

Partnership for Sustainable Development **Spain - Egypt** (2025-2030)





MINISTERIO
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES, UNIÓN EUROPEA
Y COOPERACIÓN

SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO
DE COOPERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL

DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE POLÍTICAS
DE DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE

UNDERSECRETARIAT

General Technical Secretariat

General Technical Vice-Secretariat

Documentation and Publications Department

© **Ministry of Foreign Affairs European Union and Cooperation for this edition.**

State Secretariat for International Cooperation

General Directorate for Sustainable Development Policies

NIPO: 108-26-006-0 (Online)

Design: DIN Impresores

Publications Catalogue of the General State Administration. <https://cpage.mpr.gob.es/>

Any form of reproduction, distribution, public communication or transformation of this work may only be carried out with the authorisation of its owners, unless otherwise provided by law.

INDEX

ACRONYMS	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
1. CONTEXT ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE	7
1.1. The Egyptian-Spanish Development Cooperation	7
1.2. Current Context	8
1.3. Egypt's strategic leadership	11
1.4. Strategic value of the Partnership	11
2. SHARED OBJECTIVES, CHALLENGES, AND PRIORITIES	13
2.1. Introduction	13
2.2. Shared challenges and priority areas	13
3. IMPLEMENTATION: ACTION PROPOSALS AND INSTRUMENTS	17
3.1. Action proposals	17
3.2. Partner commitments with the partnership	19
3.3. CE's modalities and instruments	20
3.4. Governance and spaces for dialogue	21
4. MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY	25
4.1. Monitoring	25
4.2. Evaluation	25
4.3. Accountability	25

ACRONYMS

The following table alphabetically lists the acronyms appearing in the document. In some cases, the Spanish acronym has been preserved, despite its translation into English, because of its common use within the Spanish Cooperation.

AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
ADB	African Development Bank
BC	Bilateral Committee
CAPMAS	Central Agency for Resource Mobilization and Statistics
CBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
CE	Spanish Cooperation
CES	Monitoring Executive Committee
COP27	2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference
DGPOLDES	Spanish Directorate General for Sustainable Development Policies
DPG	Development Partner Group
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EIB	European Investment Bank
EP	Country Team
EU	European Union
EU DEL	European Union Delegation
E-INFS	Egypt Integrated National Financing Strategy
FEDES	Spanish Fund for Sustainable Development
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
GoE	Government of Egypt
HAFIZ	Hub for Advisory, Finance & Investment for Enterprises
HOCs	Heads of Cooperation
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IMAP	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
MAUC	Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation

ACRONYMS

MoPEDIC	Egyptian Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation
MP	Master Plan
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MSMEDA	Egyptian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency
NCCPIM&TIP	Egyptian National Coordinating Committee on Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons
NCW	National Council for Women
NDC	National Determined Contributions
NWFE	Nexus of Water, Food, and Energy
OCE	Spanish Cooperation Office
OECE	Evaluation Office of the Spanish Cooperation
PSD	Partnership for Sustainable Development
RCREEE	Regional Centre for Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SECI	Spanish State Secretary for International Cooperation
TVET	Technical and Vocational Training and Education
UN	United Nations Development Program
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund Agency
UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator Office
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
VLR	Voluntary Local Review
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The concept of development cooperation and financing has evolved in recent decades. Increasing international integration and interdependence have resulted in shared challenges across the globe. All of them are hard to isolate geographically. Poverty, inequality, increasing environmental degradation, resource scarcity, migration tensions, and conflicts have a global reach. Therefore, any solution, or at least any measure that contributes to alleviating these problems, exceeds the capabilities of any initiative limited to the national sphere. By contrast, they require common, concerted, and globally coordinated actions. The Spanish Cooperation (CE), aware of and committed to the aforementioned “globality,” has included among its strategic planning instruments the so-called “Partnership for Sustainable Development” (PSD). Thus, these Partnerships focus on joint contributions to strengthen national, regional, and global public goods through inclusive and innovative public policies. In so doing, these frameworks address the shared challenges of a world in transition.

Egypt is a key player in these processes. Its international relevance is vital in a region marked by geopolitical turmoil. Besides, the country implements inclusive and innovative economic development policies to advance the modernization of public institutions and ensure financial sustainability and stability. On this point, its commitment to the 2030 Agenda is unwavering. Their national version – ‘Vision 2030’ – serves as a compass guiding the country’s progress towards the SDGs.

The Spanish Cooperation adopts as its own the challenges targeted by Egyptian development policies. Given the renewed partnership between Spain and Egypt, the Spanish Cooperation deepens its commitment with the country to support its institutional transformation process. Throughout this, the Spanish Cooperation will keep engaging with the civil society, in coordination with the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates, the Ministry of Social Solidarity, and with the private sector, all resolved actors serving the future of their country.

This common endeavour will be grounded on Egypt’s national ownership and the alignment with its systems and procedures and current applicable Egyptian laws. By doing so, the PSD will enable local capacities to grow and take root.

This PSD analyses and defines the common challenges faced by Egypt and Spain. It takes into consideration their mutual responsibilities and comparative advantage in a spirit of honest collaboration. This horizontal framework inspires the cooperation between the two countries. The identified shared challenges, priorities, and action proposals result from the joint reflection between the CE and the governmental, non-governmental and international entities. Within this framework of dialogue and mutual respect, the role of the Egyptian Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation (MoPEDIC) has been essential, and will continue to be so throughout the implementation of this Partnership.

This strategic exercise has prioritized the social and economic development, the effective integration of gender equality, the mainstreaming of the development-environment nexus. The CE thus aims to strengthen public institutions and services, promoting responsible economic development, creating job, and combating climate change. Spain’s contribution to Egyptian sustainable development also includes supporting vulnerable populations, including migrants and refugees, host communities, people with disabilities, women, and children.

This cooperation, both direct and indirect, will be channeled through the various CE instruments and modalities, including financial commitments and the development of appropriate monitoring, evaluation, and mutual accountability platforms. Thus, the Partnership for Sustainable Development Spain - Egypt (2025-2030) aspires to strengthen the historic ties between both countries through a renewed and sustainable development cooperation framework. This document articulates mutually shared challenges, priorities, and action proposals.

1

CONTEXT ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE

This Joint Partnership reflects and consolidates the ties uniting Spain and Egypt. While both countries respond to unique realities, they also share bilateral, regional, and global challenges to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. Considering this situation, the Egyptian - Spanish cooperation is embedded in numerous global commitments, notably those relevant to the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, Spanish Cooperation projects and programs in Egypt increasingly converge with Egypt's strategic priorities and challenges.

Firstly, the first sub-section reviews the milestones of the Egyptian - Spanish development cooperation. The second sub-section highlights the shared challenges in fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, the Joint Partnership draws on the framework of the triple transition (social, ecological and economic) established by the Spanish Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation (2024-2027). Drawing on this Master Plan and the growing collaboration between the two countries, this section finally discusses the strategic value of the Joint Partnership.

1.1. THE EGYPTIAN - SPANISH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Egyptian - Spanish development collaboration dates to the 1967 Cultural Cooperation Agreement. This was followed by the 1991 Scientific and Technical Cooperation Agreement, the 2005 Joint Commission, and the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation of February 2009.

At trade and economic level, the cooperation between both countries was launched in 1977 with the Economic Cooperation Program. These exchanges were later consolidated with the 2001 Bilateral Cooperation Agreement and the two Memoranda of Understanding for Financial Cooperation signed between the two countries in 1998 and 2008. Remaining in effect until 2021, these agreements led to numerous projects on renewable energies, transportation, sanitation, health, and tourism. In 2021, both countries signed a Joint Declaration strengthening their trade and financial bi-lateral relationship, followed by the signature, in February 2025, of a Memorandum of Understanding for the Cooperation in the fields of Trade and Industry.

Regarding the Official Development Assistance (ODA), the total gross disbursements of Spain to Egypt amounted to €68,376,282 in recent years (2015-2023), 83.45% of which was granted mainly in the last three years. Regarding the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), disbursement figures have increased from €2,600,000 in 2022 to €5,000,000 in 2024.

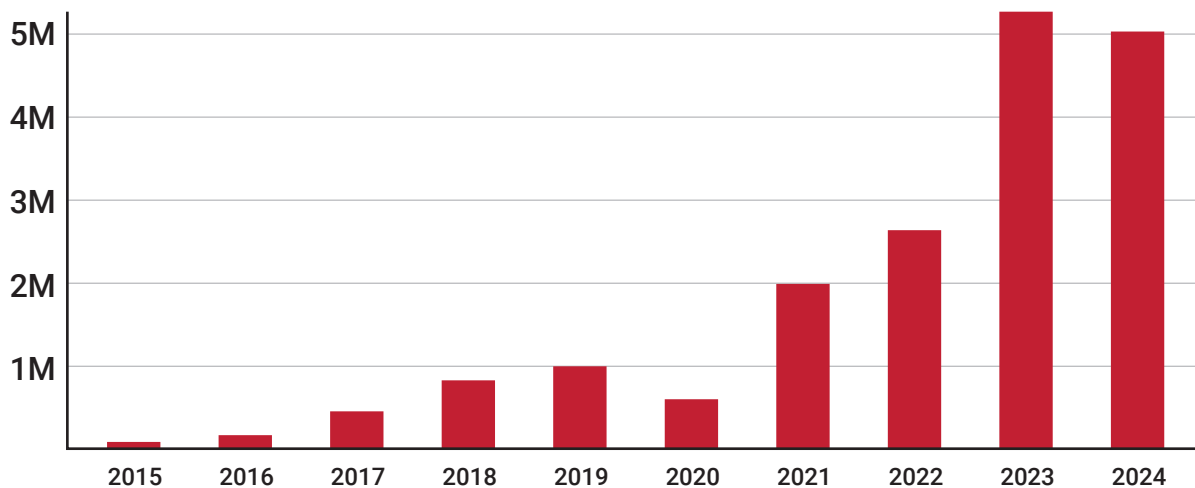


Fig. 1. Evolution of AECID funding in Egypt (2015-2024)

In addition to the upward budgetary trend, the CE has diversified its programs. In the past, the CE interventions had been limited to institutional capacity-building and the areas of governance and gender. However, the celebration of the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh 6-20 November marked a turning point. The conference consolidated Egypt's regional leadership in fields of development cooperation such as climate justice, environmental resilience, and inclusive and sustainable finance for development. Egypt acted as a bridge between regions, promoting transformative policies with global impact.

Following the meeting, and at the request of the CE, both countries opened a dialogue on common challenges and priorities – mostly linked to climate change. As a result of this exchange, collaboration agreements were forged with national ministries and entities, United Nations (UN) agencies, and other local organizations. Alliances have been also consolidated at the regional level, with the Mediterranean serving as a common cooperation framework. The sustained engagement of Spain and Egypt in platforms such as the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) bears testament to this regional cooperation. Their flagship initiatives offer horizontal collaboration models on shared challenges such as blue economy or employability.

Subsequently, cooperation between Spain and Egypt has evolved while addressing national, regional and

global challenges. At this stage, the following sub-section outlines the contemporary challenges and related opportunities for achieving the SDGs, with a focus on the realities of both countries.

1.2. CURRENT CONTEXT

Social transition

Healthcare. Providing basic services is central to a social transition sensitive to structural inequalities. Egypt's development initiatives, with a registered population of 105,914,499¹, accounts for the efforts to tackle this challenge. Among them, healthcare constitutes a top priority for the country. With the Universal Health Coverage Law, approved in 2018, the country aims at providing basic medical care in all governorates by 2032. Spain, from its side, has a broad network of healthcare services and infrastructure distributed throughout its territory. Thus, Spanish public healthcare system offers a benchmark for the goals set by Egypt. Furthermore, both Egypt and Spain have joined global initiatives to advance vaccination rates against communicable diseases.

Migrations. Human mobility generates similar challenges and opportunities to achieve a social transition that leaves no one behind. Both countries are signato-

1. As of 2024, according to figures from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), other organizations such as the World Health Organization put the number at 114,535,772 (WHO 2023).

ries to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2018) (GCM), the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and its Protocol (1967). Moreover, both are hubs for growing migration flows. In Egypt, multiple routes converge. This is the case of the East Africa and the Middle East corridors. The crises in Gaza and Sudan have intensified their transit. From its side, Spain is an entry point for migrants and refugees, among others, through its southern Atlantic and Mediterranean borders. These similarities lay the foundation for multidimensional cooperation to comprehensively serve refugees, migrants and host communities.

Food security. Geopolitical instability continues to add pressure on the global network of basic supplies. Food products have not been spared. Rising prices across both shores of the Mediterranean demonstrate the shared vulnerability to this reality. Wheat, whose imports represent 20% of Egypt's total agricultural imports², is a paradigmatic case. Thus, strengthening logistics chains has been a common response in both countries. Egypt is also working to strengthen real-time monitoring systems and early warning tools for commodity availability and price volatility. Additionally, Egypt's public policies notably opted for the expansion of arable land in desert regions to enhance agricultural output and the strengthening of the national silos network. Finally, as detailed below, the similarities between the two agricultural sectors provide common ground for joint actions on food security.

Gender Equality. Gender equality is firmly enshrined in the 2030 Agenda. This commitment has led to the mobilization of resources and institutions to advance women's rights and their opportunities. However, such initiatives require time and constant engagement to fully translate into effective gender equality. Cognizant of this, the Government of Egypt is implementing measures to facilitate women's access to formal employment, focusing on both vocational training and the support of private initiatives.

Education. Egypt has achieved substantial primary school enrolment rates and is progressively improving its higher education performance³. Improving the quality of education and strengthening its connection to global research networks remains the goal of the

GoE due to its interrelation with labor competitiveness. With programs such as EDU 2.0, presented in 2018, and strategies such as the "National Strategy for Higher Education and Scientific Research" (2023), the GoE is advancing toward these goals. Such progress is reflected in the country's accession to the "Horizon Europe" program in April 2025. This is the highest level of scientific and technological cooperation between the EU and non-EU countries.

Culture. Egypt possesses an extraordinary cultural and historical heritage. Patrimony preservation and promotion pose similar challenges and opportunities for Spain. The considerable increase in visitors coexists with the demands for the appropriate maintenance of cultural heritage. In that sense, both Spain and Egypt have recently approved national strategies for sustainable tourism to confront this situation. Finally, Egypt holds regional centrality in artistic and cultural production in the Arab world. In addition to being a meeting point between East and West, Egypt's cultural and creative industry maintains a growing exchange across the globe.

Ecological transition

Combating climate change. Despite its low contribution to greenhouse gas emissions per capita in comparison with other industrialized countries, Egypt increased its overall environmental footprint due to its rapid economic and demographic growth. In parallel, the country remains highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Spain and Egypt share a common commitment to tackling climate change by reducing their emissions and adapting to its consequences. On a global scale, both have ratified multiple treaties such as the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), or the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Barcelona Convention. According to the latter, Egypt and Spain are engaged in using common indicators from the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program (IMAP) for pollution and contaminants, marine litter, and biodiversity at the national level to ensure optimal socio-economic development without degrading the environment. Likewise, the Mediterranean, as an area reuniting both countries,

2. FAO (2015). *Egypt: Wheat sector review*.

3. Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation (MoPEDIC). (2021). *Egypt's 2021. Voluntary National Review*.

is a source of shared ecological fragility. For example, the fight against desertification can provide spaces for mutual learning. In Spain, following the Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition (2022)⁴, 74% of the territory is considered susceptible to this phenomenon. Egypt, due to its predominantly arid ecosystem, has a long track record on policies and program to mitigate its advance.

Clean energy. Spain and Egypt also have extensive resources to undertake the ecological transition towards renewables energies. Both possess comparative advantage to develop solar and wind energy. The construction of parks and plants for these energies are long-standing initiatives in both territories. Similarly, their institutional commitment is evidenced by, among others, their participation in the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Nevertheless, the persistent dependence on fossil fuels remains an obstacle. Thus, Spain, through its “National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2021-2030” (2021), and Egypt, through its “National Climate Change Strategy 2050” (2022), hope to continue significantly increasing the electricity supply from renewable sources in the coming years.

Biodiversity. Both countries are signatories to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In line with its recommendations, they have prioritized legislative strengthening and action plans to safeguard at-risk flora and fauna. Subsequently, Spain has achieved the recovery of emblematic species, such as the Iberian lynx and the imperial eagle. Moreover, the percentage of its protected areas is among the largest in Europe. For its part, Egypt, with measures such as the “Egyptian Red Sea Initiative (2024-2030)”, oversees the integrity of vital habitats such as coral reefs. Moreover, the country has recently updated its national strategic targets to comply with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) which focuses on extending the designation of protected areas with high biological value, investigating and monitoring climate change effects on biodiversity and ecosystems, and encouraging nature-based solutions (NbS). Lastly, with both the “Updated Egyptian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2030” and the expected “Egyptian National Strategy for the Blue Economy”, Egypt will further en-

sure biodiversity preservation and the sustainable use of resources, namely in marine and coastal areas.

Water. Water management illustrates another shared feature in climate change adaptation. Water stress is a challenge for both countries. In Egypt’s case, contrary to the minimum established by the SDGs (1,000 per person per year), solely 570 were available as of 2018⁵. These figures resemble those of certain Spanish semi-arid regions. Desalination and treatment plants are the backbone of Egypt’s response to increasing the amount of water available. The development of smart irrigation techniques is also a key focus for consumption efficiency. This strategy aligns with the long-standing course Spain has been pursuing in agronomic and hydraulic matters.

Economic transition

Inclusive economic development. Spain and Egypt seek inclusive growth that benefits all segments of their respective populations. Creating decent employment and eradicating poverty are key aspirations for both countries. Egypt’s efforts are manifest in the incorporation of workers to its formal economy. The government action program (2023-2027) promotes inclusive growth through expanded job creation, particularly for youth, entrepreneurship promotion, start-up support, and private sector engagement. Similarly it enhances access to tailored financing for small and micro enterprises, improves decent work standards, and invests in vocational training and skills development to integrate new labor market entrants. Furthermore, the Takaful and Karama programs – the largest social safety net cash transfer program in the MENA region – demonstrate Egypt’s commitment to supporting the most vulnerable groups. To date, they have served about 7.7 million households and places human development at the heart of the program. Finally, the dynamism of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is a common denominator for both countries. At the institutional level in Egypt, the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (MSMEDA) is the leading platform for coordination, MSMEs incubation and development, and businesses formalization.

4. Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge. (2022). National Strategy to Combat Desertification.

5. Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation (MoPEDIC). (2021). *Egypt's 2021. Voluntary National Review*.

Territorial rural development. The development of rural areas in Spain and Egypt, despite their unique characteristics, follows similar patterns. The push for greater connectivity, particularly in digital infrastructure and access to transportation and services in remote areas, represents a crosscutting axis for both countries. Strategically, “*Haya Karima – A Decent Life*” and “*Bedaya – A New Beginning for Human Development*” illustrate Egypt’s dedication to enhancing the coverage of these services. *Haya Karima*, therefore, implements a range of measures in the 5,000 most vulnerable rural villages in Egypt. These cover the following sectors: sanitation; road paving; electricity grid; construction and rehabilitation of health centers; installation of fiber optics; agricultural services; irrigation; classroom renovation; and investment in cultural centers.

Digitalization. Egypt advocates for the mainstreaming of digitalization into its sustainable development policies. The “Digital Egypt” strategy has three pillars: digital transformation, training, and innovation. Digital transformation is articulated through improved electronic institutional interconnections and better institution-to-citizens digital communication. In this regard, digital administrative procedures – such as formal business registration – have been on the rise. Furthermore, fiber optics continues its expansion under the *Haya Karima* program. Digital training extends to the professional and educational spheres with digital literacy initiatives. Finally, digital innovation translates into the promotion of hubs and startups in different sectors through multiple national programs.

1.3. EGYPT’S STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

Egypt’s aspirations for transformation are evident – their effects at both regional and global levels are already tangible. Egypt is the second largest African economic power⁶. Apart from being the historic

headquarters of the Arab League, the country plays a decisive role in other regional institutions such as the African Union. In parallel, Egypt ranks high among Arab countries in renewable energy production capacity⁷. Its weight is likewise reflected onto the international stage. The country hosts approximately 10% of the global maritime trade through the Suez Canal⁸. In turn, due to the COP27, Egypt is contributing to global climate justice with the launch of the ‘Loss and Damage’ Fund to assist those countries with greater climate vulnerability⁹. Finally, with 60% of its population under the age of thirty¹⁰, the country boasts enormous human capital for innovation and economic growth.

This salient standing has led Egypt to extend its development cooperation commitment to third countries. After eradicating hepatitis C, the country continues to offer vaccines, medical supplies, and technical assistance to other African countries seeking to neutralize the disease¹¹. Similarly, agriculture cooperation stands as a hallmark of Egyptian-led South-South Cooperation. Egypt hosts African hubs for knowledge exchange in food security like the Luxor Knowledge Hub – established by MoPEDIC and the World Food Program (WFP). In coordination with UN agencies, Egypt has implemented projects on such matters and rural development in the African continent¹². Lastly, this cooperation takes also place within regional intergovernmental institutions. Besides the Union for the Mediterranean (UPM), others merit attention such as Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) – integrated by seventeen Arab states and based in Cairo¹³.

1.4. STRATEGIC VALUE OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The context described earlier, together with the growing collaboration between countries, underpins this

6. International Monetary Fund (IMF). (2025). GDP, current prices.

7. IRENA (2025). Statistics on renewable energy capacity.

8. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). (2024). Maritime Transport Report.

9. UNFCCC. (2022). COP27 Reaches Breakthrough Agreement on New “Loss and Damage” Fund for Vulnerable Countries.

10. CAPMAS (2024). Population.

11. World Health Organization (WHO). (2019). WHO welcomes Egypt's support to 14 African countries in their fight against hepatitis C.

12. FAO. (2024). Egypt and FAO Strengthen Agricultural Cooperation in Africa. FAO. (2014). Egypt and FAO ramp up support to South-South Cooperation.

13. RCREEE. (n.d.). Member States.

Partnership. Within this context, two recent events lay the groundwork for the identification and development of this PSD. Thus, on the one hand, with the new MP (2024-2027), Egypt is considered a 'priority country' for the CE. On the other hand, in February 2025, Spain and Egypt elevated their bilateral diplomatic ties to the category of "Strategic Partnership." Their "Joint Declaration" recognizes Spain's willingness to support the GoE in fulfilling its "Vision 2030" – the country's grand strategy for achieving the SDGs.

This Partnership marks the beginning of a new phase grounded in horizontality, continuous dialogue, and joint action. The shared objectives, priorities, and challenges that shape this strategic document – jointly agreed upon by the Egyptian authorities and the CE – provide the framework and substance for the actions to be implemented and the commitments to be undertaken, as outlined below.

2

SHARED OBJECTIVES, CHALLENGES, AND PRIORITIES

2.1. INTRODUCTION

The PSD establishes as a guideline the joint effort to advance the SDGs. Paramount emphasis will be placed on public policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, technical assistance, triangular cooperation, the protection of global and regional public goods and the enhancement of innovative public policies oriented towards inclusivity and the eradication of inequalities. Similarly, both countries have incorporated the 2030 Agenda into their specific roadmaps for achieving these goals. Particularly, Egypt possesses a distinctive position in the region by aligning its leading public policies with the Agenda 2030 with its 'Vision 2030'. The strategy is being implemented through government action programs, translating its long-term sustainability goals into actionable five-year sectoral plans. They operationalize the strategic objectives of 'Vision 2030': (1) quality of life and living conditions; (2) social justice and equality; (3) an integrated and sustainable environmental system; (4) a diversified, knowledge-based, and competitive economy; (5) developed infrastructure; (6) governance and partnerships. Moreover, it ensures coordinated cross-government implementation through structured planning, performance monitoring, and oversight mechanisms led by MoPEDIC. The CE endorses 'Vision 2030' objectives and cooperates with national authorities in the implementation of multiple economic development policies under the strategic guidance of the mentioned strategic document.

Based on these parameters and the previous context, the CE and the MoPEDIC, along with other key Egyptian ministries, began a process of reflection and dialogue to identify shared challenges and priorities. Thus, its outcome reflects a prioritization process driven by two main considerations:

- Firstly, to deepen collaboration where the Spanish and Egyptian contexts face shared challenges and priorities. In this respect, the fight against climate

change and the rights-based approach to migratory reality deserve special attention.

- Secondly, to frame the CE in terms of comparative advantage, considering the significant track record of Spanish institutions in sectors such as healthcare, agriculture or gender equality. In healthcare, the coverage and quality of its National Public Health System rank prominently in World Health Organization (WHO)'s annual reports¹⁴. In agriculture, Spain is frontrunner both in Europe, as the leading EU country in irrigated land, and globally, as it irrigates large swaths of land using precision techniques¹⁵. Finally, indicators of gender equality and female empowerment, and its progressive legislative and cultural advances, also showcase Spain's unique value in this regard. Taken together, the shared challenges and priorities described in the following sub-section combine added value with efficiency, in view of their similarities and outstanding competencies.

The CE has enriched this exchange with strategic and technical discussions. At the strategic level, bilateral meetings with MoPEDIC, key Egyptian Ministries and national institutions, the EU Delegation, and the UN Resident Coordinator Office focused on the CE's contribution to addressing Egypt's major challenges. At the technical level, the Spanish Cooperation Office in Egypt launched a participatory process with around twenty partners – Spanish, local, and international – to discuss and explore CE upcoming interventions in Egypt.

2.2. SHARED CHALLENGES AND PRIORITY AREAS

The following challenges and priority areas have been identified suit to the dialogue with the stakeholders.

14. WHO. (2023). *Tracking universal health coverage: 2023 global monitoring report*.

15. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA). (nd). Irrigation in Spain.

They are aligned with the transitions and priorities established by the MP (2024-2027).

Social transition

1. **Democratic Governance – SDG 16:** The CE will cooperate with the GoE in promoting the access to quality public services, given its comparative advantage on this sector. Hence, the CE will support the expansion of the basic **health** coverage in sectors of mutual interest following the mandate of the ‘Law on Universal Health Coverage’. To do so, it will use the accumulated experience of the Spanish public health system as a reference. Likewise, this collaboration on institutional strengthening will further advance in **migration management** in line with the global frameworks jointly endorsed by Egypt and Spain. Initiatives such as the ‘Asylum Law’ and institutions such as the National Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons (NCCPIM&TIP) attest to Egypt’s efforts to attend displaced and host communities. In this context, the CE and the GoE have been collaborating on expert interaction and technical capacity building. During the period established by the PSD, the CE will continue to cooperate with the GoE in improving the governance of regular migration with a rights-based and multi-dimensional approach. In parallel, the CE will provide basic support to reduce inequalities across host communities, migrants, and refugees in coordination with the GoE.
2. **Food Security and Zero Hunger – SDG 2: Food security** is a primary objective for Egypt due to the circumstances above described. Therefore, the CE will work together with the GoE to strengthen access to and availability of healthy food for the entire population, enhance consumer access to essential goods, and apply smart technologies to promote equitable and efficient food systems. To this end, the CE will contribute to the modernization of **agriculture** and livestock farming in Egypt through research and technical cooperation. In this regard, the similarities between the Spanish and Egyptian arable lands are outstanding. Thus, the CE is committed to optimizing the country’s agricultural resources and arable land, with special emphasis on value chains reinforcement. Moreover, the CE will collaborate with

the GoE to advance self-sufficient and resilient food systems and promote healthy eating habits. The CE will involve both local communities and Spanish - Egyptian scientific institutions in these lines of intervention and supporting ongoing digital transformation efforts in the food sector.

3. **Gender equality and the empowerment of all women, girls, and adolescents – SDGs 5:** The CE maintains its support to the GoE’s plans to **eliminate all forms of violence against women and consolidate their economic and social rights**. Regarding protection, the CE will continue to work with public institutions such as the National Council for Women (NCW). Given the cross-cutting nature of gender for Spain’s development cooperation, efforts to prevent violence against women will include preventive measures. This perspective will be mainstreamed across all areas of programming. Furthermore, the CE will keep supporting women in accessing the formal labor market through tools such as vocational training, incubators, and transition-to-employment programs.

Ecological transition

1. **Environment and Combating Climate Change: Adaptation and Mitigation – SDG 13:** The CE will develop concerted actions to reduce the impact and risks associated with **climate change** following the guidelines established by the GoE’s ‘National Climate Change Strategy 2050’. Moreover, the CE plans to support the Nexus of Water, Food and Energy (NWFE) platform due to its desire to align its work with the Egyptian environmental public policies on sustainability and climate change. To this end, the CE will engage with the Egyptian - Spanish scientific community and public-private partnerships. In turn, it aims to stimulate interventions ranging from research on the effects of climate change to measures focused on mitigating them. Initiatives aimed at reducing and treating waste will be supported, given Egypt’s institutional, legislative, and programmatic progress in these matters. Likewise, considering the risks associated with desertification, joint actions will be developed on agricultural rehabilitation in arid and semi-arid areas. Finally, pursuant to the cooperation clause among signatory States in Article 5 of the United

Nations Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁶, the CE will support the full implementation of the “Updated Egyptian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2024-2030)” and the expansion of Protected Natural Areas. The CE will give priority to coastal and marine areas due to their added value for the country. It will combine technical and scientific interventions with the strengthening of the social structures, both local and national, that inhabit them.

2. **Water and Sanitation – SDG 6:** Spain has a solid track record in **water management** and governance, notably through its basin system and network of desalination plants. The parallels between certain Spanish river basins and the Egyptian horticultural areas facilitate the exchange of experiences in transitioning to precision and drip irrigation models. Building on these similarities, Spanish - Egyptian cooperation has developed joint initiatives in irrigation innovation and wastewater treatment. Taking this incipient collaboration as a starting point, the CE aims to consolidate its support for the GoE and its “National Water Resources Plan (2017-2037)”. In this regard, the CE will develop joint initiatives with the GoE for sustainable management and reuse of water resources. This line of action will incorporate interventions targeting irrigation and sanitation modernization in view of maximizing their outreach and efficiency.

Economic transition

1. **Sustainable and inclusive economic development – SDGs 8:** Formal **employment** creation is a driving force of Egypt’s Vision 2030. This measure cuts across multiple GoE programs to which the CE

contributes. In this regard, the CE will support the GoE in offering formal, quality employment opportunities in different sectors. Priority will be accorded to micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as startups and business innovation incubators. With the expected ‘Start-up Charter’, Egypt is consolidating its position as a regional hub for business entrepreneurship. Hence, the CE will direct its technical and financial assistance toward expanding the value chain and increasing the productivity of social enterprises. In a similar vein, the CE will prioritize sustainable business models that tackle informality. To promote territorial wealth distribution, the geographic dispersion of incubators will be encouraged. The CE will also promote innovative youth entrepreneurship as a means of employment and integration, women empowerment, and improving economic clustering. For these reasons, the CE **considers technical and vocational education and training (TVET)** a cornerstone of Egypt’s sustainable development. This alignment will hopefully translate into boosting education facilities modernization, job-oriented curriculum development, and the mainstreaming of technology into education programs. Besides, the PSD will place emphasis on the fields of renewable energy, tourism, agriculture, and digital transformation. Through these priorities, the CE and the GoE will strive to promote youth employability and workforce driven by innovation, labor competitiveness, and enhancing employment training. The CE will also support key industrial sectors, emphasizing technological transfer and sustainability. It will seek to reinforce their productive capacities and to facilitate the access of Egyptian products to European markets. The CE will promote a transition to circular economy.

16. UN. (2006). Convention on Biological Diversity.

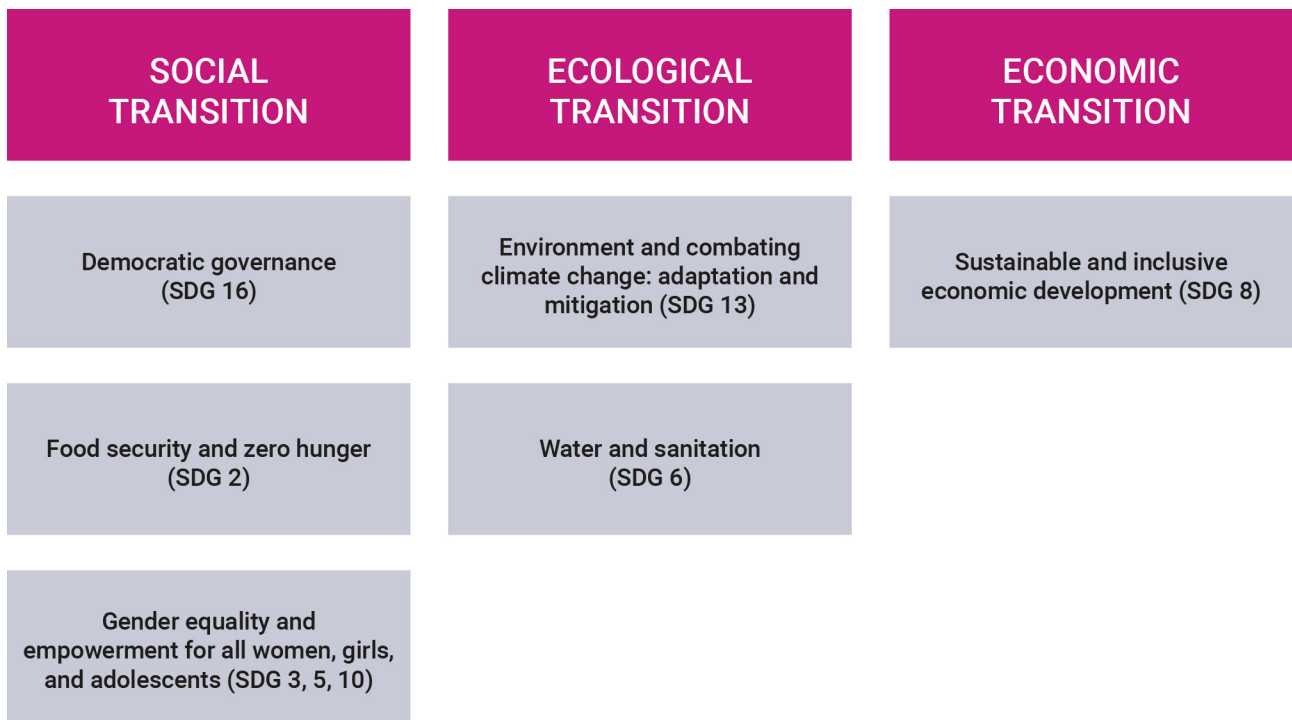


Fig. 2. Shared objectives, challenges, and priorities set by the PSD.

3

IMPLEMENTATION: ACTION PROPOSALS AND INSTRUMENTS

3.1. ACTION PROPOSALS

Drawing on the shared challenges and priorities exposed above, the Spanish Cooperation defines the following action proposals. These are accompanied by indicators to monitor its progress. Both elements are aligned with the ones used by the GoE and the other actors associated with the Spanish Cooperation. In the same vein, this framework echoes the objectives of the EU's Strategic Partnership 2024-2027 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023-2027) with Egypt.

The action proposals reframe the shared challenges and priorities to provide operational intervention guidelines. Unlike logical frameworks, often bound by linear and fixed logics, the action proposals follow an adaptive and process-oriented approach. Their thematically

segmented organization defines areas of intervention without restricting them to predetermined outputs. As such, they are well-suited to development contexts in transition and help foster synergies due to their flexibility. Besides, the inclusion of global and regional public goods in each proposal creates opportunities to extend cooperation beyond the national level. It enables joint action between Spain and Egypt at both local and regional scales. Indicators, in turn, help capture the outcomes of collaborative processes between Spain and Egypt across the country and the region.

Their flexible design with scalable components makes the action proposals valuable tools for advancing structural transformations aligned with Egypt's development and shared international commitments. The following tables provide a summary of the action proposals and its associated challenges and priorities.

SHARED CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES			
SOCIAL TRANSITION			
	Democratic Governance – SDG 16	Food security and zero hunger – SDG 2	Gender equality and women’s empowerment – SDGs 3, 5, 10, 16
DESCRIPTION	<p>1. Strengthen the institutional service delivery and protection mechanisms, notably among vulnerable groups</p> <p><u>Global/regional public good</u>: Good governance</p>	<p>2. Promote food availability to ensure healthy nutrition for citizens and the country's food self-sufficiency</p> <p><u>Global/regional public good</u>: Food security</p>	<p>3. Foster the improvement of women's conditions as subjects of rights in the social, political and economic spheres</p> <p><u>Global/regional public good</u>: Gender equality</p>
ACTION PROPOSALS	<p>1.1. Technical support to public institutions and services across the territory</p> <p>1.2. Strengthen the access to protection services for migrants, refugees, and host communities</p>	<p>2.1. Strengthening sustainable food production and processing capacities from cultivation to consumption</p>	<p>3.1. More efficient and effective mechanisms for preventing and responding to violence against women and girls</p> <p>3.2. Create opportunities to promote economic self-sufficiency and social empowerment of women</p>
INSTRUMENTS	<p>Projects and programs; regional programs; technical cooperation; triangular cooperation; multilateral cooperation; delegated cooperation; knowledge generation and transfer; cultural cooperation</p>	<p>Projects and programs; regional programs; technical cooperation; triangular cooperation; multilateral cooperation; delegated cooperation; knowledge generation and transfer; cultural cooperation</p>	<p>Projects and programs; regional programs; technical cooperation; triangular cooperation; multilateral cooperation; delegated cooperation; knowledge generation and transfer; cultural cooperation</p>
INDICATORS	<p>1.1.1. Number of units/offices with CE support in capacity-strengthening</p> <p>1.2.1. Number of people benefitting from Spain-funded protection services – gender disaggregated figures</p>	<p>2.1.1. Kg of food generated from CE interventions through the supply chain</p>	<p>3.1.1. Number of facilities providing services for victims of violence against women and girls with CE funding</p> <p>3.2.1. Number of women with active community and/or economic activity because of CE activities</p>

SHARED CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES			
ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION		ECONOMIC TRANSITION	
Combating climate change: adaptation and mitigation – SDG 13		Water and sanitation – SDG 6	Sustainable and inclusive economic development – SDG 8
DESCRIPTION	4. Support Egypt's ecological transition <u>Global/regional public good:</u> Environment and climate resilience	5. Promote the development of sustainable water supply structures suitable for human consumption and economic production <u>Global/regional public good:</u> Water governance	6. Supporting socioeconomic resilience through inclusive growth and job creation <u>Global/regional public good:</u> Social inclusion
ACTION PROPOSALS	4.1. Increment adaptation and mitigation climate change mechanisms	5.1. Optimize the use of water resources in the consumption and production chain	6.1. Increase formal and quality employability equitably across economic sectors 6.2. Improve skills and abilities to better access the job market through technical and vocational education and training (TVET)
INSTRUMENTS	Projects and programs; regional programs; technical cooperation; triangular cooperation; multilateral cooperation; delegated cooperation; knowledge generation and transfer; cultural cooperation	Projects and programs; regional programs; technical cooperation; triangular cooperation; multilateral cooperation; delegated cooperation; knowledge generation and transfer; cultural cooperation	Projects and programs; regional programs; technical cooperation; triangular cooperation; multilateral cooperation; delegated cooperation; knowledge generation and transfer; cultural cooperation
INDICATORS	4.1.1. Km ² affected by sustainable CE interventions	5.1.1. Net volume (m ³) of water generated and/or preserved through CE interventions	6.1.1. Number of people active in the formal labor market with the support of CE programs – gender disaggregated figures 6.2.1. Percentage (%) of graduates joining the formal job market – gender disaggregated figures

3.2. PARTNER COMMITMENTS WITH THE PARTNERSHIP

Cooperation for development is not a one-way relationship. Instead, it calls for mutual commitments to share objectives, assume responsibilities to achieve them, deal with conditioning factors, and jointly assess opportunities. The objective of this Partnership is to facilitate positive changes, leading to significant improvement in the lives of the population. To this end, the CE will not only focus on assistance effectiveness, but also on the effectiveness of the development policies supported by this Partnership. It will also enhance information exchange in a transparent manner and reinforce management coordination in accordance with the shared priorities.

During the 2025-2030 period, within a stable budgetary scenario, Spanish ODA in Egypt is expected to continue its upward trend. The allocation of monetary and non-monetary contributions will be subject to the budgetary availability of the various stakeholders involved, and its associated bi-lateral, multi-lateral, and financial funds.

On the other hand, the Government of Egypt pledges its efficient and effective management based on responsibility and accountability. This determination will facilitate the translation of funds into sustainable and inclusive economic growth, in compliance and alignment with Egypt's sustainable development strategy, «Visión 2030».

3.3. CE'S MODALITIES AND INSTRUMENTS

Assistance modalities will be mostly unconditional, earmarked, and non-reimbursable. Direct bilateral assistance will be provided through local non-governmental organizations and public bodies, under the leadership, guidance, and advice of the MoPEDIC, while indirect bilateral assistance will be channeled through academic bodies and specialized institutions, as well as international entities and Spanish NGOs. The articulation of these collaborations will be guided, among other references, by the multi-stakeholder partnership model, with the aim of maximizing synergies, pooling financial and non-financial resources, and fostering network-based capacity development in areas of mutual interest.

The instruments listed below will be prioritized in this Partnership, without excluding the possibility of employing others as needed:

- *Projects and Programs:* A significant segment of the CE's actions in Egypt will be channeled through cooperation projects and programs with targeted geographic areas and participants. Identification procedures of project and programs will be coordinated and shared with MoPEDIC, with due attention laid on national programs associated to innovative public policies. Spanish NGOs, within the framework of competitive calls, will receive funding to achieve the identified work priorities. In turn, Egyptian Ministries and national entities, Egyptian and international NGOs may receive funding for the implementation of projects and programs after prior notification.
- *Regional Programs:* In 2012, AECID launched the MASAR program with a view to contributing to the reforms taking place in several countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean. MASAR was conceived as a regional support program on democratic governance in the Arab world in line with the EU's European Neighborhood Policy and informed by Spain's experience and longstanding ties with the region. In 2024, the CE launched the new MASAR AL'AN focusing on job creation, ecological transition, and gender equality, of which Egypt is currently a beneficiary. In parallel, the CE and the GoE will foster the joint coordination of the Euro-mediterranean countries in those intergovernmental institutions and initiatives in which both
- participate. This cooperation will aim at addressing the shared challenges and priorities on sustainable development.
- *Technical Cooperation:* Egypt will host interventions on knowledge transfer to strengthen institutional capacities. This will target public administration officials and specialized and professional entities within the framework of the MASAR AL'AN Program in sectors of common interest. Possible avenues for collaboration include technical training and capacity building activities, scholarships, mentoring, and the transfer of knowledge and technology.
- *Triangular Cooperation:* Through AECID, the Spanish Cooperation supports cooperation actions between a partner country and one or more developing countries by mobilizing technical, financial, material and other resources in line with principles of horizontality, mutual benefit, and shared responsibility. Similarly, in conformity with the Spanish MP 2024-2027, the CE gives rise to the possibility of promoting Egypt-led South-South cooperation with third countries. Considering Egypt's willingness and capabilities to consolidate said instrument, the CE and the MoPEDIC will assess the opportunity and convenience of this modality within the PSD framework.
- *Multilateral Cooperation:* International and multilateral organizations will execute funds insofar they contribute to priority national, regional, and global programs. Notably, the set-up and implementation of development public policies and national programs jointly identified with MoPEDIC. In turn, the CE will contribute to MoPEDIC efforts to catalyze the impact of multilateral funds through initiatives focused on SDGs achievement and quality economic growth. Such is the case of instruments like the Egypt's Integrated National Financing Strategy (E-INFS), led by MoPEDIC and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), which aims to reduce the existing development gaps through innovative mechanisms leveraging public and private investments and partnership, mobilizing sustainable finance, managing fiscal and debt risks, for closing financing gaps and accelerating SDGs implementation in line with Egypt vision 2030 Likewise, these contributions will draw on the recommendations on SDG localization developed by MoPEDIC, UNDP, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), thereby translating national frameworks and strategies into tangible improvements in people's daily lives.

- *Financial Cooperation:* Throughout the duration of this Partnership, the potential incorporation of both reimbursable and non-reimbursable financial transfers or investments will be explored. Taking the newly established Spanish Fund for Sustainable Development (FEDES) as a departure point, the CE and the Government of Egypt will reflect on the appropriateness of such instrument for the achievement of the objectives set out in the PSD.
- *Delegated Cooperation (EU):* There is a fluid working relationship with the EU Delegation in Egypt (EU DEL), with the CE actively participating in its coordination groups. This coordination is particularly relevant in the areas of gender, migration, and water. AECID participates in the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on “Water and Climate Change,” being an active member of the group. AECID implements projects with funds delegated from the European Union and aims to continue managing similar ones in Egypt during the implementation period of this Partnership.
- *Generation and transfer of knowledge:* Training, research, development, and innovation activities for global sustainable development will be undertaken both directly and in collaboration with research centers and universities, including scholarships and academic mobility.
- *Cultural Cooperation:* The promotion and exchange of cultural activities between both countries will remain a priority during this Partnership. Cultural development cooperation will likewise be reinforced, given its contribution to the protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage – one of the world’s most important legacies, both as a source of identity and diversity for communities, and as a means of generating employment. Similarly, the exchange programs on technical education and capacity-building in the cultural sector, notably within the cinema and audiovisual domain, will be reinforced.

3.4. GOVERNANCE AND SPACES FOR DIALOGUE

Egypt has a consolidated ecosystem for dialogue in the development sector. MoPEDIC leads the programmatic and strategic coordination between organizations, international agencies, and other donors. Similarly, the collaborative framework established between

the UN and the EU through the GoE enables resource maximization on priority interventions. Thus, a broad array of coordination groups and working groups are organized. The CE partakes in the regular activity of these forums. With this PSD, the CE aims to strengthen its participation in the Egyptian coordination system. Those spaces for dialogue considered strategic are listed below in alphabetical order:

Development Partner Group (DPG)

The DPG serves as the primary inter-agency coordination platform for the UN and the development partners community in Egypt. While its plenary sessions address strategic issues; its thirteen working groups serve to exchange experiences in each of the sectors of intervention. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank participate in its plenary sessions. Currently, its working groups are the following: (1) Transport; (2) Urban Development; (3) Governance; (4) Health and Population; (5) Water; (6) Social Protection; (7) Gender and Development; (8) Migration and Protection; (9) Agriculture and Rural Development; (10) Environment and Energy; (11) Macroeconomics and Public Finance; (12) Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises; (13) Education. Normally, two main development partners assume the tasks of co-chairs in each working group.

Egypt Inter-Agency Coordination Unit

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) plays a facilitating role in the Egypt Inter-Agency Coordination Unit. The coordination group regularly brings together donors, UN agencies, and humanitarian organizations. During its meetings, the organizations exchange information and updates on humanitarian crises affecting the region, migration governance in the country, and the protection systems for migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in Egypt.

EU coordination system

The European Union stands among the country’s foremost strategic development partners. With the signing of the ‘Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership with Egypt (2024-2027)’ (2024), the EU also elevated its relations to the category of ‘Strategic Partnership’ in 2024 – so too did Spain in 2025. Consistent with the *Global Gateway* framework, this new partnership

presents the following priorities: (i) political dialogue; (ii) economic stability; (iii) investment and trade; (iv) migration and mobility; (v) security; (vi) personal development (*people and skills*). As a Member State, Spain incorporates these priorities in its programming and takes part in EU-chaired coordination bodies and working groups. Particularly noteworthy is the regular meeting of the Heads of Cooperation (HoCS). Besides, the EU hosts the following working groups: (1) Migration; (2) Gender; (3) Water; (4) Connectivity. The 'Water' and 'Connectivity' working groups are associated with TEI.

Egypt Integrated National Financing Strategy (E-INFS)

The E-INFS aims to align national and international cooperation funds with necessary interventions to meet the SDGs as mandated by 'Vision 2030'. The strategy aspires to coordinate public, private, and development cooperation financing while creating an enabling environment for implementation. It is overseen by a Steering Committee led by MoPEDIC. It acts as an umbrella for national financing initiatives such as the Sovereign Sustainable Financing Framework, and targets investments in seven priority sectors: (i) health; (ii) education; (iii) women's empowerment; (iv) sanitation; (v) transport; (vi) climate change; (vii) social protection. By promoting the integration of public and private investments, policy coherence, and enhanced transparency, the strategy provides a structured approach to reducing financing gaps, fostering innovation, and prioritizing high-impact projects across economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Therefore, the INF-S convenes the GoE with the UN, financial institutions, and donors in the Oversight Committee and other working groups such as 'Financing for Development' or 'Sustainable Finance' to monitor compliance with the financing pathways and targets.

Joint Platform for Refugees and Migrants in Egypt

Led by the UN and the Government of Egypt, the platform aspires to optimize available resources, coordinate interventions, and contribute to institutional

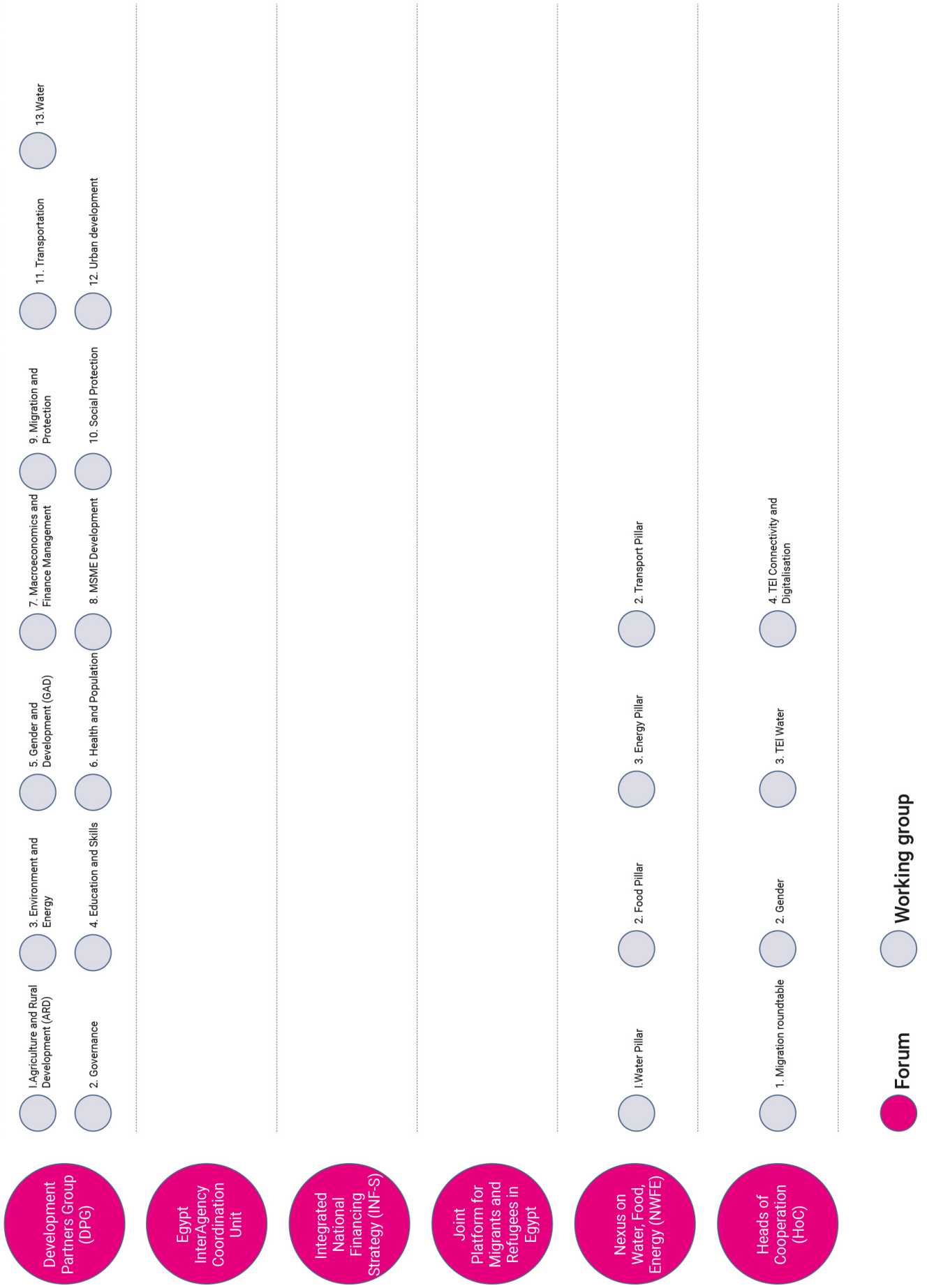
dialogue in assisting migrants, refugees, and host communities in Egypt. The World Health Organization (WHO), UNHCR, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), along with the Office of the Resident Coordinator, are on the UN's list of participants. In turn, the EU, because of upgrading its bilateral relationship with Egypt to a "Strategic Partnership" in 2024, has become a core partner of the Platform.

Egypt's Country Platform for Nexus of Water, Energy and Food (NWFE)

As previously introduced, Egypt's Country for NWFE was launched in 2022 against the backdrop of the Egyptian '2050 Country Climate Strategy' and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). It is considered a flagship Egyptian climate initiative aiming to integrate and coordinate cross-sectoral efforts under a country-led platform to drive green growth and climate resilience. The program leverages a blended-finance model, combining public funds, concessional loans, private capital, development banks, and philanthropy. Four pillars structure its coordination platform – each one steered by a financial institution: (i) The 'Water' pillar led by the African Development Bank (ADB); (ii) the 'Food' pillar entrusted to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); (iii) the 'Energy' pillar promoted by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); and (iv) 'Transport' pillar led by the European Investment Bank (EIB). These seeks to prioritize investments coalescing climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts with the country's inclusive progress.

Additionally, other MoPEDIC-led working groups and platforms are also considered of relevance, such as the Business Roundtables for Investment, Development, and Government Engagement (BRIDGE Series), the Egyptian Occupational Outlook or the Hub for Advisory, Finance & Investment for Entreprises (HAFIZ). During this PSD, if applicable, the CE will share with these coordination bodies any information that MoPEDIC deems appropriate.

Fig. 3. Main coordination forums and working groups on cooperation and humanitarian aid in Egypt



The Partnership is equipped with a monitoring and evaluation system to track the implementation progress and compliance with the shared commitments. It will also assess the level of policy coherence and coordination among stakeholders. Where relevant, it may allow for the revision of priorities, should the con-

text evolve or new agreements between the parties emerge. The Partnership will leverage the legislative instruments in force in both countries, such as the 'Law 19/2013 on transparency, access to public information, and good governance' in the case of Spain, and the applicable regulations on the Egyptian side.

4

MONITORING, EVALUATION,
ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

4.1. MONITORING

1. **Bilateral Committee (CB):** The Bilateral Committee will be the main mechanism to monitor the Partnership. It will be integrated by the Spanish Embassy in Egypt, through its Spanish Cooperation Office (OCE), and by MoPEDIC. Likewise, the Bilateral Committee might include the occasional or ongoing participation of other entities from both administrations, if deemed appropriate by both parties. The Bilateral Committee's main role in the monitoring process will be to discuss annual work plans, review progress, and propose adjustments to the Partnership Agreement. To this end, the Committee will meet at least on an annual basis. This meeting might be preceded by sectoral preparatory ones with key stakeholders, using the indicators identified in the national strategies, action plans, and national progress reports on SDG achievement as tools for monitoring implementation. To achieve its objectives, MoPEDIC and the Spanish Embassy in Egypt will consider the creation of a Technical Secretariat and working groups to supervise the programmatic consistency throughout the Partnership cycle.
2. **Country Team (EP):** The EP is the platform which ensures the participation of Spanish Cooperation actors in Egypt. Spearheaded by the OCE in Egypt, it seeks to ensure programmatic communication, coordination, coherence, and complementarity. This platform will have a key role in monitoring and evaluating the Partnership. The EP could be convened in different formats such as participatory workshops or working groups to provide input on monitoring and evaluation duties. It will meet at least once a year to analyze the degree of achievement of the stated results by sector. The OCE in Egypt will be responsible for drafting an annual report, afterwards validated by the EP, reflecting the activity of this monitoring mechanism. The report will also examine the effective implementation of the commitments undertaken in terms of effectiveness and coherence and may include recom-

mendations to enhance or adjust the Partnership accordingly.

3. **Monitoring Committee with Egyptian Civil Society:** The OCE, with the support and participation of representatives from the EP, will organize annual sectoral workshops with Spain-funded Egyptian civil society aimed at assessing the development of the Partnership.

4.2. EVALUATION

Three months before the end date of this Partnership, the evaluation process will be launched. This comprehensive review will focus on providing information and evidence on the systematization of actions and results developed within the framework of the Partnership; lessons learned and recommendations; and strategic guidance for a possible new cycle. The outcome of this process will be an evaluation report and an improvement plan. The Spanish Directorate General for Sustainable Development Policies (DGPOLDES) will lead the final evaluation process, with the collaboration of AECID, MoPEDIC and other actors, both Egyptian and Spanish, deemed relevant to the mentioned exercise.

4.3. ACCOUNTABILITY

Egypt possesses a solid track record in SDG scrutiny processes. The country has undergone SDG Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) on several occasions in 2016, 2018, and 2021. In these reports, the GoE has noted progress but also acknowledged challenges. Several governorates have undergone detailed reviews in collaboration with UN agencies under the Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). These include the Government of Egypt's twenty-seven reports on SDG localization, conducted in conjunction with the UN system in Egypt. These processes demonstrate the country's maturity in addressing the challenges of the 2030 Agenda. This

same spirit will guide the PSD's transparency and accountability exercises.

Moreover, MoPEDIC leads an initiative to map nation-wide ODA to the SDGs, aiming to enhance transparency and align development financing with national priorities. This initiative supports evidence-based policymaking and enables stakeholders – including citizens, development partners, and government entities – to identify funding gaps and ensure more effective resource allocation. This model has been internationally recognized for optimizing development cooperation and accelerating progress toward the 2030 Agenda.

Besides, in a spirit of transparency and mutual accountability, the CE will share with data or information considered relevant related to the Partnership, drawing on the findings, conclusions, and recommenda-

tions emerging from its monitoring and evaluation exercises to governmental and non-governmental Egyptian partners, noting that Egyptian NGOs should be legally registered under the relevant civil society law (no: 149/2019). The Monitoring Committees with the Government of Egypt and civil society, convened annually through the EP and the BC, will be the appropriate forum to do so. Egyptian state partners will be responsible for providing the necessary information in accountability-related exercises, using the communication platforms they deem appropriate in the full exercise of their sovereignty.

In Spain, the DGPOLDES, AECID and public entities involved in the development of this Partnership will be responsible for disseminating the interventions and actions implemented during its validity period, as well as the objectives achieved.

