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CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS

USAID, in partnership with the government of Egypt, is empowering girls and young women in Upper Egypt by equipping them with key social and economic skills to eliminate violence against girls and young women, including Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C) and early marriage. Through community awareness, this program engages parents and leaders in discussions about the protection and empowerment of girls to change perceptions of the roles girls play in their families, society, and the economy. This program also supports the Government of Egypt in its effort to strengthen Egypt's policy and legal frameworks to provide codified protection and services to survivors and girls at-risk of FGM/C. The program partners with civil society and local governments in Assiut, Aswan, Qena, and Sohag to improve and expand child protection services in the governorates. By providing social, educational, and economic opportunities to girls, this program is reducing gender disparities, enhancing girls' social and economic status, and contributing to a reduction of harmful practices such as FGM/C.

Implementing Partner: UNICEF; Life of Project: December 2017 – September 2022; Total Estimated Cost: \$4.4 million; Governorates: Assiut, Aswan, Qena, Sohag

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Engage youth, parents, and community leaders in discussions to highlight the consequences of violence against women and girls and FGM/C, as well as the importance of empowering girls in the household, society, and the economy
- Build social skills and provide career guidance to youth to increase the participation of women and girls in the economy
- Build girls' communication, negotiation, and team-building skills through sports
- Strengthen national policy and legal frameworks to end FGM/C
- Train judges and prosecutors to more effectively investigate and convict perpetrators of violence against women
- Train social and health workers to prevent and respond to cases of violence against women
- Support the digital platform *Dawwie* in partnership with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood. *Dawwie* is the first national initiative that promotes girls' empowerment and gender equality to end violence against children and harmful practices.
- Analyze the impact of COVID-19 on women and children, with a special focus on livelihoods, access to public health and education services, and violence against women

RESULTS

- Provided employability skills and career guidance to more than 28,000 young people from Assiut, Aswan, Qena, and Sohag governorates
- Trained 1,257 health providers, social workers and law enforcement officials on child protection services and the risks of FGM/C
- Reached 42 million people through *Dawwie*, a national initiative promoting girls' empowerment and gender equality. Trained more than 35,000 youth on digital skills through *Dawwie*.
- In March 2021, the Egyptian Cabinet approved a legislative amendment to increase the penalty for FGM to up to 20 years in prison. The amendment reflected input from USAID partners, the National Committee for the Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation, the National Council for Women, and National Council for Childhood and Motherhood.
- Produced four assessment bulletins that explain the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on children and other vulnerable populations