



International  
Labour  
Organization



روابط  
RAWABET

NORWEGIAN MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



## ▶ Contributing to national and local economic development (LED) initiatives

Egypt Youth Employment: Jobs and Private Sector Development in Rural Egypt (RAWABET)

June 2023

### ▶ ILO EYE RAWABET:

#### The International Labour Organization's (ILO) project "Egypt Youth Employment (EYE):

Jobs and Private Sector Development in Rural Egypt (RAWABET), funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented in partnership with the Egyptian Ministry of International Cooperation.

The consultation meetings held during the inception period of the project brought into light several national and local economic development (LED) initiatives that significantly contribute to rural development, including the promotion of decent work opportunities. Therefore, it was established that the project's scope be broadened to include not only the targeted subsectors/value chains, but also other rural subsectors, based on the resources and available business opportunities within each local community. And to ensure sustainable and wider impact on the rural economy, the project sought to align and partner with strategic LED programmes/ initiative including FORSA programme and Hayah Kareema.

**Contributing to "Hayah Kareema" national initiative:  
Supporting biogas technology,  
empowering women-led  
income generating activities**

**Establishing 5 biogas startups in Zefta district:**

The ILO EYE RAWABET project supported the establishment and accreditation of 5 startups in Zefta district, one of Hayah Karima villages, in Gharbiya founded by 8 entrepreneurs



"Decent Life Initiative, which is one of the most important and prominent presidential initiatives, works to consolidate all the efforts of the state, civil society, and the private sector, with the aim of addressing multidimensional poverty and providing a decent life with sustainable development for the group most in need in the governorates of Egypt. The initiative's role includes closing the developmental gaps among centers and villages and their dependencies, investing in human development."

"المبادرة الرئاسية "حياة كريمه"

from the rural communities in the governorate. For the 8 entrepreneurs, who came from relevant educational backgrounds in the fields of engineering and agriculture and who have been selected following a competition launched in partnership with Al-Gharbiya governorate, the project facilitated the provision of technical training theoretically (in collaboration with the Biogas Association for Sustainable Development, and practically through co-managing (as interns) the installation of 48 biogas units in Zefta sponsored by the project. The ILO EYE RAWABET project, also, provided the entrepreneurs with entrepreneurial skills training using ILO's Start and Improve Your Business programme, in addition to linking them with the financial services offered through the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (MSMEDA).



The biogas model established through the EYE RAWABET project has managed to gain the interest of local authorities, including the Governor of Al-Gharbiya, who requested that the establishing of biogas units be extended to another district, Zefta district, as one of the priority initiatives of "Hayah Kareema" initiatives.

**48** BIOGAS UNITS INSTALLED



The installation of biogas units contributes to improving the livelihoods of farmers, through providing them with a sustainable source of gas and bio-fertilizer.

Installing a biogas unit contributes to the following:

- Production of bio/organic fertilizer equivalent to **9 bags** of phosphate and **12 of urea**.
- The fertilizer produced from this unit is enough to fertilize **4 feddans** annually.
- Production of biogas equivalent to **3-4 cylinders** of gas per month.

It is worth noting that the ILO EYE RAWABET project has worked to promote the biogas technology owing to its multiple benefits and favorable impact. On the socio-economic level, the biogas provides a sustainable source of low-cost energy and fertilizers for small-scale farmers, in addition to generating a source of income for households by marketing surplus products of the biogas unit. On the environmental side, the biogas technology serves as a green source of renewable energy through recycling of waste, reducing hazardous effects of animal and agricultural wastes and their impact on the health of individuals and the eco-system. The fertilizers produced by biogas units provide an organic alternative to chemical fertilizers and harmful pesticides

Along the same veins, the project partnered with Dr. Abdel Ahad Gamaleldin Foundation for Development, one of the prominent community development associations operating in Zefta district, Al-Gharbiya, to economically empower 240 of young women and men, from the beneficiaries of Hayah Kareema in the district, by building their business and entrepreneurial skills to manage their existing or prospective income-generating activities, through providing them with adequate and relevant business management training, using ILO's Get Ahead training programme. Out of the **240 trained, 110 received** through the project technical training to enhance the technical know-how of participants in operating their micro-enterprises, on either, sewing or poultry breeding. The project contributed with **30 per cent** of the financial support/ credit provided by the association to support the establishment of businesses on both areas of work.

The **5 startups** were founded by a group of young women and men that the project engaged in a rigorous programme of theoretical and practical hands-on training that covered both the technical specification of biogas units installation as well as business management and entrepreneurship topic.

 [Media: Click here to play short biogas documentary](#)

## Empowering women-led income generating activities in Zefta district:

In collaboration with Ministry of Social Solidarity and under the Hayah Kareema initiative, the ILO EYE RAWABET project implemented a series of training workshops on ILO's Gender and Entrepreneurship Together (Get Ahead) training tool, to help enhance the business management capacities of **66 of Hayah Kareema beneficiaries in Zefta**, Al-Gharbiya who have already received or would receive assets to support their income-generating activities. The training was followed by counselling and coaching sessions delivered to participating beneficiaries to further guide them towards establishing sustainable businesses.



**240** WOMEN AND MEN ARE ECONOMICALLY EMPOWERED

## Contributing to FORSA national programme

Also, among the several national LED-focused initiatives considered during the inception phase, the ILO EYE RAWABET project managed to contribute to the FORSA Programme, as a key national initiative under which the project worked to support/facilitate the provision and scaling up of relevant employment and business development training programmes, to promote decent and sustainable job opportunities at the grass-root level in rural areas, building on the needs and resources of the local community.

FORSA is one of the national flagship initiatives promoting the economic empowerment of the poor and the most vulnerable, particularly those who do not have access to regular social protection networks or to formal employment opportunities. FORSA's philosophy is that enabling the poor and vulnerable groups to access decent jobs through skills development, vocational training and provision of financial services will help promote their livelihood and enhance their long-term social and economic wellbeing, eventually decreasing their dependence on traditional channels of social protection.

Managed by the Ministry of Social Solidarity, Forsa is considered a key component of Egypt's efforts towards improving the livelihood of rural communities. FORSA embraces an integrated local economic development approach, through which it works to contribute to the promotion of an enabling business environment at the grass-root level, by upgrading and enhancing the working skills and qualifications to better improve their eligibility for business and employment opportunities made available within their local communities.

In that sense, FORSA has emerged as a strategic intervention that goes in perfect alignment with the project's development objective, as it is focused on stimulating private sector business and employment opportunities and entrepreneurship in rural Egypt.

The initiative involved the provision of the training workshop on ILO's widely used entrepreneurship and employability tools, namely the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB), Gender and Entrepreneurship Together - (Get Ahead), and Jobs Search Clubs (JSC), for more than **250 beneficiaries** in Asyut governorate.

The partnership established with FORSA programme, although at limited scale under ILO EYE RAWABET project, was considered a successful pilot for larger cooperation, and made way to mobilizing USD **3.5 million** for the subsequent



ILO project "EYE: Economic Empowerment under FORSA Programme,".

## Economic empowerment of cotton farmers:

In partnership with ILO's Accelerating Action for the Elimination of Child Labour in Supply Chains in Africa Project (ACCEL Africa), the ILO EYE RAWABET project contributed to the economic empowerment of small-scale cotton farmers through facilitating the provision of ILO's Get Ahead training programme to help them support their micro-enterprises. In cooperation with the Cotton Research Institute (CRI), along a series of 9 training workshops implemented across Fayoum, Beheira and Kafr El Sheikh governorates a total of **236** of cotton farmers (**172** females and **64** males) were trained on basic business management skills through (Get Ahead) programme. A financial inclusion training was also delivered for **321 participants** from cotton farmers as means to support their financial knowledge and help improve their financial management and livelihoods.

To facilitate access to financial services; **170 Meeza prepaid cards** were distributed by Banque Misr free of charge to beneficiaries, who received (Get Ahead) training.

Meeza is the Egyptian national payment scheme, developed under the supervision of the Central Bank of Egypt, that enables financial institutions to meet the needs of consumers through offering different solutions to access a more secure and simpler way to manage their payments such as debit cards, prepaid cards and mobile wallets



**236 cotton farmers** were trained on basic management skills

**321** COTTON FARMERS RECEIVED FINANCIAL INCLUSION TRAINING