies (including digitalisation and e-governance). Local technology and innovation could be harnessed to design solutions to overcome the logistic and other challenges posed by the COVID-19 outbreak through increased partnership between the Government, civil society and the private sector, and the use of appropriate incentives.

Despite the legal and operational constraints, NGOs and CSOs in Egypt are traditionally well positioned to provide support to the most vulnerable and respond to urgent needs stemming from crisis situations. Past and ongoing EU programmes demonstrate that engagement of well-established international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) and national CSOs in co-

operation with regional CSOs, CBOs and local authorities has proven to be an effective modality to respond to local needs while at the same time empowering local civil society actors.

In areas of women's empowerment and violence against women, the action draws on lessons learnt from previous projects including those of the EU funded eg. 'Securing Rights and Livelihood of Egyptian Women' under which the initiatives of 'Village Savings and Loans Associations' (VSLAs) and citizen rights (IDs) were implemented and embedded as national programmes; 'Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting and Empowerment of Families Joint Programme' and 'Support to NCW Ombudsman Office in promoting Women's rights'. Experience from these programmes shows that effective and wide outreach to vulnerable women is best achieved through partnerships between government, civil society, CBOs and community leaders.

The EU continues supporting the efforts undertaken by the authorities and non-governmental partners to mitigate the immediate socio-economic impact of the pandemic on the less advantaged groups and communities, as outline in the Commission decision C(2020)4973 of 27 July 2020. Interventions foreseen as part of this decision have been implemented in a timely manner, and have already started yielding results. In light of the continued constraints faced by Egypt, the action expands the mobilisations of local actors (local authorities and civil society organisations) in order to widen the coverage of the beneficiaries of the outcomes (1), (2), (3) and (4).

### **3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor co-ordination**

The Development Partners Group (DPG) constitutes the main platform for co-ordination of financial assistance in Egypt. The Development Partners Group is currently composed of 23 bilateral partners and 17 multilateral organisations. The EU Delegation in Cairo is co-chairing three thematic groups (migration, governance and gender).

At EU level, the co-ordination is ensured at several levels: Heads of Mission, Heads of Co-operation as well as with European Financing Institutions (EFIs) such as EIB, EBRD, KfW and AFD. The main EU MS donors are: France (Embassy and AFD); Germany (Embassy, GIZ and KfW); Italy; the Netherlands; Spain. The EU is working closely with EU Member States in adopting a 'Team Europe' approach to the current crisis, both in terms of programming and communication efforts. The Delegation is also co-ordinating a Team Europe COVID-19 communications package which will see the EU, EFIs and MS communicate as one.

This action will seek to build synergies with:

- Ongoing EU actions, in particular the intervention **Increasing Participation of Women in Public Life in Egypt** (ENI/2019/410-138), facilitating the issuance of national IDs to women under the Citizenship Initiative.
- **EU Member States and European financing institutions (EFIs)** which are also engaging in health response co-ordinated through regular Development Counsellor Meetings. EFIs have expressed their interest in supporting the Government's immediate COVID-19 response and early recovery, through the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (KfW) or enhanced focus on financial inclusion and support to MSMEs (EBRD). Ongoing and future joint programmes will be adjusted to form part of the EU COVID-19 response in the Urban (GIZ) and Rural development (Italian co-operation) sectors.

- European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (**ECHO**), with a programme of 6 million EUR in 2021, will target the increased needs of refugees through the UNHCR, UNICEF and partner NGOs. To note that the ongoing UNICEF implemented action includes a 1 million EUR component to **support access to COVID-19 vaccination for refugees and migrants**, focused on supporting mass communication, cold chain and capacity building of health staff involved in the vaccination process. Adjustments to ongoing **EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF)** EUR 60 million projects are currently underway and an additional 2 million action will further support migrants through IOM.

In the response of the international community, close co-ordination will be ensured between the EU and the following entities:

- **The World Bank** is contributing to the expansion of the Takaful and Karama programme and the Forsa graduation programme beneficiaries (USD 900 million).
- The UN launched on 15 April 2020 a comprehensive emergency appeal for Egypt (USD 23 million for the health response and 50 million for immediate social sectors response) to which the EU will contribute through this action and other ongoing or planned programmes implemented through UNFPA (EU Support to Population Strategy – EUR 27 million), UNICEF (EU support to Expanding Access to Education and Protection for at Risk Children in Egypt – EUR 29.4 million) or foreseen under AAP 2019 (WFP).
- **USAID** is co-chairing with the EU the Governance and Civil Society Development Partners Group. The EU will continue to co-ordinate with USAID through the Development Partners Group as it re-orientes its activities to COVID-19 response.

This action will also be instrumental in informing the design of upcoming programming documents (2021-2024) and actions, as the full impact of the COVID-19 outbreak unfolds.

## **4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

### **4.1 Overall objective, specific objective(s), expected outputs and indicative activities**

**Overall objective and expected impact:** To contain the prevalence of COVID-19 among vulnerable groups and pave the way for their longer term socio-economic resilience.

#### **Outcome 1: Social protection mechanisms targeting vulnerable and marginalised groups are enhanced**

##### **Output 1.1: Increased capacities to foster financial inclusion and livelihood opportunities**

###### Activities

- *Setting up a fund to support NGO proposals for supporting sustainable local economic development projects and decent job opportunities.*

#### **Outcome 2: Groups and communities most at risk (including persons with disabilities and elderly) are in a position to take protective measures and implement social distancing**

##### **Output 2.1: COVID-19 prevention and counter-narrative is strengthened in content and reach**

###### Activities

- *Scaling up existing Waai's<sup>5</sup> Good Hygiene Practices pillar promoting social distancing as a protective measure, correcting COVID-19 related disinformation as well as Waai's Economic Empowerment pillar for those financially impacted by COVID-19 through social media and media campaigns (TV and radio);*
- *Developing and disseminating key messages among the youth to safeguard and protect the elderly in their families and communities from contracting COVID-19 through social media and media campaigns (TV and radio);*
- *Developing and disseminating key messages for pregnant and lactating mothers.*

**Output 2.2: Persons with disabilities have access to accurate information about the health risks and protective measures (incl. social distancing)**

Activities

- *Provision of Personal Protective Equipment to PwDs and care givers (and training);*
- *Provision of appropriately adapted social distancing and protective information;*
- *E-medical consultations for PwDs.*

**Outcome 3: Women continue to be empowered and protected against Gender Based Violence in spite of the COVID-19 outbreak**

**Output 3.1: Capacities of the National Council for Women (NCW) and community representatives to ensure that women have uninterrupted and increased access to information and to assistance / support services are strengthened**

Activities

- *Strengthening capacities of existing platforms and partners, such as the National Complaints' Office and its hotline and network of rural women's leaders;*
- *Developing digital and online solutions, to provide prevention and protection support to women.*

**Output 3.2: Women have increased awareness about their rights and access to direct support and services for the prevention and protection from violence**

Activities

- *Develop awareness and advocacy campaigns at national and community level through digital platforms and mass media, and existing networks such as NCW's Complaints Office and branches, women rural leaders, and local partners.*

**Outcome 4: Women are economically and financially empowered and women led clusters/enterprises are better integrated into existing value chains and markets**

**Output 4.1: Operational framework for financial inclusion and the expansion of Saving Groups (SGs) is developed and functional**

Activities

- *Develop operational outline and guidelines on setting up and scaling up SGs including through use of digital solutions and ICT in the context of COVID-19.*

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<sup>5</sup> The “Waai” Programme for Community Development aims at addressing all social protection issues tackled by MoSS, targeting families registered within the Takaful and Karama social protection programme.



- *Establish partnerships and strengthen capacities of key stakeholders, including CSOs, CBOs and community leaders to support women's economic empowerment and financial inclusion.*
- *Raise awareness and strengthen capacities of financial institutions and service providers for integrating SGs and tailoring services to rural and vulnerable women.*

**Output 4.2: Saving Groups capacities are scaled-up through digital and non-digital means**

Activities

- *Train SG members, including through financial and digital literacy scheme, and coaching on SGs' modality as well as on financing and economic opportunities.*

**Output 4.3: Women have increased access to rapid finance and financial services**

Activities

- *Enhance women's business development and marketing skills including through use of ICT and innovative solutions.*
- *Provide women with assets and cash transfers and support to develop livelihood and income generation small projects.*
- *Scale up women's financial and digital inclusion through the development of capacities and networks of SGs to access finance and financial services and to integrate into formal economy / financial system.*

**Output 4.4: Rural women led clusters/enterprises are better integrated into existing value chains and markets**

Activities

- *Conduct dialogue with value chains stakeholders and facilitate integration of rural women's led enterprises into selected value chains.*
- *Provide SG members with productive assets and/or tools of production which are tailored to the value chains.*
- *Capacity building of SG members for developing and expanding their enterprises through connection with business development service providers and other value chain stakeholders.*
- *Technical support to women's led clusters / enterprises to establish partnerships with sources of finance, including through digital means, Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), enterprise development agencies, banks, lead companies, etc.*

## **4.2 Intervention Logic**

The action adopts a comprehensive approach that aims to address the immediate socio-economic impacts through three modes of intervention: (i) targeted policy advice, (ii) institutional support, and (iii) direct support to vulnerable groups. It is informed by the UN in Egypt 'Leaving no one behind in the time of COVID-19' policy paper as well as EU consultations with national counterparts, including the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the National Council for Women and the Civil Society.

The action will primarily support NCW and MoSS, as well as civil society organisations and communities to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable groups, with a specific emphasis on addressing increased threats of violence against women and added vulnerabilities due to social distancing and economic impact.

Interventions aim at enhancing social protection measures and ensuring the continuation of quality basic services, including healthcare as well as targeted support to specific sectors.

Given the urgency, the interventions are largely based on ongoing programmes and projects that are being adapted, extended or scaled up to address immediate needs and critical gaps identified by governmental or non-governmental partners.

### 4.3 Mainstreaming

**Gender/women empowerment:** The proposed action will be aligned with the Government’s commitments and programmes for women empowerment. It will encompass interventions specifically targeting women's rights while a vigorous approach for gender mainstreaming will be ensured throughout the other interventions. Activities will be implemented with a view to ensure a set of gender sensitive, responsive and transformative approaches during and in the early recovery stage of the COVID-19 crisis.

**The rights-based approach (RBA) principles underpin the proposed project** and will be used to analyse the added vulnerabilities stemming from the COVID-19 outbreak, and potential actions that can be taken to reduce vulnerabilities and address inequalities. The drafting of the action and logic of intervention is underpinned by the United Nations Country Team Egypt's analysis **Leaving no-one behind in the time of COVID-19**. The specific vulnerability of refugees and migrants will be mainstreamed in the identification of target communities and final beneficiaries.

The intervention logic of this action will support civil society organisations develop according to their own vision, mission and mandates, as long as respect for fundamental EU values is ensured. Interventions will be responsive to factors such as age, vulnerability and conflict-affectedness, and contribute to a balanced representation of women and men in all activities.

### 4.4 Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This intervention is relevant for the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of

- SDG 03 – “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”, especially target 3.D “Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks”.

while also contributing to:

- SDG 10 – “Reduce inequality within and among countries”, especially target 10.4 “Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality”.
- SDG 05 – “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”, especially target 5.4 “Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate”.
- SDG 08 – "Decent work and economic growth", especially targets 8.3 “Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services”, 8.5 “Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities”.

## **5 IMPLEMENTATION**

### **5.1 Financing agreement**

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country.

### **5.2 Indicative implementation period**

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 42 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

### **5.3 Implementation modalities**

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures<sup>6</sup>.

#### **5.3.1 Grants: (*direct management*)**

##### (a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The grants will contribute to achieving Outcomes 1 and 2 in section 4.

##### (b) Type of entities targeted

Potential entities for funding will be Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil Society Organisations.

##### (c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to Non-Governmental Organisations to be selected using the following criteria: i) Already established in country, ii) demonstrate previous experience of working in the sectors, iii) staff allocated to the project should be immediately operational, iv) work with national governmental or non-governmental partners.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified, as the measure aims to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the economy (see Financial Regulation 195 (b)).

#### **5.3.2 Indirect management with entrusted entities**

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN). This implementation entails contributing to achieving Outcomes 3 and 4 in section 4. The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: Policy and technical expertise and mandate

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<sup>6</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu) Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

in Gender Equality and Women's empowerment; Ongoing partnerships with NCW and CBE, CSOs and CBOs, and with key line ministries and entities needed to facilitate implementation; Experience in implementing initiatives and programmes on which this action will capitalise; UN Women co-ordinates UN's gender related response to COVID-19 and has a key role in the UN Crisis Response Plan in Egypt; Operational capacity to ensure successful implementation and monitoring of progress.

In case the envisaged entities need to be replaced, the Commission services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entities fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modality identified in section 5.3.3.

### ***5.3.3 Changes from indirect to direct management mode due to exceptional circumstances***

The indirect management described under section 5.3.2 will be replaced by direct management – procurement where this preferred modality cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control.

One procurement contract will be used to achieve outcomes 1 and 2, and another procurement contract will be used to achieve outcomes 3 and 4.

## **5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants**

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply subject to the following provisions.

(a) The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

## 5.5 Indicative budget

	<b>EU contribution 2021 (amount in EUR) NDICI-GEO-NEAR/ 2021/043-698</b>
<b>Outcome 1 composed of:</b>	<b>2 000 000</b>
Grants (Direct Management) – cf. section 5.3.1	
<b>Outcome 2 composed of:</b>	<b>2 000 000</b>
Grants (Direct Management) – cf. section 5.3.1	
<b>Outcome 3 and 4 composed of:</b>	<b>3 000 000</b>
Indirect management with UN WOMEN – cf. section 5.3.2	3 000 000
<b>Grants – total envelope under section 5.3.1</b>	<b>4 000 000</b>
<b>Evaluation</b> (cf. section 5.9) <b>Audit/ Expenditure verification</b> (cf. section 5.10)	will be covered by another Decision
<b>Communication and visibility</b> (cf. section 5.11)	will be covered by another Decision
<b>Contingencies</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 000 000</b>

## 5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

UN WOMEN Country Office will be responsible for implementing their respective interventions at country level under the supervision of their respective programme management teams. They will be responsible for mobilising their respective organisations' operational presence, capacity and expertise in accordance with their mandate.

To ensure that this action is fully aligned with the national response to the outbreak and is well co-ordinated with national and international partners, implementation will be carried out in close co-ordination with the national authorities, EU Delegation, UN organisations under the Resident Co-ordinator system and other stakeholders through:

- The dedicated COVID-19 national co-ordination structures set up by national authorities to co-ordinate the response to the outbreak with relevant partners.
- Development Partner Groups.

- Technical steering committees will be set up for each intervention to oversee the level of execution. The EU will participate in these technical steering committees.

As regards the interventions implemented through direct grants, the EU Delegation will exchange regularly and receive regular updates from the grantees to ensure co-ordination and complementarity of the different project activities.

### **5.7 Performance and Results monitoring and reporting**

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the simplified Logframe matrix.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

### **5.8 Evaluation**

Evaluation will give evidence of why intended changes are or are not being achieved.

Having regard to the importance of the action, a final evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components contracted by the Commission. It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that the COVID-19 is of an unprecedented scale and lessons learnt will be useful to enhance the crisis response capacity of the EU.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another financing Decision.

### **5.9 Audit**

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing Decision.

### **5.10 Communication and visibility**

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to advertise the European Union's support for their work to the relevant audiences.

To that end they must comply with the instructions given in the Communication and Visibility Requirements *of 2018* (or any successor document), notably with regard to the use of the EU emblem and the elaboration of a dedicated communication and visibility plan, to be completed for every action at the start of implementation.

These obligations apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, the partner country (for instance, concerning the reforms supported through budget support), contractors, grant beneficiaries or entrusted entities. In each case, a reference to the relevant contractual obligations must be included in the respective financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

Communication and visibility measures may be funded from the amounts allocated to the action. For the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action, the Commission may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, as part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union. Visibility and communication measures should also promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds.

Effectiveness of communication activities on awareness about the action and its objectives as well as on EU funding of the action should be measured.

Implementing partners shall keep the Commission and concerned EU Delegation/Office fully informed of the planning and implementation of specific visibility and communication activities before work starts. Implementing partners will ensure adequate visibility of EU financing and will report on visibility and communication actions as well as the results of the overall action to the relevant monitoring committees.

It is foreseen that communication and visibility activities will be primarily conducted by the partners and grantees themselves. Additional activities aiming inter alia to raise awareness on the EU support to COVID-19 response in Egypt, will be implemented through the Communication contract managed by the EU Delegation to Egypt.

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY) <sup>7</sup>

	Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources of data	Assumptions
<b>Impact (Overall Objective)</b>	To contain the prevalence of COVID-19 amongst vulnerable groups and pave the way for their medium to longer term socio-economic resilience	Number of daily COVID-19 new cases  Poverty headcount ratio (% of population)  Labour force participation rate (% of female population ages 15+)  Number of reports of gender based violence	TBD	TBD	Ministry of Health and Population reports  CAPMAS  NCW	<i>Not applicable</i>
<b>Outcome(s) (Specific Objective(s))</b>	1. Social protection mechanisms targeting vulnerable and marginalised groups are enhanced	Number of pensioners receiving their monthly stipend through e-wallet (disaggregated by sex); Number of rural community leaders receiving their monthly stipend through e-wallet (disaggregated by sex) Extent to which the crisis rooms operated by the Red Crescent are able to respond timely and regularly to emerging needs Number of communities benefitting from new livelihood opportunities schemes.	TBD	TBD	MoSS reports; CAPMAS data; Internal (progress reports) and external monitoring & evaluation reports	Key development partners co-ordinate their respective support in response to the COVID-19 outbreak to avoid potential overlaps in funding.  The security situation remains stable across the country.

<sup>7</sup> Missing baselines and targets will be defined at contracting stage.



	<b>Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10)</b>	<b>Indicators (at least one indicator per expected result)</b>	<b>Baselines (incl. reference year)</b>	<b>Targets (incl. reference year)</b>	<b>Sources of data</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
	2. Groups and communities most at risk (including persons with disabilities and elderly) are in a position to take protective measures and implement social distancing	Number of Egyptian residents directly benefitting from awareness raising activities  Extent to which care institutions' monitoring mechanisms on data related to elderly are established and functioning	Data on 1 May 2020  Monitoring mechanism set up	TBD  Monitoring mechanisms fully function and provide sound and regular data	MoSS reports Internal (progress reports) and external monitoring & evaluation reports	
	3. Women continue to be empowered and protected against Gender Based Violence in spite of the COVID-19 outbreak	Number of women and men reached through awareness campaigns (digital and non-digital means).  Number of women who received direct assistance or support services including legal and referral assistance through NCW's Hotline/Complaint Office (disaggregated by type of assistance)	Data on 1 May 2020	TBD during rapid inception	NCW Complaint Office Reports UN Women's Internal (progress reports) and external monitoring & evaluation reports	Existing capacities at national and local level will be used to increase awareness and provide access to support services.
	4. Women are economically and financially empowered and rural women's led clusters/enterprises are better integrated into existing value chains and markets	Number of women who benefit from immediate and early recovery response schemes (including through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) disaggregated by type of support)  Number of targeted women-led enterprise and clusters which have been integrated in selected value chains	Data on 1 May 2020  TBD	500 000 women  TBD	NCW and CBE Reports UN Women Internal (progress reports) and external monitoring & evaluation reports	Awareness will also target men and boys.

	<b>Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10)</b>	<b>Indicators (at least one indicator per expected result)</b>	<b>Baselines (incl. reference year)</b>	<b>Targets (incl. reference year)</b>	<b>Sources of data</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Outputs</b>	<p><b>Outcome 1: Social protection mechanisms targeting vulnerable and marginalised groups are enhanced</b></p> <p><b>Output 1.1:</b> Increased capacities to foster financial inclusion and livelihood opportunities</p>	<p>Shift to digital wallet amongst recipients (disaggregated by sex)</p> <p>Number of emergency operating rooms established and connected to Red Crescent</p> <p>Number of Red Crescent volunteers mobilised</p> <p>Number of MSMEs set up as a result of the EU support</p> <p>Number of decent jobs and economic opportunities created as a result of the EU support</p>	<p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>Data on 1 May 2020</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p>	<p>20-30%</p> <p>27 operating rooms covering all governorates</p> <p>1000</p> <p>60-70</p> <p>TBD</p>	<p>Internal (progress reports) and external monitoring &amp; evaluation reports; MoSS database.</p>	

	<b>Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10)</b>	<b>Indicators (at least one indicator per expected result)</b>	<b>Baselines (incl. reference year)</b>	<b>Targets (incl. reference year)</b>	<b>Sources of data</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
	<p><b>Outcome 2: Groups and communities most at risk (including persons with disabilities and elderly) are in a position to take protective measures and implement social distancing</b></p> <p><b>Output 2.1:</b> COVID-19 prevention and counter-narrative is strengthened in content and reach</p> <p><b>Output 2.2:</b> Persons with disabilities have access to accurate information about the health risks and protective measures (incl. social distancing)</p>	<p>Number of elderly care institutions and shelters provided with guidance on specific healthcare requirements and PPE</p> <p>Number of communities which receive assistance and awareness messages on COVID-19</p> <p>Number of PwDs provided with adequate care and information</p>	<p>Data on 1 May 2020</p>	<p>168 elderly care institutions and seven homeless shelters for the elderly</p> <p>500 communities in densely populated governorates (including 183 poorest villages)</p> <p>TBD</p>	<p>MoSS data internal (progress reports) and external monitoring &amp; evaluation reports</p>	<p>Availability of PPE for frontline workers and care givers to be able to physically provide healthcare</p>

	<b>Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10)</b>	<b>Indicators (at least one indicator per expected result)</b>	<b>Baselines (incl. reference year)</b>	<b>Targets (incl. reference year)</b>	<b>Sources of data</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
	<p><b>Outcome 3: Women continue to be empowered and protected against Gender Based Violence in spite of the COVID-19 outbreak</b></p> <p><b>Output 3.1:</b> Capacities of the National Council for Women (NCW) and community representatives to ensure that women have uninterrupted and increased access to information and to assistance / support services are strengthened</p> <p><b>Output 3.2:</b> Women have increased awareness about their rights and access to direct support and services for the prevention and protection from violence</p>	<p># Of VAW cases responded and solved through NCW hotline and Complaint Office incl. through NCW's legal psychological counselling and other types of direct assistance (disaggregated by type of support).</p> <p># Women who received direct assistance and those who were further linked to services providers (disaggregated by type of assistance / support service).</p> <p># of women's victims of violence who receive psychological / other rehabilitation support through UN Women's network of psychologists and psychosocial support providers.</p>	TBD	TBD	<p>NCW and CBE reports UN Women reports</p> <p>Internal (progress reports) and external monitoring &amp; evaluation reports</p>	

	<b>Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10)</b>	<b>Indicators (at least one indicator per expected result)</b>	<b>Baselines (incl. reference year)</b>	<b>Targets (incl. reference year)</b>	<b>Sources of data</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
	<p><b>Outcome 4: Women are economically and financially empowered and women's led clusters/enterprises are better integrated into existing value chains and markets</b></p> <p><b>Output 4.1:</b> Operational framework for financial inclusion and the expansion of Saving Groups (SGs) is developed and functional.</p> <p><b>Output 4.2:</b> Saving Groups are capacitated and up-scaled through digital and non-digital means and solutions for financial inclusion and economic empowerment.</p> <p><b>Output 4.3:</b> Women have increased access to rapid finance and financial services as well as to economic and livelihood opportunities.</p> <p><b>Output 4.4:</b> Rural women led clusters/enterprises are better integrated into existing value chains and markets.</p>	<p># of Savings Groups formed and scaled up &amp; their % of total SGs formed.</p> <p># Rural women who benefit from financial and economic opportunities including through assets and cash transfers and other types of rapid support to sustain livelihood and economic participation (disaggregated by type of assistance).</p> <p># of women supported through digital and high tech solutions for accessing finance and economic opportunities.</p> <p># of rural women who benefit from scaled up SGs to access financial services and the formal financial sector.</p> <p># Women led clusters / enterprises who are capacitated and integrated into value chains and markets.</p>	<p>18 000 rural women members of SGs created by NGOs</p> <p>0 women / SGs receiving immediate support for financial and economic opportunities</p> <p>0 SG and their members that are linked to financial service providers</p> <p>0 SG and women trained in enterprises development</p> <p># of partners successfully utilising SG as platform for linking women to markets and value chains</p>	<p>800 000 rural women members of SGs created by NGOs</p> <p>50 000 SG group members access cash and/or assets/tools of production</p> <p>500 000 rural women members of SG are linked to formal financial service providers</p> <p>50 000 women SG members trained in enterprise development</p> <p>5 partners engaged with SG as a platform for value chain integration of rural women (1 partner per year)</p>	<p>NCW and CBE reports</p> <p>UN Women reports</p> <p>Internal (progress reports) and external monitoring &amp; evaluation reports</p>	