

Egypt

Update on the context and situation of children

Egypt is being significantly affected by the Ukraine crisis, especially through its dependence on Russian and Ukrainian wheat. The crisis' repercussions are visible in the macroeconomic context, the cost of living and poverty, food security and child nutrition, with possible amplified impacts on the most vulnerable populations, including poor and vulnerable communities, migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. Inflation is the main channel through which people in Egypt have been affected by the conflict, especially in relation to food but also non-food items and services. These effects are even more significant given the socioeconomic stress brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic since 2020. Headline inflation was more than 18.7 per cent in November 2022, the highest level in three years. This compares to 8 per cent in January 2022. The continued rise in global food prices has been the main driver of this increase, with food price inflation reaching 31 percent in November 2022. The impacts have been further compounded by the shortage of foreign currency needed to import essential supplies and the recent loss in the value of the Egyptian Pound.

Egypt has initiated a new collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) aimed at implementing a comprehensive economic program to address the negative spillovers from global economic conditions and the war in Ukraine, restore macro-fiscal stability and anchor the structural reform program. The government also announced social mitigation packages that include widening coverage of the Takaful and Karama cash transfer programs, hikes to pensions and public sector wages, and tax measures, among other actions to alleviate the impact of rising prices, and the Decent Life Initiative (*Haya Karima*) which targets 58 million low-income most underprivileged citizens with multi-faceted development assistance and enhanced livelihoods opportunities.

Despite the declining fertility rate (2.85 in 2021), Egypt's population is expected to reach 120 million (including 43 million children and 24 million adolescents) by 2030, which will have important repercussions on the accessibility of basic services. In February, the Government launched the National Family Development Project aimed at curbing population growth and improving population characteristics through women's economic empowerment, ensuring free of charge access to birth control, promoting awareness, promulgating legislations, and offering monetary incentives.

In 2020/21, the share of national budget allocated to education slightly decreased from 2019/20 (to 9.3 per cent), subsidies, grants and social benefits social protection (18 per cent) and health (6.2 per cent) remain unchanged. The public investment component of public expenditure, where the share of investment towards education and health are located, has been on a steady rise since 2016.

The new Egypt Family health survey (EFHS), which was released in September 2022, provide an updated snapshot on key dimensions child of wellbeing. From 2014 to 2021, Egypt has witnessed a slight increase in child mortality in children under 5 from 27 to 28 deaths per 1,000 live births. The increase has been higher for both neonatal (14 to 18) and infant mortality (22 to 25). Both wasting (8 to 3 per cent) and stunting (21 to 13 per cent) have witnessed a sharp decline, however 1.8 million children under 5, remain stunted. Anemia among children under 5 has increased 27 to 43 per cent. The rate of female genital mutilation (FGM) remains high 86 per cent nevertheless the rate for girls 15-17 years old has reduced from 61 to 37 per cent, which was a direct result of the efforts to combat the practice, however awareness campaigns against FGM as well as its medicalization must continue and tough penalties against the practice must be enforced.

Violent physical and psychological disciplinary practices have negative impacts on a child's mental and social development and violate child's right to protection from any form of violence. While important improvements occurred between 2014 and 2021, still 81 per cent of children aged 1-14 have been subject to some form of violent disciplinary practice by their parents/caregivers. In addition, about 8 per cent of children aged 5-17 years in rural upper Egypt are engaged in child labour in comparison to 3 per cent in urban governorates.

While Egypt has made important progress in increasing school participation with 25.1 million students

enrolled in 58,800 schools, approximately 2.1 million children remain out of school, in addition to 16 per cent of refugee children. While participation in primary education is almost universal with full gender parity, enrollment for pre-primary education is only 19 per cent (2021/22), meaning more than four fifths of children aged 4–5 do not enjoy their right to early education and do not receive the required cognitive, social, emotional, and language skills. Also, secondary enrollment declines for adolescent girls aged 16-18, especially for those coming from rural areas and poor families. Women's empowerment remains one of the most significant national priorities. The key issues remain lower labour force participation. Unemployment rate for girls is double that of males (62 and 38 per cent). Around 19 per cent of Egyptian youth 18-24 years are not working and 39 per cent of youth (6.5 million) are not in education, training or employment. A skills mismatch makes transition to workplace a huge challenge.

Climate Change is a key challenge for the current and future generations. There are an estimated 5.3 million children at risk from heatwaves. Almost 9 out of 10 children in Egypt are living in areas with high pesticide pollution risks while 60 per cent are exposed to lead pollution. Resilience of social services and their capacity to ability to adapt to climate change is a growing cause for concern.

Egypt is a country of transit and destination for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers with a total of 9 million migrants and refugees (with 1 million assessed as vulnerable), from 133 countries, equivalent to 8.7 per cent of the Egyptian population. Egypt has included migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in the education and health national systems, despite the challenges these two sectors are facing and the high economic costs.

Major contributions and drivers of results

UNICEF consolidated and expanded programmes to protect vulnerable households and cope with the negative socio-economic effects from high levels of poverty that were further exacerbated by the Ukraine crisis and long-term impacts of COVID-19. 4.1 million households (14.0 million beneficiaries) were reached with pro poor initiatives supported by an improved evidence base. Placing children' rights at the centre of the policy debate and policy making, UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) , Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED), Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS), the Economic Research Forum (ERF), University of Cairo, J-Pal, American University in Cairo (AUC), the national statistical organisation (CAPMAS), and private researchers, to produce a total of 40 knowledge/evidence related products and initiatives on key issues affecting of children and adolescents. This included 3 analyses directly aimed at increasing the inclusion of excluded children in social protection; budget transparency briefs to inform developmental and emergency response efforts; a Global Evidence brief; and the Youth Profile and Children Climate Risk Index Report for Egypt. Advocacy and technical support to CAPMAS, including the Child Unit, to fill data gaps on child-related SDGs, started in 2018, concluded with the results of the survey on social indicators finally being released and published in 2022. Tools and supplies were also provided to support the Egypt Family Health Survey, released in September 2022.

The delivery of integrated quality Maternal and Child Health and WASH services was enhanced through capacity-building of health service providers, improved infrastructure, and engagement of communities. 410,000 children and women received essential maternal and child healthcare services and over 40,000 families were reached with health and WASH messages. More than 1,200 health care providers were trained on MNCH, Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI), immunization and use of social media. The Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) was supported for the implementation of Haya Karima (Decent Life), resulting in increased capacity of district health managers for evidence-based planning, improved oversight and accountability for PHC facilities and improved skills for health service providers on MNCH, Care for Child Development, WASH, Nutrition and Early Childhood Development (ECD). Utilization of essential MNCH services increased in UNICEF intervention areas: antenatal care 5 per cent compared to 26 per cent in 2021; post-natal care increased from 67 to 68 per cent; growth monitoring visits increased to from 3.4 in 2021 to 3.78, and immunization coverage reached 99 per cent with 3rd dose of DPT vaccine. Interventions aimed at

improving the evidence base for health system strengthening resulted in the upgrading of the Health Information System (HIS) at MoHP. To accelerate COVID-19 vaccinations, a number of key initiatives were undertaken including; planning and preparing for COVID-19 vaccination including mobilizing resources for vaccines and cold chain equipment; training of service providers on cold chain and waste management, adverse events following immunization (AEFI), counselling and communication; advocating for continuum of health and nutrition care services, integrating COVID vaccination into immunization programme and PHC services; engaging community participation; fostering the partnerships and working jointly with UN. In partnership with the

Government of Japan, USAID fund and others, UNICEF procured over 1,900 sets of cold chain equipment and 25 refrigerated trucks. Furthermore, UNICEF established the Ultra Cold Chain system at the national level and at six sites at governorate level, enabling deployment and distribution of Pfizer vaccine nationwide. As a result, about 39 million people or 39 per cent out of targeted group were fully vaccinated by 2022. Government was supported to fully vaccinate all children in Egypt against Polio resulting in about 16.5 million children under 5 (98 per cent) receiving the Polio vaccine at facilities or through door-to-door campaigns. Strengthening the capacity of the health systems to deliver quality maternal and child health and nutrition services, focusing holistically on the First 1000 Days and targeting the most vulnerable children and families, ensured harmonization and integration of essential nutrition interventions, including the prevention and treatment of child malnutrition, into national systems and services. The National Nutrition Strategy, highlighting a food system approach in addressing malnutrition, was highlighted as a national health priority in 2023. To increase access of young children to early learning opportunities, quality standards for nurseries, national curriculum and facilitator's training packages were developed as part of the childcare service reform reaching more than 1 million children (birth to 4 years old) nationwide. In 2022, the national ECD strategy was finalized and endorsed by National Commission on Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), with the launch expected in the first quarter of 2023. In WASH, sector-wide enabling environment at the national and local levels was strengthened. Working directly with communities and relevant WASH partners, interventions have been scaled up, and access to clean water and safe sanitation has increased. The Holding Company for Water and Wastewater and the Water Companies in 25 governorates established an integrated national database for planning, monitoring and evaluation of water conservation. More than 114 PHC facilities were rehabilitated for WASH benefitting about 1.08 million people.

UNICEF contributed to significant child protection policy milestones through evidence-based policy advice, including finalizing the Alternative Care Law, advocating for child marriage criminalization, and launching the female genital mutilation (FGM) National Action Plan. A gap analysis on VAC-VAW, guidelines for parents, educators, and children on online risks and mitigation measures, and an analysis of current MHPSS programmatic interventions were finalized. A Model Child Court and child-sensitive rooms inside family courts were successfully modelled for scale-up in 2023. More than 18,000 at-risk children and victims of violence, including those in contact with the law and on the move (COM), were provided with protection services across social, justice, education, and health sectors, reaching over 110,000 children, a 10 per cent increase over the 2018-2022 CPD target. In parallel, dash boards and indicator banks for information management systems were developed within NCCM and MoSS to strengthen data availability and quality. Over 71,000 children and over 7,200 parents were provided with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) services in family clubs in primary healthcare units. Additionally, COVID-19 MHPSS response reached over 7,500 children. Within the justice sector, children in contact with the law were provided with legal/social services – 12 per cent of whom were reached with non-custodial alternative measures. Over 1.7 million people were reached through FGM community engagement interventions, including sensitization sessions/door-knocking campaigns for communities and capacity-building programmes for duty bearers in coordination with the National Committee for the Eradication of Female Genital Mutilations.

In 2022, UNICEF worked with government and development partners to ensure that vulnerable children, and youth experienced quality learning in safe learning spaces, in public schools and refugee community schools and well as non-formal learning settings such as learning hubs, youth centers and family clubs. Under the aegis of Education 2.0, the capacities of Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE) were strengthened in five key areas: Education Sector Planning; Expanding the Inclusive Education model to pre-primary education; Developing a training programme for in-service teachers to recover from learning loss and improving learning outcomes for foundational literacy and numeracy from grades 2 to 5; Training MoETE personnel on ending violence against children in school and upskilling the public school teachers with climate change education. These five key areas of capacity building are expected to reach 23 million children in primary school in 2023. 90,000 children aged 3-17 years (43,000 girls and 47,000 boys) registered as refugees with UNHCR benefitted from improved quality education opportunities through sector coordination; upskilling of 1270 refugee teachers to improve their teaching practices, which included recovery learning (foundational literacy and numeracy) and hybrid pedagogies; access to safe formal and non-formal safe learning spaces; and provision of educational supplies. UNICEF also contributed to improved coordination and synergies amongst humanitarian actors providing services for refugee and migrant children as co-Chair of the Education Working Group. In close collaboration with UNHCR as co-Chairs and with the support of ECHO, a needs assessment and education strategy for mainstreaming refugee children into public schools was completed.

To promote children's rights through behavioral change, UNICEF adopted a strategy to address root causes of behaviors harmful to children focusing on two drivers of change - positive parenting and girls' empowerment. The National Girls' Empowerment Initiative - *Dawwie* supported by UNICEF, was placed under the First Lady auspices, and with support from 6 governors, engaged more than 270,000 community members face to face and over 3.6 million online. More than 40 per cent of the 58,000 boys and girls completing the *Dawwie* digital literacy package, demonstrated enhanced acceptance of gender equality. MoSS established an inter-ministerial parenting coordination mechanism to accelerate adoption of positive parenting at scale. Over 300,000 parents from Haya Karima villages were engaged with parenting and COVID-19 response programmes through over 3,500 service providers, reaching over 1 million children. Out of the 7,300 parents completing the parenting training online, 80 per cent demonstrated recall of at least 3 key positive parenting behaviors. Over 2.2 million people engaged online, out of the 8 million reached by the Ahl el Hetta Docudrama that focused on children's rights from a religious perspective. 3,000 religious and community leaders were trained on positive parenting and COVID 19 prevention; 2,600 community-based workers completed the COVID 19 prevention and response training online. To strengthen the national social and behavioral change system, MoSS, MoPED and MoHP were supported in strengthening social listening and feedback mechanisms with over 5 million people regularly engaging through RapidPro on parenting and COVID 19. To support the transition from learning to earning, UNICEF, in partnership with Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) and youth networks, facilitated access to skills development opportunities for 188,000 adolescents and youth, provided career guidance to 29,000 and engaged with 170,000 through 525 master trainers and 2,050 volunteers. As a result, over 2,700 adolescents and youth opened their own business and meaningfully engaged with over 548,000 community members.

In 2022, the business sector's income, influence, core business and technical expertise supported programmes for children and young people in Egypt in the areas of youth skilling, reducing the digital divide for vulnerable girls and boys, inclusive education, early childhood development, as well as climate resilient water sanitation and hygiene interventions. Focusing on scale and contributions over USD 100,000, financial contributions from private sector reached USD 5 million, an all-time high for the country office. The shift in strategy to focus on headquarters of companies where budgets are much larger than the local budgets, and advocacy with National Committees was successful and led to a new agreement of USD 2.5 million with Baxter. Existing strategic partnerships were renewed and maintained to support programmes and grew UNICEF's portfolio through new local

partnerships, in particular – Sawiris Foundation for Social Development and Magmom Properties. Strategic shared value partnerships have played a significant role in amplifying UNICEF’s messages to children and communities. An estimated 7 million people, including 3.7 million children were reached in the past year. The value of private partnerships in 2022 exceeded USD 8.5 million. The ‘Business Case for Employer Supported Childcare in Egypt’ report was launched in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), MoSS, and the Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI), showcasing evidence, case studies and 5 childcare models of varying investment needs to encourage Egyptian business owners to invest in childcare services for their workers. The war in Ukraine, the global energy crisis and increase in the cost of living, as well as the devaluation of the Egyptian pound by almost 40 per cent have led to a decrease in local income in USD in 2022 and is likely to impact the income stream in 2023.

In January, Generation Unlimited in Egypt - *Shabab Balad* - was launched during the World Youth Forum under the auspices of the President of Egypt. Strong Government ownership of the initiative led to the appointment of the Minister of International Cooperation, along with the UN Resident Coordinator, as co-chairs of the Advisory Board, with the first meeting held on the margins of COP27. UNICEF became the co-lead of the UN youth task force along with UNFPA. In coordination with UN agencies, this led to a strong representation of Egypt at the Learning to Earning Summit in Amman, led by the Minister of Youth and Sports. Egypt committed to reaching 13 million young people by 2027 with skills, entrepreneurship, engagement and volunteerism to support their transition from learning to earning. *Shabab Balad* was approved as the mechanism to achieve the Learning to Earning national commitment. 10 prominent youth in the fields of sports and the arts were appointed as *Shabab Balad* Ambassadors, maximizing the reach of *Shabab Balad* amongst the youth, especially through social media platforms.

The Climate Conference COP27 held in Sharm El Sheikh was a crucial opportunity to position UNICEF as a key partner for Climate Change among development partners, national partners, National Committees and the private sector. UNICEF was strongly positioned on key issues of girl’s empowerment, youth engagement, health, social inclusion and protection. Documentation of programme activities was expanded with 68 stories and articles published, more than 15 press releases issued, and a dedicated webpage created (Climate Change). There were more than 730 positive mentions of UNICEF in the press, including 250 for COP27, tripling 2021 media mentions. 17 campaigns reaching 175 million people (with an engagement rate of 6 per cent) were conducted with national counterparts to address COVID-19 (Ramadan, Migrants and refugees, pregnant women), *Dawwie*, World Youth Forum, *Shabab Balad*, FGM, breastfeeding, Youth Challenge, pre-COP IG Live sessions, COP27, Climate Change Caravan, polio and regular immunization, Social Inclusion and Education. Support of HQ, Yale University and Meta enhanced the campaigning effort on immunization with Meta also providing USD 83,000 in kind support in the form of free advertising for specific vaccination campaigns. A 4-week targeted campaign drove traffic on the *Dawwie* website resulting in new users leaping from 8,000 to more than 41,500, further expanding the audiences of these platforms.

Effective governance continued according to established policies and procedures and ensures the office manages risks. This included assistance to mitigate risks identified in the Annual Management Plan (AMP). All required governance measures have been fully complied with during the year, including financial, statutory committees, Annual Risk Assessment (ARA) and Business Continuity Plan (BCP) updating, and anti-fraud policy. Direct cash transfers (DCTs) were closely monitored and as of mid-December 2022, the total value of DCTs for programme interventions in 2022 was USD 9.04 million, with 75 per cent of the outstanding DCTs in 2022 between 0 to 3 months. The HACT activities were consistently conducted through program monitoring and scheduled spots checks of implementing partners. 24 spot checks (96 per cent) and 71 programmatic visits (108 per cent) were carried out. Two disability awareness sessions were organized for all UN staff in Egypt, in collaboration with UN Secretariat, Executive Office of the SG on Disability, DCO Disability Inclusion

Team, UN Resident Coordinator's Office and HR Focal Points of other UN organizations. The Office Code of Conduct was prepared and signed by all staff to reinforce the communal commitment made to the values and behaviors embedded within.

UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

To strengthen the normative framework for children, improve and scale up provision of services, UNICEF works with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of International Cooperation, Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), Ministry of Justice and Office of the Public Prosecutions, Ministry of Education and Technical Education, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Communication and IT, Ministry of Youth and Sports, National Committee for FGM, National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, National Council for Women, National Council for Human Rights, National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons, National Council for People with Disability, National Population Council, Supreme Council for Media Regulations, Information and Decision Support Centre, and Holding Company for Water and Wastewater.

With the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED), the Economic Research Forum (ERF), University of Cairo, J-Pal, American University in Cairo, and Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), and private researchers, UNICEF has developed several analysis on poverty, public briefs, organized seminars with national and international experts to place children's rights and deprivations at the centre of the policy debate and policy making.

Collaboration with various departments of MoHP including technical office, Primary Health Care Sector, EPI/ Preventive Sector, COVID-19 response team, and Social Insurance Fund, were critical to accelerate public health efforts at scale towards universal health coverage and respond to public health emergencies.

The National Nutrition Institute and UN agencies (WFP, WHO and FAO especially) were the main partners for implementing the nutrition programme.

UNFPA is the key partner to implement the FGM and the girls' empowerment portfolio.

Partnership with MOSS, Federation of Egyptian Industries and ILO resulted in the design of a variety of ECD models, including on-site childcare service, shared childcare facilities, outsourcing, and childcare allowance, to be adopted by the private sector.

Partnership with NCCM was instrumental in finalizing the ECD national plan. Partnership with the MoPED, MoSS and MoHP was critical to scale up the real-time information system using RapidPro, and the partnership with the Council for Media Regulation has been instrumental to launch the National Code of Conduct for Media and Children's Rights for modelling behaviors at scale.

UNICEF has continued to leverage partnerships to accelerate system strengthening and improve access of children, adolescents, and youth to quality learning opportunities, especially the most marginalized. Key partners included: MOETE, GPE, UNHCR, ECHO, WB, members of EWG and LEG.

Engagement with local authorities and civil society organizations has been successful in mobilizing communities to promote and participate in health, nutrition and ECD initiatives, including in North Sinai.

Global partnerships included: Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; the Global Fund; the Global Polio Eradication Initiative; the COVAX Facility, and AVAT, to jointly implement global public health initiatives within Egypt's context; with GPE for education; and PROSPECTS to develop a new paradigm in responding to forced displacement crises.

Key donors include Denmark, European Union, ECHO, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lego Foundation, Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain, Rotary, UKAID, UNMPTF, USAID, and UNICEF National Committees.

Lessons Learned and Innovations

Evidence generation and use

UNICEF has played a key role in supporting evidence generation to inform policy, structural reforms and evidence-based planning and programming.

UNICEF is well positioned within CAPMAS to influence national level survey to ensure that the collection of critical information on women and children fills data gaps. Efforts and investments need to continue to take advantage of upcoming opportunities, such as the national FGM Study with NCW, UNFPA and CAPMAS, and the Egypt Labour Market Panel Survey (ELMPS). Improving evidence generation and data can guide better programming for children. For instance, the policy framework and the findings from the global study on the cost of inaction provided good opportunities for high-level advocacy to advance EVAC with GoE's agenda and for prioritization and resource mobilization. Support will continue for the development, enhancement and utilization of data from administrative systems such as the Health Information System, Case Management System, and various online applications.

Evidence generation is also key to guide policies and programming, especially when addressing sensitive topics, such as refugee community schools. To address the fragmented and limited information on refugee community schools and the available educational and learning opportunities to refugee and migrant, there is an urgent need for a collective IMS and platform that include all the information on these schools, the children and the means to support them.

Innovation

While the use of social media platforms can bring added benefits such as reach and accessibility, it is important to ensure that children are protected from online exploitation, abuse and harassment.

UNICEF has been working with the NCW and Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) to finalize a comprehensive programme aimed at mitigating risks to children online. The programme will be launched in 2023. GoE and UNICEF are advocating for Egypt's membership in the WeProtect global alliance to ensure national commitment and access to resources and transnational partnerships.

Youth engagement in the national climate change debate was enhanced with the EG Youth 4 Climate Initiative implemented in partnership with MoYS and Ministry of Environment, in establishing the first Innovation Lab Model in a Youth Center in Egypt and by engaging over 8,000 youth in the Youth Challenge focusing on skill building to promote youth led climate change solutions.

Ahead of COP27, Communications organized a WASH-related field visit with international journalists. This led to coverage outside of Egypt which can support further fundraising.

A key innovation that has proven to be very effective for children at risk and victims of violence is the use of innovative approaches to psychological rehabilitation besides counseling, such as art therapy and psychodrama sessions. In addition, the focus on shared value partnerships with companies such as Carrefour has allowed UNICEF to expand its programmatic interventions with children at risk providing them with an additional venue to support alternatives to detention through training opportunities.

UNICEF provided technical assistance to the MOHP to develop the model of climate smart green health facilities. The model has been designed and launched by the MoHP during COP27 where the Minister of Health committed to commence building the first climate smart green health facility.

Modelling for Scale up

To ensure a child-friendly, gender-sensitive, and well-equipped justice system, a Model Child Court in Qalyubia governorate was established with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) as well as designated child-

sensitive rooms inside child/family courts within the courthouse. These models will be nationally replicated to provide children in contact with the law with a friendly environment where children feel safe and willing to provide needed information to conduct fair trials while preventing secondary victimization.

The national scale-up of innovative learning and teachers' capacity programming and the inclusive education model manifested national ownership yet posed significant challenge, especially against the limited conditional funding. It is therefore crucial to continue promoting evidence generation and diversify funding sources to increase enrolment rates in schools as well as strengthen protection services for children. UNICEF is planning to allocate catalytic funds to maintain its collaboration specifically with the Professional Academy of Teachers (PAT) to proceed with the scaling-up program through support from universities for a more costly efficient implementation

Strengthening Multisectoral Approaches, Coordination and Collaboration

Inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration are crucial to achieving better results for children. Efforts have thus been directed towards strengthening national ownership and introducing sustainable models toward strategic engagement with different governmental counterparts on the ground. UNICEF's advocacy across education and Child Protection stakeholders, promoting synergies, and mainstreaming of CP services across sectors has contributed to fostering a coordinated national response to CP and education issues.

UNICEF has established its leadership in Early Childhood Development (ECD) during the development of the national ECD strategy and the action plan. However, sustaining the momentum requires working across health, nutrition, and education sectors, in partnership with other organizations, to scale-up priority ECD interventions nationwide, and ensure continuous high-level advocacy for ECD prioritization by the Government of Egypt and development partners.

The Takaful and Karama Program (*TKP*) can play a larger role to reach poor and vulnerable families with additional social services and benefits, such as child protection and behavioural change, which are critical for child development. Providing a comprehensive and integrated social protection package is essential to move beyond delivering as a stand-alone intervention for social assistance.