

“Anchoring the Feminist Development Policy in the technical cooperation with Egypt”

Contribution by Portfolio Management & Governance Cluster of GIZ Egypt

1) Country Context: Gender Equality in Egypt

Egypt has a population of approx. 110 million, with women and girls comprising approximately half of the country’s population. Recent years have seen significant investments in human capital and attention to gender issues with progress noted on a number of fronts. However, as the latest Human Development Report signifies, there are important challenges requiring a transformative push for the country to fulfil both its constitutional commitments and national obligations.¹ Correspondingly, the WEF Gender Gap Report 2023 places Egypt 134th out of 146 countries in the overall ranking, with a negative trend compared to the previous two years.²

The Egyptian government has shown a strong political will to improve gender equality: it has ratified all relevant international instruments on gender equality. It has enshrined the issue in the 2014 Constitution and several national strategies, most notably the *National Strategy for the Empowerment of Women 2030*. It must be noted, however, that the Egyptian government denies the existence of gender diversity and defines gender equality as “equality between the two sexes”.

2) Gender Mainstreaming in GIZ Egypt

GIZ Egypt has an active Gender working group with a focal person in each project. The group organises trainings and events for staff and exchanges on a regular basis. Its mandate is to create awareness and build gender competence among staff. An Anti-sexual Harassment Policy is in place and a Code of Inclusion will be launched in January 2024 to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workplace. GIZ Egypt is very committed to creating a gender-sensitive co-operate culture through its policies and working groups. The Country Gender Focal Points are involved in the commission management. GIZ Egypt has developed a comprehensive gender mainstreaming checklist for the whole project cycle.

3) Anchoring the Feminist Development Policy (FDP) in the GIZ Egypt Portfolio

In 2023, GIZ Egypt has embarked on a strategic process to anchor the German FDP more systematically in its portfolio. The vision is to establish a portfolio-wide approach to reduce power imbalances as well as inequalities in Egypt and to introduce rights-based, gender-transformative, intersectional, and inclusive approaches as a default for all measures within technical cooperation. The process is planned to be of mid to long term duration, but the first concrete steps have already been implemented this year:

- a) *Set-up of an SFF individual measure*: A work proposal for an individual measure within the SFF was commissioned by BMZ in July 2023 with the intention of strengthening the strategic and practical orientation as well as development of the portfolio towards the FDP.
- b) *Portfolio-wide Gender Analysis*: GIZ Egypt is carrying out a portfolio-wide gender analysis, including a country stakeholder mapping of relevant actors in the field of gender. Strategic recommendations for the GIZ Egypt portfolio on how to integrate the principles of the FDP

¹ [Egypt Human Development Report 2021 | United Nations in Egypt](#)

² [Global Gender Gap Report 2023 | World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](#)

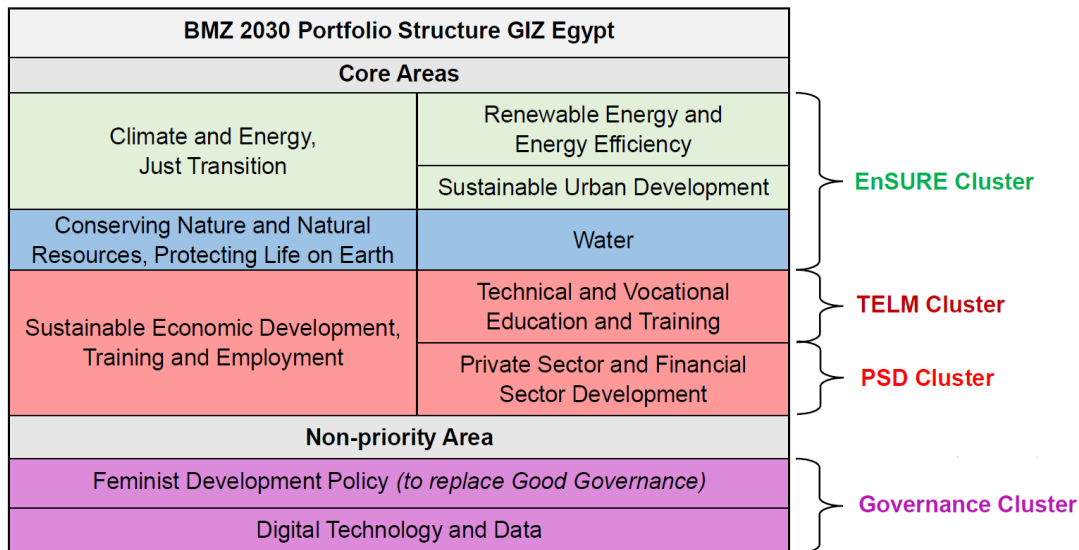
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and adapt it to the Egyptian context are identified. This includes key areas for action as well as key messages. The gender analysis will cover the full range of the GIZ Egypt portfolio and develop suitable gender-responsive and -transformative approaches for each of the sectors (e.g.: Just transition, Energy, Climate, Governance). Based on the findings and results a strategic gender action plan and framework for GIZ Egypt will be set up. Results are expected to be published in March 2024. The analysis will be an important tool to better integrate gender aspects into all levels and all projects.

- c) *Gender Advisor on Portfolio Level*: To technically implement the SFF individual measure and to advise the portfolio holistically towards the implementation of the FDP, an international advisor with a strong gender expertise started her position in August 2023. She will oversee the portfolio-wide Gender Analysis and ensure the implementation of its recommendations. She also takes the position of one of the two Country Gender Focal Points and as such organises events and webinars, e. g. a campaign for the 16 days of activism.
- d) *GG2 projects in iPA 2024*: Out of the five new and follow-on modules that will supposedly receive funds out of iPA 2024 (top-ups not included), two are planned to receive a GG2 marker. Both projects are situated in the Governance Cluster of GIZ Egypt (see section 4). A general decision has been taken in Division 3600 to not plan GG0 projects anymore and always check for a GG2 option within the appraisal process.
- e) *Introduce the Initiative Topic “Feminist Development Policy”*: In May 2023, a proposal was submitted to BMZ to adjust the non-priority area and include the initiative area “Feminist Development Policy” (to replace the area of intervention “Good Governance”). This would be a strong political statement both towards BMZ and Egyptian partners and lead to a thematic focusing of activities as well as a technical bundling of expertise within GIZ Egypt. The BMZ has shown great interest in the suggested adjustment and will take a final decision within the regular review of the Country Strategy in 2024. Provided BMZ approval, the non-priority area would then consist of the initiative area “Feminist Development Policy” and the initiative area “Digitisation and Data”, both to be covered mainly by the Governance Cluster (see section 4).



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4) Governance Cluster of GIZ Egypt: Implementing the FDP in Egypt

The Governance Cluster currently contains three modules:

- [“Equal Opportunities and Social Development”](#) (EOSD, 2018.2156.0, bilateral module, GG2)
- “Supporting E-Government and Innovation in the Public Administration” (InnoPA, 2019.2002.4, bilateral module, GG1)
- [“Promoting Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Politics and Economy in the MENA Region”](#) (WoMENA, 2021.2190.3, regional module, GG2)

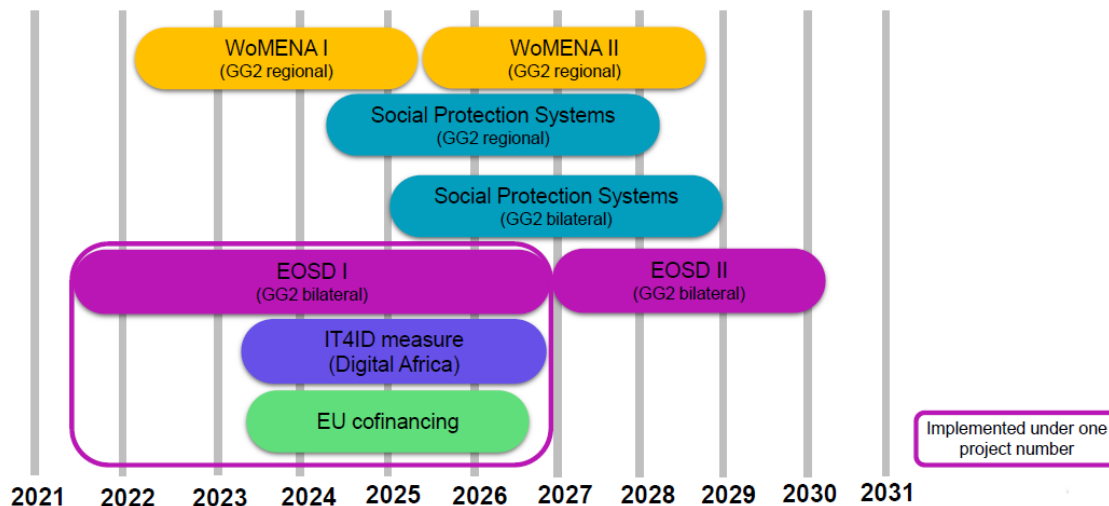
In the upcoming years the following projects will supposedly join the Governance Cluster:

- “Social Security for Women in the MENA Region” (2023.2190.1, regional module, GG2)
- Bilateral new module on Gender-transformative Social Protection Systems (iPA 2024, GG2)
- Follow-on module EOSD (iPA 2024, GG2)
- Follow-on module InnoPA incl. Digital Transformation Centre (iPA 2022 and 2024, GG1)

The proposed adjustment of the non-priority area (see 3 e) would foresee the development of two programmes³: 1) Programme Digitalisation and 2) Programme Feminist Development Policy.

Programme Feminist Development Policy

Cooperation with Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) & Arab Women Organisation (AWO)



Objective: The modules within the programme seek to increase the social, economic and/or political participation of Egyptian women and disadvantaged population groups from an intersectional perspective. The bilateral module EOSD strengthens the social participation of Egyptian youth – especially young women and young persons with disabilities – thereby laying a thematic focus on gender equality and the inclusion of persons with disabilities. The regional module WoMENA aims to strengthen the political and economic participation of women and to increase their

³ Since the modules will supposedly be situated in the non-priority area, there is no requirement to draft a formal development cooperation programme according to GVR. However, for better integration of the modules as well as impact monitoring, the Cluster plans to draft a holistic framework which will be referred to as programme here.

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representation in decision making processes. The future regional and bilateral modules on gender-responsive/transformational social protection systems seek to reform existing systems in a way to increase the participation of women, especially those unemployed and in informal employment.

Target Group: The programme targets women, girls, and others in vulnerable situations, such as persons with disabilities, youth, informal sector workers and persons in socioeconomic vulnerable situations. The programme has an intersectional approach at heart.

Partnerships: Gender equality is a crosscutting topic in the Egyptian government and there is not one ministry to hold it as a mandate. An important bilateral political partner is the Ministry of Social Solidarity which carries the mandate for both social policies and civil society cooperation in Egypt. Of relevance are furthermore the semi-national councils, especially the National Council for Women. Future cooperation in social protection may introduce additional government partners. The EOSD module is closely cooperating with NGOs and self-representative organisations for women and persons with disabilities, which is a unique opportunity in the Egyptian context and WoMENA has access to a network of relevant private sector actors. On a regional level, WoMENA cooperates closely with the Arab Women Organisation of the League of Arab States. Overall, the programme tries to create and leverage synergies at activity and impact level with other GIZ modules in Egypt and the MENA region.

Selected Gender-transformative Approaches:

- EOSD – Arts for Development: Egyptian youth learn how to use creative methods as tools for social change. The products created by the youth (short films, theater productions, digital art) focus on gender equality and inclusion with an intersectional perspective. The products are further used for awareness raising on local and national level. The approach builds on similar activities of the predecessor “[Youth Against Sexual Harassment](#)” (2014.2181.7).
- EOSD – Healthy Masculinities: In a series of training, young men learn to view gender equality from a male perspective. Mental health, non-violent communication, stereotyping, and accountability are part of the training. Young men are thus actively involved in the discourse on gender equality and subsequently become active as change agents in their local communities.
- EOSD – Civil Society Engagement: Through an application-based fund, the module supports selected Egyptian NGOs as well as Youth Initiatives both financially and technically to implement projects on social participation, gender equality and inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- WoMENA – Unpaid Care Work: Young Egyptian change agents learn about the economic, legal, and social aspects of a sex-related distribution of care work and get to know the benefits of a more equal distribution. They acquire the methodological skills to include this information into their respective youth work and local engagement.
- WoMENA – Gender Diversity Management: Selected Egyptian companies learn how to enhance the working environment for female employees and increase the number of women in leading positions. The activity builds on the results of the predecessor “[Employment of Young Women through Applied Gender Diversity Management](#)” (2014.4112.0).