



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

# Evaluation of the Securing Rights and Improving Livelihoods of Women (SRILW) Action

Final Evaluation Report. December 2018

Evaluation Firm: Feedback Marketing Consultants

Submitted to: UN Women Egypt Country Office

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## List of Acronyms

CDA	Community Development Association
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EC	European Commission
ECO	Egypt Country Office
EGP	Egyptian Pound
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GOPP	General Organization for Physical Planning
ID	Identification card
MEK	Misr El Kheir
MoF	Ministry of Finance
Mol	Ministry of Interior
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoPMAR	Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform
MoSS	Ministry of Social Solidarity
MPs	Members of Parliament
MSAD	Ministry of State for Administrative Development
NCW	National Council for Women
NGO	Non-Government Organization
PG	Prosecutor General
PSA	Public Service announcement
SFD	Social Fund for Development
SRILW	Securing Rights and Improving Livelihoods of Women
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WCI	Women's Citizenship Initiative

## Executive Summary

The EU funded action, “Securing Rights and Improving Livelihoods of Women”, implemented by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), was a 5-year project implemented from December 2012 to December 2017. The action intended to empower women in Egyptian society, through women’s increased leadership and participation in the public sphere (Key Area 1), their economic empowerment in Upper and Lower Egypt (Key Area 2), and the protection of women and girls from violence in public and private spaces (Key Area 3). The action consisted of a package of interventions featuring mutually reinforcing protection and empowerment measures designed to strengthen the position of Egyptian women in society and ensure their participation alongside men in post revolution development processes. The total programme budget was €4,712,306.

In 2018, the UN Women Egypt Country Office (ECO) commissioned a summative evaluation of the Action in order to ensure accountability to stakeholders and promote learning for informed decision-making. The specific objectives of the evaluation were to assess the relevance, effectiveness, organizational efficiency, sustainability as well as the integration of gender equality and human rights of the Action with a view to Identify and validate lessons learned, good practices, and innovations that support gender equality in the three areas of work, and to provide actionable recommendations with respect to future UN Women interventions in WPE, WEE and EVAW. The primary intended users of the evaluation are UN Women senior management and programme staff at country level, as well as partner organizations. The learning generated from the evaluation can also benefit other stakeholders working in these areas. The evaluation was conducted from December 2017 to June 2018 by an external evaluation team and managed by the UN Women Egypt Country Office.

The evaluation adopted a gender responsive and utilization focused approach, using mixed methods, specifically a survey, key informant interviews and focus groups discussions, to collect data. Data was collected from women and men in seven of the governorates (Cairo, Giza, Menia, Sohag, Assiut, Beni Suef and Beheira) where the Action focused its efforts. In total, the evaluation reflects the perspectives of 320 stakeholders - 275 women and 45 men - representing both individual and institutional perspectives.

## Main Findings

### *Relevance*

**Finding 1:** The SRILW Action design and implementation were closely aligned with national strategies and frameworks promoting the social, economic and political empowerment of women, as well as the key international normative instruments which provide the foundation for GEWE.

**Finding 2:** SRILW’s alignment with national and international frameworks ensured alignment with donor and other partner strategies and development priorities, including gender equality and gender justice frameworks. Through the SRILW action, UN Women has supported and delivered on the three (3) key areas of EU strategic engagement for gender equality through partnership with both governmental and non-governmental entities.

**Finding 3:** The SRILW Action was relevant to the needs and priorities identified by rights holders, particularly marginalized women. Implementing partners conducted field research with women rights holders prior to programme implementation to ensure that the design and implementation of programme strategies was informed by an understanding of women's needs and requirements.

**Finding 4:** Across the three key areas, UN Women was able to leverage its institutional expertise and mandate to add value to the interventions and complement the work of partners. This was particularly evident in key area 3 (EVAW), where UN Women worked on different levels (legislative, institutional, community and individual), through technical assistance, facilitation of dialogue across different partners, and support to attitudinal and behaviour change on ending violence against women (EVAW).

### *Effectiveness*

**Finding 5:** The Action has exceeded the initial targets related to women's increased leadership and participation in the public sphere, as well as women's economic empowerment. Leveraging networks of partners and creating an information system with data on women registered to receive national ID cards allowed for greater outreach and linkage of women to services.

**Finding 6:** Government and non-government partners added significant value to implementation in the field. The selection of partners was found as a strength and key enabler of success, because of partners' previous and diverse experiences in implementing women's social, political and economic empowerment activities.

**Finding 7:** Overall, the SRILW Action contributed to improving the lives of participating women. Its components supported women's agency, promoted gender responsive institutional structures, and improved access of women to some of the necessary resources to exercise their agency.

**Finding 8:** UN Women has created some linkages and synergies between the three components, particularly the WLPP and WEE components which enhanced the effectiveness of each component. These linkages between components and partners were not part of the Action design but evolved over the life of the Action and could have been further elaborated and strengthened as part of the design from the outset.

### *Efficiency*

**Finding 9:** The first two years of the Action witnessed a number of challenges related to efficiency and coordination protocols. UN Women teams responded with customized solutions to address these challenges and create greater efficiency. UN Women worked with partners to reduce the time for processes in the different components to secure a more rapid turnaround for services for beneficiaries.

**Finding 10:** In consolidating and coordinating the efforts of partners and stakeholders, UN Women contributed to a more efficient and effective collaboration, which promoted successful implementation of the Action objectives and goals. This was due in part to the adoption of a participatory and broad consultative approach with partners, as well as addressing capacity gaps.

## *Sustainability*

**Finding 11:** Through various activities across the SRILW action, UN Women has worked with a diverse group of duty bearers, both government and civil society, to enhance their capacities and their own work to advance GEWE. UN Women has also supported rights holders in knowing and accessing their rights. Both these elements are key to promoting sustainability.

**Finding 12:** All three key areas of the Action had elements of ownership and sustainability integrated into their design and implementation, albeit to different extents across the three areas. Through the Action, UN Women has also contributed to accountability mechanisms, information systems and networks that can continue to be leveraged to sustain benefits for rights holders.

## *Gender Equality and Human Rights*

**Finding 13:** UN Women worked closely with its main government counterpart, the National Council for Women (NCW), to support its efforts in developing the National Strategy for Combatting Violence against Women and Girls, and protocols to ensure the Government of Egypt's commitment to "respect women's rights and encourage their effective and active participation in the development of their community."<sup>1</sup>

**Finding 14:** The Action has contributed to important progress in addressing gender equality and women's empowerment by addressing some of the structural issues faced by women in the areas of WLPP and EAW, and as a consequence has resulted in positive GEWE results at individual and household level. Nonetheless, efforts can be strengthened when working with communities to emphasize a rights perspective, in addition to the benefits of women's political and economic participation and protection for society as a whole.

## **Lessons Learned and Good Practices**

A number of key lessons learned, and good practices have emerged from the implementation of the Action.

In key area 1 (WLPP) the **Knocking Doors Campaign**, has achieved significant success in spreading awareness of the importance of having an official personal identification, in order to access more services, opportunities and benefits. It was due to that campaign that the numbers of registered IDs accelerated in 2016 and 2017 compared to the first three years of the action. The campaign not only raised awareness on the importance of obtaining a personal identification document, but also has created a strong personal rapport between community leaders and rights holders by having community leaders visit women at home. This has promoted closer relationships and resulted in greater trust at the community level.

In general, for all key areas, the **production and use of visual materials** was reported as very successful and engaging. These materials were particularly effective for key area 2

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<sup>1</sup> National Strategy for Combatting Violence Against Women and Girls - <http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/-/media/files/un%20women/vaw/full%20text/africa/egypt%20national%20strategy%20for%20combating%20vaw%202015.pdf?vs=2221>

(WEE), as they helped explain and simplify many of the concepts and processes to modestly educated / uneducated women.

The establishment of **linkages across different components**, to maximize benefit and support to rights holders, when it occurred was also seen as a good practice. As an example, beneficiaries who obtained ID cards through key area 1 were linked to economic empowerment activities in key area 2. Obtaining an ID card was a pre-requisite to benefit from economic empowerment activities, thus beneficiaries were supported through two components. Another example of linkage was the integration of social empowerment training for the VSLA groups (key area 2) which had messaging on how women view themselves and violence against women (key area 3). A key lesson learnt was that a programme design that would have included those linkages from the outset to foster a more integrated approach could further enhance GEWE results.

The importance of periodic **information sharing meetings** of all partners was another lesson that was learnt early on. Once these meetings were more systematically integrated into the Action, this was seen as a successful practice as well. This practice was incorporated and taken forward after the early stages of the Action had witnessed some lack of communication, work duplication and confusion between different partners, and hence these meetings were introduced to ensure information sharing and regular discussion among partners, and to reinforce the execution of the Action.

## Conclusions

**Conclusion 1:** The SRILW Action was highly relevant in its focus on addressing the needs and priorities of marginalized women in line with international and national GEWE frameworks. It was closely aligned to international normative frameworks to advance GEWE, as well as national strategies developed to deliver on the Government of Egypt's ratification of international frameworks in the three intervention areas. Working with partners with similar missions and visions and who were embedded in the communities ensured that the action was targeting and addressing the needs and priorities of vulnerable women. Although the socio-demographic profile of targeted women varied somewhat across the three key components based on the criteria for each intervention, the Action targeted vulnerable groups across the work. Quantitative data indicated that the majority of women had little to no education and low incomes.

**Conclusion 2:** Findings from the evaluation have demonstrated that the action has had positive effects on the lives of participating women at the individual, household and community level. This has been the result of working directly to increase women's knowledge, skills and access to financial assets and social services which has helped them contribute to the family and community and increase their self-confidence and status in the community, working with communities to raise their awareness on the benefits of women's participation and to some extent rights, and collaborating with institutions to build their capacities on GEWE, not only in terms of skills but also with respect to developing legislation, protocols and mechanisms to advance GEWE and enhance women's protection.

**Conclusion 3:** In working on three different aspects of women's empowerment – political, economic and social - the SRILW Action was a complex intervention. While the three components of the programme were not designed as an integrated programme at the outset, with different components

targeting different geographic areas and women, UN Women managed to create some linkages. Where it was able to do so, it maximized the benefit to targeted women and produced some efficiencies. Some of the linkages could have been integrated in the design phase, but others only emerged during implementation. Moving forward, UN Women and partners can leverage the learnings from the Action to ensure that linkages are built into multi-themed actions in the design phase.

**Conclusion 4:** Important elements of sustainability and ownership have been integrated into the programme components. UN Women’s strategy of supporting, strengthening and complementing the work of government and civil society partners, including the NCW with the WLPP and EAW components, SFD and Care with the WEE component, has ensured that some of the interventions are embedded in programming of national and civil society partners which may increase the likelihood that these activities will be continued. Support to the development of accountability mechanisms (WLPP, EAW), information systems, networks (WLPP), and legislation (EAW) are critical components to ensure that rights holders can continue to experience benefits post-action.

## Recommendations

Based on the analysis of findings, good practices and lessons learnt, as well as discussion with key stakeholders, the following are the key recommendations proposed:

**Recommendation 1:** The “Knocking Door Campaigns” were considered highly effective and efficient in spreading awareness. UN Women and partners should continue to leverage this successful approach for future initiatives that have a direct outreach and awareness raising component with grassroots beneficiaries. It can also be used in spreading awareness for other key areas.

**Recommendation 2:** For future initiatives, UN Women and partners should consider conducting a mapping of services which beneficiaries need when devising engagement protocols. This can further strengthen outreach efforts. For example, among the key reasons of registering for an ID was getting health services. Hence governmental and medical centres would be an excellent place to extend awareness campaigns to, since it is a fundamental service needed. The same applies to pension related sites, elementary schools, etc.

**Recommendation 3:** It is recommended that for future programming, UN Women and partners increase and support linkages between the MSMEDA<sup>2</sup> (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority) and the social solidarity enterprises/joint ventures which were established through the asset transfer module, especially for holding permanent exhibitions and fairs as a sustainability mechanism for their activities.

**Recommendation 4:** UN Women should continue to expand and strengthen its awareness raising and advocacy efforts around women’s rights when working in the communities. This can be linked to an expansion of its work on engaging men and boys and other key community members in order to support women’s participation in such programming, as well as more broadly to promote gender equality and women’s rights.

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<sup>2</sup> Former Social Fund for Development (SFD)



- a. These groups should be included in social marketing and awareness activities and should encourage more men and boys to become supporters and help in programme outreach. These efforts should be a part of the social marketing of the project through a comprehensive package of awareness activities at the beginning of the project, in addition to refreshers when needed. At the beginning, UN Women should target men, including husbands and other community groups, to introduce them to the project objectives and activities, to counter their resistance and rejection to their wives' and sisters' participation in different project activities, particularly the VSLAs and Social Solidarity companies.
- b. This strategy should not only focus on the benefits of participation, but on gender equality and women's rights.

**Recommendation 5:** In future programming focusing on several thematic areas, UN Women should strengthen integration among key programme partners through the development of a **unified action plan** that integrates the work of all the implementing partners and promotes joint learning. This action plan should clearly state the role of each partner and the outputs and outcomes expected from them. Women beneficiaries of each model should also be involved in the strategy planning in order to ensure the feasibility and practicality of the plan from the perspective of the end-user. This could also include:

- a. The joint development of a collective integrated project implementation strategy where the project interventions and activities complement each other to contribute to achieving the set objectives.
- b. The holding of quarterly or bi-annual joint meetings to discuss issues and exchange best practices and experiences among the partners to promote mutual learning and enhance integration, as well as organize exchange visits for the staff working on the programme, to share their experiences, have a common vision and learn from one another. This was recently started but should be continued, tracked and monitored.

# 1 Background

## 1.1 Introduction

With the aim of informing decision-making and contributing to learning on gender equality, as well as enhancing accountability, the UN Women Egypt Country Office (ECO) commissioned a final evaluation of its EU funded, five-year Securing Rights and Improving Livelihoods of Women (SRILW) action<sup>3</sup>. The SRILW action, implemented between December 2012 and December 2017, sought to support the empowerment of women in Egyptian society, with a focus on three main spheres: political, economic and social. The action promoted increased women's leadership by supporting them to participate more effectively in the public sphere, as well as improving their financial independence, and protecting them from violence in both public and private spaces. The total programme budget was €4,712,306 – with €4,000,000 provided by the EU and the remaining funds from UNDP (€213,493), USAID (€198,813) and UN Women (€300,000).

The evaluation was conducted from December 2017 to June 2018 by an external evaluation team and managed by ECO. The evaluation is intended to inform UN Women's future programming in the three key areas of programme focus – women's political participation, women's economic empowerment and ending violence against women. The aim of the report is to provide key findings, lessons learned, good practices, conclusions and recommendations based on the data collected during the evaluation. The primary intended users of the evaluation are UN Women senior management, programme staff working in the three thematic areas, and partner organizations. The learning generated from the evaluation can also benefit other stakeholders working in these areas.

The report is divided into six main sections: Section 1 provides an overview of the evaluation objectives, scope, methodology, process and limitations. Section 2 provides an overview of the project context and description. Section 3 presents the evaluation findings organized around criteria and key evaluation questions. Section 4 highlights the key lessons learned and promising practices from the programme. Section 5 presents the conclusions and section 6 the key recommendations based on an analysis of the findings and inputs from key programme stakeholders.

## 1.2 Evaluation objectives and scope

The specific objectives of the evaluation are to:

- a. Assess the **relevance** of UN Women's contribution to the Economic, Social and Political areas of work at national level, and alignment with international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment.
- b. Assess the **effectiveness** and **organizational efficiency** in progressing towards the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment results as defined in the intervention.

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<sup>3</sup> Action refers to programme.

- c. Assess the **sustainability** of the intervention in achieving sustained gender equality and women's empowerment.
- d. Analyse how a **human rights approach and gender equality principles** are integrated in the intervention design and implementation.
- e. Identify and validate **lessons learned, good practices examples,** and **innovations** that support gender equality and human rights in the three areas of work.
- f. Provide **actionable recommendations** with respect to future UN Women interventions in WPE, WEE and EVAW.

The evaluation is summative, assessing the five-year Action period from 22 December 2012 to 21 December 2017. The geographic focus was in the seven (7) of the governorates (Cairo, Giza, Menia, Sohag, Assiut, Beni Suef and Beheira) where the Action focused its efforts. All three thematic pillars namely, political participation, economic empowerment and ending violence against women, as well as all of the sub-components, were included in the evaluation. The evaluation included the perspectives of both rights holders and duty bearers.

## 1.3 Evaluation methodology

### 1.3.1 Evaluation approach

The evaluation adopted a utilization focused and gender responsive approach.

*Utilization focused:* The evaluation objectives and key questions were driven by the primary intended users who were engaged throughout the process in order to increase the utilization of findings. A number of key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders involved in the project were interviewed during the inception phase to refine the key questions and areas of inquiry.

*Gender responsive:* The evaluation integrated gender equality principles both in terms of assessment of results and the overall process. Gender equality and human rights issues were integrated across the standard OECD DAC criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability, as well as considered as a separate criterion. The process was designed to be participatory and inclusive. A stakeholder mapping was conducted to identify relevant duty bearers and rights holders and determine who would participate in the evaluation and in what ways. The evaluation included the perspectives of a broad range of stakeholders, both duty bearers and rights holders.

An evaluation matrix was developed which included evaluation criteria, key questions, sub-questions and indicators that guided the evaluation (please see annex 2). The evaluation focused on five criteria, specifically: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and gender equality and human rights. Longer term outcomes were considered under effectiveness and gender equality.

Table 1: Evaluation Criteria and Key Questions

Criteria	Key Questions
<b>Relevance</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To what extent were the programme design and implementation aligned with national and international normative frameworks and government and donor strategies and development priorities?</li> <li>2. To what extent was the programme relevant to the needs and priorities as defined by beneficiaries and target groups (e.g. beneficiaries, civil society etc.)?</li> <li>3. To what extent did UN Women’s approach complement and add value to the work of other partners working in this area?</li> </ol>
<b>Effectiveness</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the progress towards programme results that UN Women has contributed to so far? Are there opportunities for up-scaling good practices and innovative approaches?</li> <li>2. To what extent has UN Women created linkages and synergies between the three components for greater effectiveness?</li> </ol>
<b>Efficiency</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To what extent did the management structure and operational mechanisms promote efficient delivery of expected outputs or programme implementation?</li> </ol>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To what extent was the capacity of rights holders and duty bearers developed in order to ensure sustainability of efforts and benefits?</li> <li>2. How will the benefits of the intervention be secured for rights holders (i.e. what accountability and oversight systems were established)?</li> </ol>
<b>Gender Equality</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To what extent was gender equality and women’s empowerment advanced as a result of the intervention? What were the unintended effects, if any, of the intervention?</li> <li>2. To what extent was gender and human rights considerations integrated into the programme design and implementation?</li> </ol>

### 1.3.2 Data collection and data analysis methods

The evaluation used mixed methods and drew from a range of primary and secondary resources to provide both depth and breadth in terms of the information collected. This allowed for triangulation of data from multiple methods and multiple sources. Data collection was conducted between December 2017 and January 2018 in the governorates of Assiut, Beheira, Beni Suef, Cairo, Giza, Menia and Sohag.

#### **Qualitative Methods**

##### **a) Focus Group Discussions**

A sample of targeted rights holders were purposively selected based on the general characteristics of the population. Focus group discussions focused on assessing UN Women’s contribution in key evaluation criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability as perceived by rights holders. Separate FGDs were held with women who participated in each of the three components (WPP, WEE, EVAW), one in each of the three governorates visited. These included women ID recipients, women who participated in VSLAs and social solidarity companies, or received loans, and women survivors of violence

who had benefited from programme services. In addition, FGDs were held with reformed men perpetrators of violence against women, and youth who participated in EVAW activities. A total of 20 focus groups discussions were conducted with women, men and youth. A detailed breakdown of FGDs by key area, target group and governorate is available in Annex 6. The average number of attendees per focus group was 6-8 persons.

**b) In depth interviews (IDI):**

IDIs were conducted with the different institutions that played a role in the planning and implementation of the programme, covering the different governorates as well as types of counterparts, governmental and NGOs, including rural leaders, NCW branch officials, former SFD staff and NGO staff. A total of 20 IDIs were conducted with institutional stakeholders. A detailed breakdown of IDIs by key area, target group and governorate is available in Annex 6.

**Quantitative Methods**

**Face to Face Surveys:** Stratified random sampling was used to select survey respondents from among the women participating in SRILW political and economic components. It was decided that the social component would be evaluated only qualitatively, through a larger sample, given the sensitivity of the topic. The survey was conducted with 180 women (105 women and 75 women participating in the political and economic components respectively) in five (5) governorates (Assiut, Beheira, Beni Suef, Menia and Sohag). Surveys were conducted using Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPIs), a data collection methodology where the interviewer collects and enters the data during the interview through a tablet connected to the evaluation firms' servers. Details on the sample size calculation and the breakdown of the sample by region and component are included in Annex 3.

**Socio-demographic profile of survey respondents**

- 100 percent female
- Vast majority over 30 years of age, ranging from 50% for WPP component, to 70% and over for the WEE component with an average age of 34 years
- Average education levels: WPP component on average 43% of women were illiterate, 10% had no formal education but could read and write, 11% had a primary education, 34% had a secondary education
- Reported personal income: WPP component average monthly personal income EGP 300-400, with 54% reporting no income
- Reported household income: WPP component average monthly household income EGP 900-1000

In total, the evaluation reflects the perspectives of 320 stakeholders, 43 men and 277 women, representing both individual and institutional perspectives. Table 2 provides a breakdown by sex and type of stakeholder.

Table 2: Number of Stakeholders Consulted

	Male right holders	Female right holders	Male duty bearers	Female duty bearers
Key area 1 - WLPP <sup>4</sup>		123		6
Key area 2 - WEE <sup>5</sup>		117	1	7
Key area 3 EAW <sup>6</sup>	42	18		6

### 1.3.3 Ethics

Research was conducted based on the UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN system. Ethical considerations included:

- a. When collecting personal data from stakeholders, interviewers were transparent about the information they planned to collect, the purpose for which it was collected, with whom it might be shared and in what form. Informed consent was obtained, and interviewees were informed that they could refuse to answer any question and end the interview at any time.
- b. The evaluation team ensured that personal data used was confidential and thoroughly protected from unauthorized access and not disclosed without the consent of the data subject.
- c. Interviewers always behaved ethically and ensured a do no harm approach.

### 1.3.4 Evaluation constraints and limitations

A small number of challenges were encountered with respect to the data collection:

- a. The busy schedule of the duty bearers especially from the governmental counterparts and some higher-level personnel of CSOs resulted in some delays in the pre-set schedule or interviewing an alternate person due to the unavailability of the initially selected person.
- b. The invitation of rights holders (in the qualitative phase) to participate in the focus group discussions took place through supervisors (community leaders / field personnel) who - by nature of their role - had a close rapport with beneficiaries. This might have resulted in some biased responses towards positive perceptions of the action.
- c. Some of the CSO contacts provided were not reachable, and a second round of names and contacts had to be shared by UN Women, in order to secure the number of required interviews. This resulted in a few cases of speaking to someone new to the action or who did not have enough knowledge of the action from the start.

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<sup>4</sup>Fieldwork was conducted in Beheira, Menya and Sohag

<sup>5</sup> Fieldwork was conducted in Beheira, Assiut (VSLA) and Menya (Social Solidarity Companies). This was based on the concentration of work for each activity.

<sup>6</sup> Fieldwork was conducted in Cairo and Giza, specifically Ezbet El Hagannah, Mansheyet Nasser, and Imbaba.. Only qualitative fieldwork was conducted.

## 2 Evaluation context

### 2.1 Project context

The UN Women Egypt Country Office (ECO) works with a range of stakeholders, both duty bearers and rights holders, to support transformational change for women and girls in Egypt.

Millions of poor women living in Egypt do not have national ID cards which does not allow them to exercise their rights as full citizens. These women are unable to apply for a job; access government services, including public health services; banking services, process a property title or deed; obtain travel documents or vote.

Full and productive employment and decent work for all remains a challenge in Egypt, particularly for women and young people. Unemployment and underemployment constitute, according to the 2010 Egypt Human Development Report (EHDR), the most serious kind of exclusion for youth and especially women. There is significant gender disparity in labour force participation, with 13.4 percent labour participation among females aged 15–29 years versus 61.4 percent among males. Women’s participation in the labour market in Egypt is among the lowest in the world. This gender gap is due to a number of factors, including: difficulties women face in transitioning from school to the labour market; the fact that women are encouraged by society to specialize in so called “suitable” fields that do not match market demand; a structure that is not conducive to women’s employment in the formal private sector, and retrenchment of public sector employment. In addition, women in self-employment and micro and small enterprise ownership is low at 18% of the total number of micro and small enterprises, and significantly less in medium and larger enterprises<sup>7</sup>.

The informal sector currently represents the main source of employment for new labour market entrants. Women’s engagement in the informal sector differs from men. Whereas most men in the informal sector are either wage workers or employers, women are primarily non-wage workers contributing in various ways to household production and family businesses. The informal sector is by nature an insecure sector, as it does not offer a work contract or social or medical insurance. In addition, while women make important contributions to the rural economy, their productivity is limited due to lack of access to land, credit, networks, marketing and information, as well as their heavy workload due to household responsibilities. Of the 1.1 million women working in the informal sector, 93% reside in rural areas<sup>8</sup>.

Across the world, in all countries – regardless of social development and economic status – women and girls experience violence in public spaces, on streets, public transportation and even in their own neighbourhoods. Sexual harassment and assault are realities limiting the rights and freedoms of women and often acting as a barrier to their education, and full participation in public life. VAW&G is a global pandemic, women worldwide

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<sup>7</sup> Egypt Human Development Report 2010 - [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/243/egypt\\_2010\\_en.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/243/egypt_2010_en.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

experience physical and/or sexual violence at some point in their life. While domestic abuse is increasingly recognized as a human rights violation, sexual harassment in public spaces remains a neglected issue and is accepted as a normal part of urban life .

The costs of VAW&G are massive. The phenomenon has serious social and economic development repercussions on all levels. At the individual level, women are deprived from personal security and the ability to seek opportunities of education, recreation and work in the public sphere. At the household level, the family is often deprived from much needed sole or additional income from women's work. The cost to the community and the nation in terms of public services, physical and mental health, are also significant, eating into public budgets and depriving the country from the contribution to development of half the population .

In 2008, a study was conducted by the Social Planning Analysis and Administration Consultants (SPAAC) and the National Council for Women (NCW) in seven governorates. Of 2,320 females and 2,088 males surveyed, 72.4% of married women and 94% of unmarried female youth reported being exposed to verbal forms of sexual harassment, while 22.2% of married women and 21.7% of unmarried female youth reported having been physically harassed. In urban governorates (Cairo and Alexandria), an even higher prevalence of harassment was seen, with 86.2% and 34% of married women, and 99% and 37.4% of unmarried female youth, respectively reporting incidences of verbal and sexual harassment. In addition to this, large numbers of married respondents in urban governorates reported experiencing verbal (59.5%) and physical (26.9%) harassment while using modes of public transport in the year preceding the survey. These cases have reportedly increased since the 2011 revolution, due to the breakdown in security, a rise in crime, and deteriorating economic conditions.

## 2.2 Project description

The overall goal of the SRILW action was to maximize the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women in Egypt. The SRILW action works to advance the women's agenda across three (3) key areas, namely:

**Key Area 1:** Increased Leadership and participation of women in the public sphere. WLPP is advanced by a wide array of activities, including (i) public awareness on the importance of women's citizenship rights, and (ii) the 'Women's Citizenship Initiative (WCI)' which issued national identification (ID) cards.

**Key Area 2:** Increased economic security and autonomy of marginalized women in Upper, rural Egypt, and slum areas. The work in this component focuses on improving livelihoods of families of targeted women through: (i) support to women's entrepreneurship (access to financial capital and non-financial services and skills including Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), business development services); (ii) capacity building of the Government of Egypt and civil society partners; and (iii) information sharing and documentation of good practices and lessons learnt.

**Key Area 3:** Reduced prevalence of violence against women and girls in public and private spaces.



The intended outcomes and outputs under each key area are included in the figure1 below:

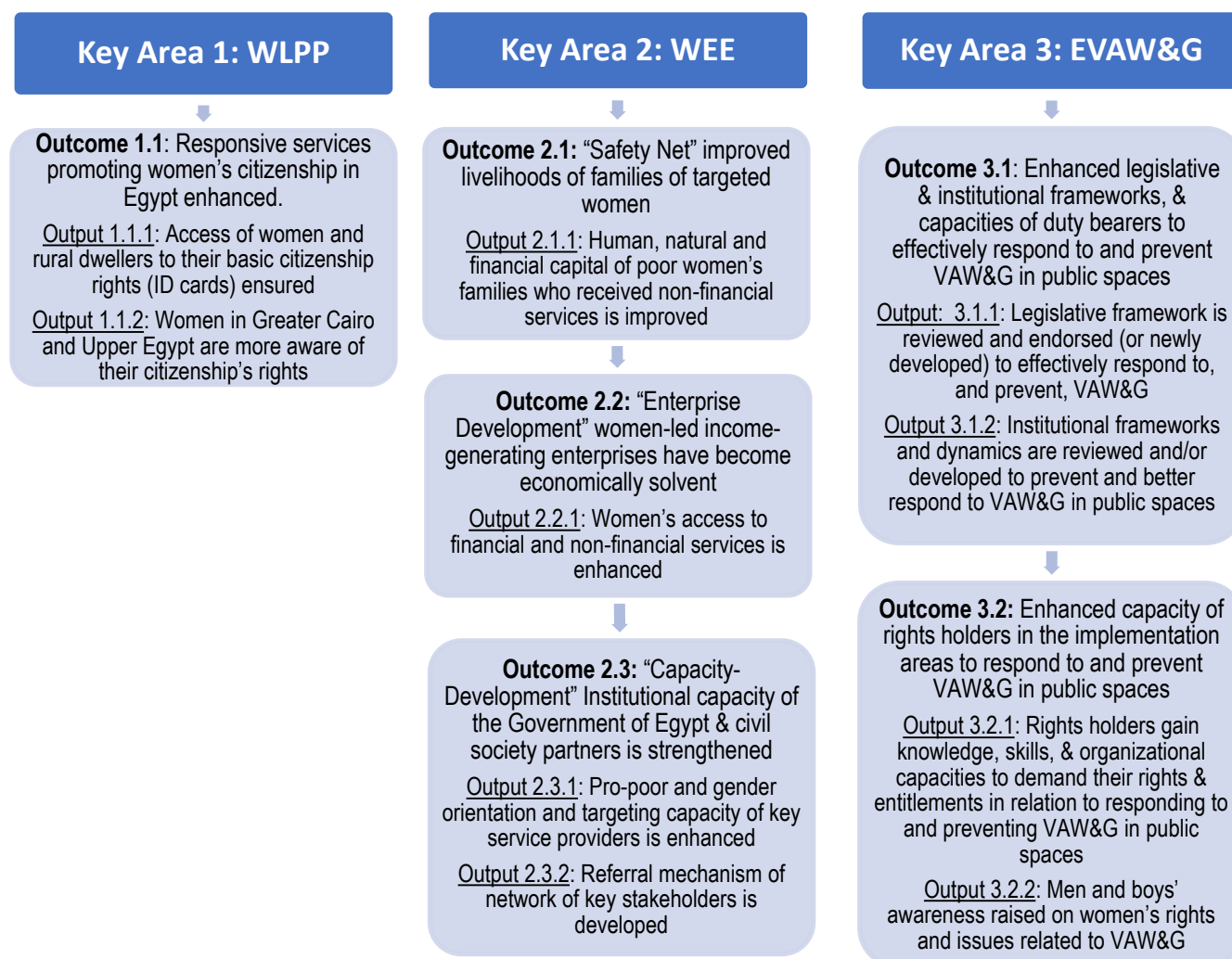


Figure 1: Action outcomes and outputs

The action consisted of a package of interventions in the three pillars featuring mutually reinforcing protection and empowerment measures designed to strengthen the position of Egyptian women in society and ensure their participation alongside men in post revolution development processes.

**1. Political pillar: Increased leadership and participation of women in the public sphere.**

The main focus of this pillar is women’s civic engagement and their ability to access their rights as equal citizens. The nationally led Women’s Citizenship Initiative (WCI), a key intervention of this pillar, aims to increase women's political participation and enhance women’s economic status through facilitating an on-going national registration process for the issuance of national identification cards (IDs) for women, and linking women to basic social and financial services. This initiative is supported by an awareness and outreach (knocking doors) campaign.

The National Council for Women is the lead government body coordinating between the Civil Status Organization/Ministry of Interior, who are responsible for the actual issuance of IDs, and the national and civil society partners, who oversee outreach and mobilization of program participants.

## **2. Economic Pillar: Increased economic security and autonomy of marginalized women in Upper Egypt and in slum areas.**

The economic pillar seeks to expand economic opportunities for women aged 18-45 years to provide a sustainable source of income for them and their households. The direct beneficiaries of the programme are 8000 marginalized women across five governorates (Sharkeya, Beheira, Minya, Assuit and Beni Suef) who receive access to financial (i.e. assets, micro credit and saving schemes) and non-financial services (i.e. business development and advisory services and access to markets). An additional 18,000 indirect beneficiaries, the dependents/family members of participating women, are reached by the programme.

Interventions in this area include:

- 1) *Asset transfer* with Misr El-Kheir Foundation (MEK) implemented in three (3) governorates: Menia, Beni Suef and Assiut with a total of 1650 women
- 2) *Village Saving Loans Association (VSLA)* established and managed with CARE in two governorates: Beni Suef and Assiut reaching a total of 7,492 beneficiaries;
- 3) *A package of financial and non-financial services for women:* Loans and revolving loans provided in cooperation with the Social Fund for Development (SFD) to women from three (3) governorates: Beheira, Sharkeya and Menia with a total 1,056 loans provided.

In addition, a capacity development component was meant to enhance the institutional and operational capacity of relevant government partners and key service providers, as well as develop their understanding of gender issues, especially women's economic rights.

## **3. Social Pillar: Reduced Prevalence of Violence against Women & Girls (VAWG) in public and private spaces**

The main focus of the social pillar was on protecting women and girls from violence within the context of a Safe Cities Model piloted within the Greater Cairo area, and in the urban areas of Giza and Qalyubiya. The Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls intervention aimed to improve the quality of life for Egyptians, through the creation of safe neighbourhoods and communities that are free from violence against women and girls (VAW&G). In addition, Safe Cities sought to: provide the relevant institutions in Egypt with the skills and knowledge to respond to and prevent VAW&G in public spaces, while also reducing the prevalence of VAW&G in implementation sites. The central tenet of the Safe Cities effort is empowering impoverished communities via the leadership of women and youth at the grassroots level. Interventions included enhancing the capacity of duty bearers through a review of legislative and institutional frameworks and dynamics to effectively respond to, and prevent, VAW&G, through building on the work of civil society organizations and National Women Machineries; the development of training materials

and practical guides for prosecutors and first-responders, on the revised legal framework, sexual assault evidence collection and preservation, prosecuting cases of sexual harassment and violence against women and girls, and dealing with victims; the development and integration of the Women Safety Audit into Guidelines for Strategic Development Planning; technical assistance and on-the-job trainings for GOPP gender units and urban planners; and support to NGOs in the provision of services for women and girls affected by drug related violence and abuse, and community outreach among drug users with needle and syringe exchange programmes, condom distribution, HIV and hepatitis C voluntary counselling and testing and referral to treatment.

Key stakeholders for this pillar are: (i) government, including but not limited to the National Council for Women (NCW), the Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, the former Social Fund for Development; (ii) civil society organizations; (iii) the private sector; (iv) academic and research institutions; (v) media; and (vi) UN and Development partners (UN Country Team (UNCT) as well as other development partner representatives through the Development Partners Group (DPG) framework in Egypt).

## 3 Findings

### 3.1 Relevance

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To what extent were the programme design and implementation aligned with national and international normative frameworks and government and donor strategies and development priorities?

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**Finding 1:** The SRILW Action design and implementation was closely aligned to national strategies and frameworks promoting the social, economic and political empowerment of women, as well as the key international normative instruments which provide the foundation for GEWE.

#### *Alignment with National Strategies*

Egypt's Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030 sets out of a vision to achieve sustainable development, working across the economic, social and environmental dimensions. Based on this broader framework the "National strategy for the empowerment of Egyptian women 2030",<sup>9</sup> outlines the specific areas of work in order to ensure the realization of women's economic, social and political rights and equal opportunities.

#### **Egypt SDS Vision 2030**

By 2030, Egypt is a fair interdependent society characterized by equal economic, social, political rights and opportunities realizing social inclusion. A society that supports citizens' right in participation based on efficiency and according to law, encouraging social mobility based on skills. A society that provides protection, and support to marginalized and vulnerable groups.

<sup>9</sup> <http://ncw.gov.eg/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/final-version-national-strategy-for-the-empowerment-of-egyptian-women-2030.pdf>

The National Strategy has four main pillars, namely (i) political empowerment, (ii) economic empowerment, (iii) social empowerment and (iv) protection, to which the three pillars of the SRILW Action are closely aligned. This strategy, developed through a highly consultative process, highlights key initiatives to achieve the pillars, a number of which are supported under the SRILW Action (figure 2).

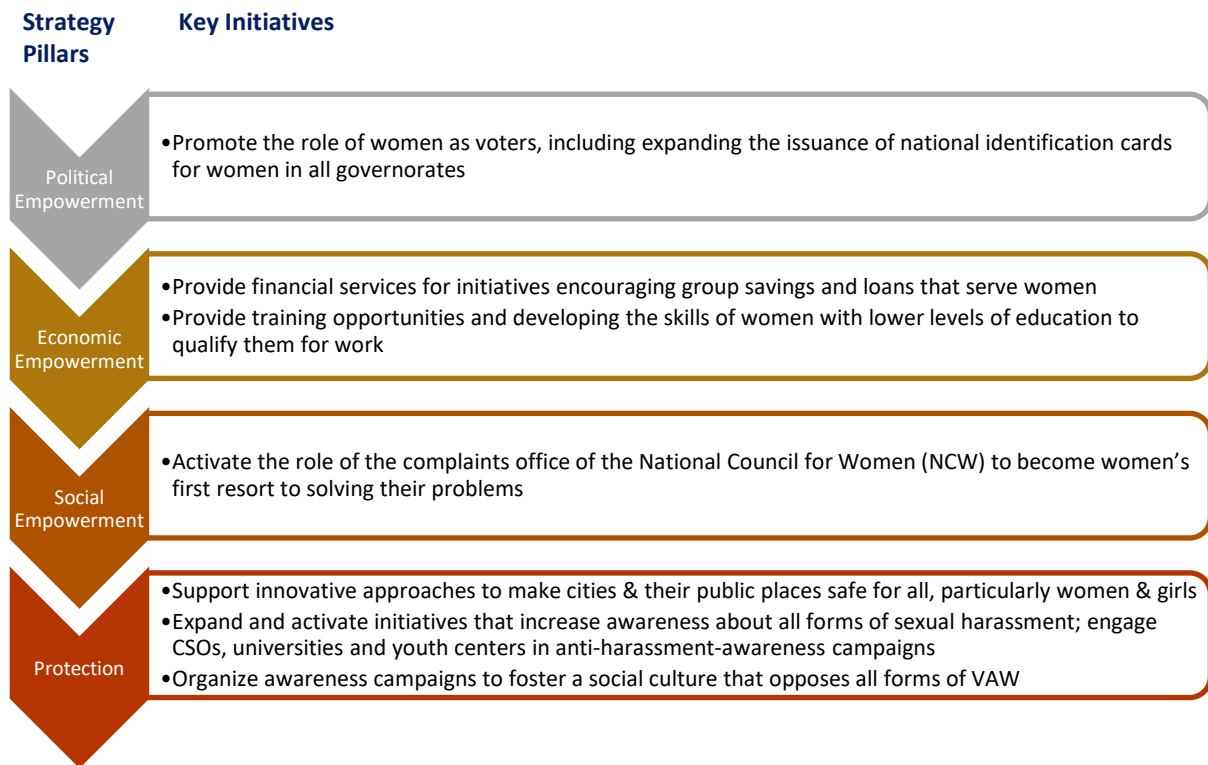


Figure 2 : Pillars and select proposed interventions, National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women, 2030

Interviews with a leading NCW official and the European Union (EU) confirmed the relevance of UN Women's support under the SRILW Action to the national agenda. Both expressed the Action's alignment more broadly with the Egyptian government's commitment to GEWE as enshrined in the Constitution, as well as national strategies intended to operationalise this commitment.

“The overarching articles in the Egyptian constitution include very explicit commitments to the Egyptian government to ensure gender equality and participation of women in political and social life as well as combating violence against women. That is why the programme is very well fitted within the national umbrella that is established under the constitution and also other different national strategies that came after the constitution...it is very much embedded within the national priorities.” EU Official

“SRILW Action is very much fitting with the national umbrella that is established under the Egyptian constitution and the national strategies” NCW Official

### *Alignment with international norms and frameworks*

The multi-dimensional nature of the Action working across women’s political and economic empowerment and ending violence against women supported work on the ground designed to advance progress on commitments to key GEWE related global policies, norms and standards, including broad GEWE agreements and international instruments. Among the key international agreements to which the SRILW Action is aligned are the Beijing Platform of Action, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Agenda 2030, and GE Resolution 48/104. 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. Table 3 below highlights some of the key areas of alignment.

*Table 3: Key Normative Frameworks to which Action aligned*

<b>Normative Framework</b>	<b>Action key areas</b>
Beijing Platform for Action	<b>WEE</b> <b>Strategic objective F.2.</b> Facilitate women’s equal access to resources, employment, markets and trade <b>Strategic objective F.4.</b> Strengthen women’s economic capacity and commercial networks
	<b>EVAW</b> <b>Strategic objective D.1.</b> Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women
	<b>WLPP</b> Article 7: States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right: (a) To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies; Article 14: (2) States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development.
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	<b>WLPP</b> Article 7: States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right: (a) To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies;
	<b>WEE</b> Article 14: (2) States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development.
CEDAW General recommendation No. 35 on GBV against women	<b>EVAW</b> Prevention - 30. (b) Develop and implement effective measures, with the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, such as representatives of women’s organizations and of marginalized groups of women and girls, to address and eradicate the stereotypes, prejudices, customs and practices set out in article 5 of the Convention, which condone or promote gender-based violence against women and underpin the structural inequality of women with men.
Agenda 2030	<b>SDG 5:</b> Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls <b>SDG 16:</b> Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Normative Framework	Action key areas
GE Resolution 48/104. 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women	<p><b>EVAW</b></p> <p>Article 4: (f) Develop, in a comprehensive way, preventive approaches and all those measures of a legal, political, administrative and cultural nature that promote the protection of women against any form of violence, and ensure that the re-victimization of women does not occur because of laws insensitive to gender considerations, enforcement practices or other interventions;</p> <p>(o) Recognize the important role of the women’s movement and NGOs worldwide in raising awareness and alleviating the problem of violence against women;</p>

**Finding 2:** SRILW’s alignment with national and international frameworks also ensured alignment with donor and other partner strategies and development priorities, including gender equality and gender justice frameworks. Through the SRILW action, UN Women has supported and delivered on the three (3) key pivotal areas of EU strategic engagement for gender equality through partnership with both governmental and non-governmental entities.

#### Alignment with missions and visions of partners and key stakeholders

The European Union (as the lead donor of SRILW action) firmly supports gender equality and empowerment of women and gender justice, working towards ensuring that women and girls have opportunities and rights in the social, economic, and political spheres.

The “EU Strategic engagement for gender equality” focuses on acting and transforming lives through three pivotal areas:

- a. Ensuring girls’ and women’s physical and psychological integrity
- b. Promoting the economic and social rights / empowerment of girls and women
- c. Strengthening girls’ and women’s voice and participation

Moreover, for the EU gender justice involves “ending the inequalities between women and men that are produced and reproduced in the family, the community, the market and the state. It also requires that mainstream institutions - from justice to economic policymaking - are accountable for tackling the injustice and discrimination that keep too many women poor and excluded.”<sup>10</sup>

The action aimed at achieving gender equality for Egyptian women with challenging life circumstances, through providing them support in key three areas: (i) civic rights and official recognition from the state, (ii) opportunity to acquire an independent income, and (iii) initiatives to make their interactions with the outer world safe for them. Having these three factors in place would help women to pursue a leading role at individual, household and community levels, and hence claim their rights to be equal to men in their society.

<sup>10</sup> Please refer to the EU Commission definition [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/human-rights-and-governance/gender\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/human-rights-and-governance/gender_en)

Through undertaking the SRILW, UN Women has supported the above-mentioned key areas through partnering with both governmental and non-governmental entities to achieve the final key objectives of the planned action represented in:

1. Increasing the leadership and participation of women in the public sphere;
2. Increasing economic security and autonomy of marginalized women in Upper and Lower Egypt and in slum areas; and
3. Reducing prevalence of violence against women and girls (VAW&G) in public and private spaces.

The key governmental partner for implementation of the SRILW Action was the National Council for Women (NCW). Its vision is to improve the human and socio-economic conditions of Egyptian women, and to increase their participation in the development of their local communities, and hence the development of society as a whole. The NCW’s key mission entails having an effective partnership and role in formulating policies and programmes related to women’s advancement and the sustainability of their development, as well as defining their active roles, which support their participation in bringing about the positive transformation of their society at all levels.

Another key partner of UN Women during the implementation of SRILW was the former Social Fund for Development (SFD) - now MSMEDA, its engagement came only with the implementation of key area 2, and specifically related to the package of financial and non-financial services. The strategic framework of the former SFD had three key focal objectives:

1. Act as a social safety net associated with the Government of Egypt’s agreement to undertake its extensive Economic Reform and Structural Adjustment Program;
2. Focus on sustainable development projects;
3. Promoting self-employment through microcredit projects.

Table 4 indicates key areas of alignment with partners.

*Table 4: Alignment of Action with Key Partners*

Component	Action goals and strategies	Aligned partners
<b>Key area #1</b>	Responsive services promoting women’s citizenship in Egypt enhanced.	EU
	Women in Greater Cairo and Upper Egypt are more aware of their citizenship rights.	NCW NGOs
<b>Key area #2</b>	Human, natural and financial capital of poor women’s families who received non-financial services is improved.	EU
	“Enterprise Development” Women-led income-generating enterprises have become economically solvent.	NGOs/INGO
	“Capacity-Development” Institutional capacity of the Government of Egypt and civil society partners is strengthened.	SFD
<b>Key area #3</b>	Enhancing legislative and institutional frameworks, and capacities of duty bearers to effectively respond to and prevent VAW&G in public spaces.	EU

Component	Action goals and strategies	Aligned partners
	Institutional frameworks and dynamics are reviewed and/or developed to prevent and better respond to VAW&G in public spaces.	NCW
	Enhanced capacity of rights holders in the implementation areas to respond to and prevent VAW&G in public spaces.	NGOs


**To what extent was the programme relevant to the needs and priorities as defined by beneficiaries and target groups (e.g. beneficiaries, civil society etc.)?**

**Finding 3:** The SRILW Action was relevant to the needs and priorities identified by rights holders, particularly marginalized women. Implementing partners conducted field research with women rights holders prior to programme implementation to ensure that the design and implementation of programme strategies was informed by an understanding of women’s needs and priorities as well as the most appropriate strategies and models to address these needs and priorities.

**Responding to women’s needs and priorities**

The Action targeted and reached poor, vulnerable women to address their contextualized needs across the key areas.

The economic empowerment component addressed a very serious need for economic opportunities among marginalized women, especially in the target areas of Upper Egypt and the Delta. The key focus of this component was on the economic empowerment of poor women, through the implementation of a package of financial and non-financial services, as well as productive asset transfer, in order to lift themselves out of poverty and provide for themselves and their families. While all women targeted by the programme were considered vulnerable, the WEE component recognized the need for a segmented approach; not all women targeted by this component were the most marginalized.

 *“We requested a lot of data from the local NGOs in order to set up the selection criteria of the women to benefit from the asset transfer module, they had to be from 21- 49 years old, they had to have at least the minimum education that would enable them to manage a simple business and they had to have an official ID” Assiut Misr Al Kheir social worker- Asset transfer and social solidarity enterprises*

The Action targeted two main groups of women in five governorates:

- The first group was women in poor households who had human capital and potential but lacked assets or were too poor to access finance. The Action provided these women with financial resources and/or skills development to gain access to a dignified livelihood.



- The second group of women were economically active and had the minimum capital but lacked the know-how to build and expand an enterprise.

Similarly, as reflected in the socio-demographic profile of the survey sample (p. 11), while there was variation between governorates, the majority of women overall reached by the WPP component were illiterate or had not formal education and had no income. Due to the poor economic conditions of their communities, as well as illiteracy and marginalization, the most serious need of marginalized women in poor areas of Upper Egypt and the Delta was to gain opportunities to become economically empowered and educated, and to prove that they could make a change in their lives by contributing to their families' income to enhance their living standards and their families' economic status.

When asked about their motivation for obtaining an ID card, it was found that women considered ID cards as the key to access different public services they would otherwise be deprived of, such as:

- ✓ Registering their children in schools;
- ✓ Feeling safer with an ID card while traveling long distances;
- ✓ Ability to issue a health certificate;
- ✓ Ability to obtain a passport to go for pilgrimage or 'omra';
- ✓ Ability to collect the husband's pension;
- ✓ Ability to access subsidized products through family ration cards;
- ✓ Land ownership, purchase and sale of assets, and inheritance from deceased family members; and
- ✓ Political engagement, particularly the opportunity to vote in elections.

Figure 3 provides a breakdown by governorate of respondents' reasons for applying for an ID card. In Beheira, one third of the sample surveyed, obtained the ID to complete their papers, followed by those who needed to update their personal data (marital status/ address etc.), while in Beni Suef the main reason was to be able to get a pension, and participate in the elections mentioned by 50% of respondents. In Sohag, the main reasons mentioned were related to the ID having a high level of importance in their lives (emotionally/ psychologically due to the feeling of being recognized fully as a citizen).

Total (n=90)	Beheira (n=30)	Beni Suef (n=30)	Sohag (n=30)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•To get a pension and to participate in the elections 21%</li> <li>•Complete the formal papers 22 %</li> <li>•For healthcare services 8%</li> <li>•To keep their data updated in governmental records 8%</li> <li>•Personal proof and identity 6%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Complete the formal papers 34%</li> <li>•To keep their data updated in governmental records 20%</li> <li>•For healthcare services 17%</li> <li>•To get a pension and to participate in elections 10%</li> <li>•Expiration of older one 10%</li> <li>•To get subsidized goods 7%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•To get a pension and to participate in elections 50%</li> <li>•Personal proof and identity 10%</li> <li>•To keep their data updated in governmental records 7%</li> <li>•For healthcare services 7%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Personal proof and identity 54%</li> <li>•Important and necessary to obtain governmental services 10%</li> <li>•required by schools of my kids 14%</li> </ul>

Figure 3: Reasons for obtaining ID by governorate

With a direct linkage to key area 2 (economic empowerment), ID cards could also facilitate greater freedom of mobility and access to economic opportunities, including through:

- ✓ Applications for micro-credit loans;
- ✓ Support from civil society organizations for skills improvement, business establishment and employment opportunities;
- ✓ Expansion of business, generation of more income and economic independence.



*“I wanted to apply for a loan and that’s what drove me to apply for an ID” women participant, WPP component, Beheira*

### Selecting appropriate strategies and models

Action partners also drew on their experience in the communities, as well as the conduct of studies to select and / or design appropriate models for the targeted groups and the context. Preliminary research was conducted prior to implementation in order to formulate the approach and implementation plan. For example, for the asset transfer and social solidarity component, a research team from NGO stakeholders undertook a comprehensive research prior to deciding on the action plan.



*“A feasibility study was conducted in the villages in order to arrive at the best solidarity companies/ projects that would provide the needs based on geographical location, we looked into the needs of the place, which projects can be actually established taking our budget in consideration, and which projects also can be successful and make a good revenue. We also studied the different official processes to establish different kinds of projects, as we didn’t want to get into complicated governmental processes.” Assiut Misr El Kheir social worker- Asset transfer and social solidarity enterprises*

The economic empowerment component was designed jointly by UN Women and other partners to address these women's needs, through building their financial capacities and offering them the opportunity to save money, form enterprises, and access loans to start small businesses to gain financial independence and security, and consequently become empowered in their societies. Combining financial literacy trainings with technical trainings, the provision of financial services such as loans, and the establishment of enterprises and saving groups, was intended to have an added value to the women programme participants, to help them build self-confidence and increase their awareness of how to run successful and profitable businesses.

Working closely with CSOs and local branches of NCW enabled the action to have a clearer understanding of rights holders' daily lives, their challenges and needs; this understanding helped in customizing the service packages provided in a way that was relevant and beneficial to women targeted by the intervention. Collaboration with these organizations at community level also strengthened the relevance and effectiveness of the communication channels to spread awareness.

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### To what extent did UN Women's approach complement and add value to the work of other partners working in this area?

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**Finding 4:** Across the three key areas, UN Women was able to leverage its institutional expertise and mandate to add value to the interventions and complement the work of partners. This was particularly evident in key area 3 (EVAW), where UN Women worked on different levels (legislative, institutional, community and individual), through technical assistance, facilitation of dialogue across different partners, and support to attitudinal and behaviour change.

UN Women worked with partners to address capacity gaps. Government and NGO partners, as well as women rights holders highly appreciated and acknowledged the role of UN Women in the Action, particularly the sharing of best practices from other offices around the world. Technical assistance on designing and operationalizing protocols when required was also seen as highly valuable.



*"This action has worked on many levels, starting with the Policy advice, facilitation of policy dialogue among partners, expertise on legal reformation, execution on the ground and also in the area of approaching both genders not limited only to females and hence spreading the awareness was more effective." EU official-*



*"From the beginning when we started on the module of economic empowerment of women, we did a lot of brainstorming sessions to brainstorm whether the best way would be individual or collective in nature (1 woman vs. group of women). And we arrived at the conclusion that the latter scenario would be the best in order to maintain higher probabilities of success and to maintain sustainability as well" Assiut Misr El Kheir social worker- Asset transfer and social solidarity enterprises.*

UN Women was also able to complement partners technical area expertise with trainings for rights holders and duty bearers on GEWE. A GEWE component was integrated into the Care VSLA training for women in those areas where VSLAs were formed. Training sessions were also conducted for members of the public prosecutor's office (MOJ), as well as members of the local branches of NCW across the country.



*"What I like in this programme is that we get a lot of training sessions and enhance our knowledge in how we handle our tasks" Field officer EVAW- Imbaba*

In addition, members of the police force in the areas of implementation were also targeted, if interested. These sessions aimed at preparing duty bearers to handle VAW&G cases and incidences with enhanced knowledge of laws and regulations. Trainings for Complaints Office staff (reports to NCW) aimed to strengthen their understanding on the operationalization of existing legislative frameworks, related to managing cases of survivors to ensure effective and timely legal support as per needs and priorities.



*"Mostly all the NCW local branches include complaints offices, UN Women helped arranging skill enhancement sessions to the staff in order to be capable of handling cases that they encounter. We have given them different protocols depending on the severity of the abuse/ harassment case starting from using discussion until finding temporary shelters for the victimized women in highly severe cases" UN Women*

### 3.2 Effectiveness

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What is the progress towards programme results that UN Women has contributed to so far? Are there opportunities for up-scaling good practices and innovative approaches?

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**Finding 5:** The Action has exceeded the initial targets related to women's increased leadership and participation in the public sphere, as well as women's economic empowerment. Leveraging networks of partners and creating an information system with data on women registered to receive national ID cards allowed for greater outreach and linkages of women to services.

During the initial stages of the WLPP component, the plan was to establish outreach and issue ID Cards to 190,000 women. However, the total number of ID cards issued from the start of the Action until December 2017 reached 402,826 national ID cards, almost 200 per cent. Moreover, an additional 61,841 national ID cards were issued through government funding from the Ministry of Endowments, building on the results achieved and the support of the Action, although not necessarily funded through the Action.

For WLPP, UN Women focused on three key pillars to achieve these targets.

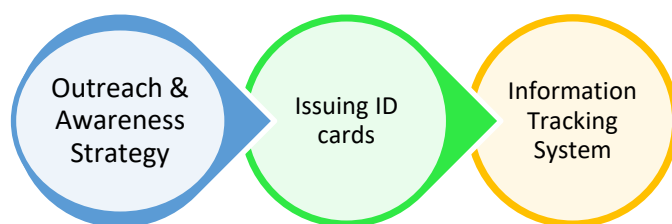


Figure 4: Strategy for ID registration

UN Women has also contributed to the development of a **comprehensive public awareness information strategy**- in partnership with NCW and the state information services, private sector, and media to raise awareness of the public on the importance of ID cards in women's lives. According to the final SRILW Action report, 1,500,000 rural and marginalized Egyptian women increased their awareness of women's rights and responsibilities. With the support of the action, the NCW organized information sessions through its local branches. Highlighting the reach of these campaigns beyond women, some of the women mentioned that they were encouraged to apply for the ID card by their husbands to benefit from the new social protection programmes offered by the government, where it is a requirement to have the woman as the main beneficiary to sign up for such programmes.

#### **Good Practice Example. The Knocking Doors Campaign**

Lack of awareness was cited by women survey respondents as one of the reasons not having an ID differed among governorates. UN Women with partners sought to raise awareness of the importance of having an ID in communities in order to increase demand. The Knocking Doors Campaign, supported UN Women was considered an effective approach to convincing women to obtain an ID. Community leaders and members went door to door to talk to women and their families about this issue. The response to the campaign exceeded expectations especially in 2016 and 2017 during which Action targets for registering women for IDs were exceeded.

Another key milestone contributing to surpassing targets was the development of a national database Dashboard Portal. UN Women, in coordination with Ministry of State for Administrative Development (MoSAD), supported the establishment of a Dashboard Portal that includes information on women who were registered to receive national ID cards, including basic information on their economic and social status. These efforts culminated in successfully institutionalizing the Dashboard Portal within MoSAD, regularly updating it, and integrating it with other national databases, with the objective of strengthening the information management of the action and gathering evidence for further interventions.

Similarly, a total of 10,199 women benefitted from the WEE interventions, which exceeded the targeted number by around 25% (initial target was 8,000 women).

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**Finding 6:** Government and non-government partners added significant value to implementation in the field. The selection of partners was found as a strength and key enabler of success, because of partners' previous and diverse experiences in implementing women's social, political and economic empowerment activities.

Action partners brought a highly recognized and needed added value of expertise and resources, without which all planning and strategies would not have translated into real achievements. The long experience of partners' staff allowed a more efficient and effective implementation of the action.



*"I have been working with women on the ID registration campaign since 2012 even before this action started" WPE in-field supervisor, Beni Suef*



*"I have been working on women empowerment initiatives since 2008 with an Egyptian association, after that we partnered with CARE before we started getting support from the EU Action SRILW UN" EAW&G field officer, Mansheyet Nasser*

With the support of the action, the NCW tapped into its vast network of branches throughout Egypt to organize information sessions through its local branches mobilizing its cadre of rural women leaders to reach out to targeted women. CARE, the partner for the VSLA component, also had significant experience implementing the VSLA approach globally, and working in local communities in Egypt. This presence and expertise helped the partners address some women's initial resistance to the VSLA module and the interest on the loan funding and its religious implications.

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**Finding 7:** Overall, the SRILW Action contributed to improving the lives of participating women. Its components supported women's agency, promoted gender responsive institutional structures, and improved access of women to some of the necessary resources to exercise their agency.

Quantitative and qualitative data indicated that the Action has resulted in positive changes for women on the individual, household and community levels. Across the Action UN Women and partners have worked to increase women's access to such resources as knowledge and skills and financial assets, which has helped increase their confidence, leadership skills and decision-making and status in the household and community. More specifically, reported changes include:

#### Individual level change

*Increased knowledge and skills (capacities)*

- a. All three Action areas raised women’s awareness of their rights and responsibilities and understanding of the importance of their role in their families and communities.
- b. The WEE component has increased the capacities of the targeted women groups to manage their new own businesses properly, guided by skills required for economic security. Moreover, under the WEE component, a cooperation protocol was established between VSLA implementing partners and asset transfer implementing partners (Misr El Kheir and CARE), in order to provide the same BDS trainings to women from VSLA groups who were starting their own projects, which maximized the effectiveness of the two modules.
- c. Women reported that their communication and negotiation skills have also significantly improved.

***“Fadfada” - Speaking your heart out***

An appreciated practice among some VSLA groups was creating some social activities within the women VSLA groups called “Fadfada” which means “speaking your heart out” in Arabic. Local NGOs used this approach to raise awareness of the women participating in economic empowerment modules on EAW messages and support services. These discussions also served as a forum for women to support each other on EAW related matters.

*Access to assets and services*

- a. The WEE component directly and the WLPP component indirectly enabled women to access financial assets and in the case of WLPP social services.
- b. Many of the women participating in the VSLA module started small and micro projects as solidarity enterprises on their own.
- c. 7,492 members of the Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) accumulated savings amounting to a total of EUR 112.963.716 (EGP 2.5 million). In addition to the savings accumulated by the VSLA groups, 2,032 loans (1,386 in Assiut and 646 in Bani Suef) were issued to VSLA members, with a total value of EUR 37,751.4 (EGP 835,490). The average size of a loan is EGP 411 per beneficiary. These loans were used personal needs, emergency situations, or to start income generating

***Village Savings and Loan model***

Both VSLA members and implementing partners highlighted the success of the VSLA module in all the targeted areas. Many women reported that their lives had improved. Participation in the VSLAs had both financial and non-financial benefits for women. Seventy percent of survey respondents said they experienced changes as a result of their participation in the VSLA, 100 percent of them regarded these changes as positive.

Women’s satisfaction with the model was evident in their continuing enrolment, even after the NGOs were no longer supervising the implementation. Women continued participating in order to reap the benefits of the project. Women respondents participated on average in VSLA model 2-4 years, with 90 percent enrolled for three years or more.

activities. Out of the 2,032 loans, 1,378 served to kick-start income-generating activities, such as home-based kiosks from which to sell products. Some women-led income generating enterprises have become economically solvent.

- d. Women who obtained IDs through the Action also reported greater access to services, including pensions and other government processes

#### *Enhanced self-confidence, self-worth, participation, leadership and engagement*

- a. Women also reported that they are more confident in expressing themselves and communicating their ideas. For many women this increased confidence has translated into greater independence as they feel more confident going out on their own in their communities and dealing with others.



*“Our projects got bigger. The specialized experts kept on coming and taught us new things. We even had a theatre performance and they told us stories, to give us lessons and raise awareness. I wasn’t accustomed to going out to even buy groceries alone. I always used to have someone coming along with me. Those people taught me to believe in myself, and they motivated me to walk all alone without being afraid. Today I travel all over Egypt from one area to the other, and when my husband got detained in Luxor, I used to visit him and come back on my own.”*

- b. Some women also felt an enhanced sense of leadership. This has opened the door for them to participate in public life and increased their civic engagement in their communities.



*“The trainings that were granted along with the stories of Faiza and Inaam (live case studies to inspire them) taught us to become independent, and to have the ability to go out and explore the world, which we didn’t dare to do in the past, because we used to feel less confident. I personally was afraid to get out and deal with people. I am currently enrolled in the illiteracy program, which has allowed me to look after my children in terms of their education. Now I do not require anymore the help of a little child to read for me, I can do that by myself. I was not even able previously to go out to buy vegetables”.*



*“We eagerly wait for Monday. Come and take pictures of us and see how happy we are, sometimes we even laugh and make jokes during our weekly gatherings. If anyone of us has a problem, Mrs. Doua’a will be there to find a solution for her. She will be guiding us, telling us what is wrong and what will be the correct action to take. This approach has allowed us to really become close friends. If you look around you within the town, you will find that in each street, you have a group of women who meet for the purpose of the safe box (VSLA), however, we would also be very enthusiastic and looking forward to sit all together.” Rights holder at VSLA module, WEE, Assiut*



- c. The majority of respondents across the three governorates reported that obtaining an ID card had a significant effect on their lives. While women in all three governorates mentioned greater convenience in facilitating the issuance of formal papers, many women also cited more intangible benefits of being officially registered and recognized by the State. Twenty seven percent of women surveyed in Beheira mentioned that the ID gave them a sense of security, whereas in Beni Suef, 20% of respondents said that they felt more important / valuable in their society, and in Sohag, 20% mentioned that it made them feel part of the country. Across the three governorates women expressed that they felt joy at obtaining their IDs (see Table 5).

Table 5: Respondents' Feelings after Obtaining an ID Card

Respondents' Feelings after Obtaining an ID card			
Total Sample	Behera	Bani-Suif	Sohag
Full sense of security (23%) More convenience in governmental papers & processes (12%)	– Full sense of security (27%) – More convenience in governmental papers & processes (12%)	Facilitating the issuance of papers (20%) Personal proof and identity (13%)	Counted in the country (20%) Personal proof and identity (17%)
I felt great joy (8%)	– I felt great joy (17%)	I felt my value in society (10%)	Happy to receive pension (13%)
I feel I matter (8%)	– I felt comfortable (7%) – I felt I could pursue my civic rights normally (7%)	Important in life and society (10%) Full sense of security (7%) Happy to complete the procedures and get the pension (7%) I felt great joy (8%)	I felt comfortable (10%) There is no need to feel trivial anymore (10%)

### Household level changes

- a. The positive economic benefits of women's participation in the project also contributed to increased spending on health, education and other family needs.



*"I wanted my social status to increase and (wanted) to play a role within the household. So, when the organization got in touch with me, and asked if I would like to join the program, I agreed and started to attend trainings. I wanted to be able to get out of the house. I wanted to achieve self-fulfilment and be able to help and support the family and my children, not only financially speaking but also in terms of thinking and reflection. A lot of people assume that women do not have a role to play within the society. There was some frustration and anxiety at the beginning, as we thought that we wouldn't be up to the challenge and able to carry on, but we proved the contrary and succeeded."*  
Assiut beneficiary, pertaining to the Misr El Kheir beneficiaries group

- b. Women's role in their families was enhanced as they began to contribute to the household income, and help their husbands pay living expenses such as health, education, food, clothes and others. This has boosted women's self-confidence and

sense of self-worth, which made them feel stronger, independent and able to make decisions in their households.



*"I did not believe that I would be one day able to financially support my husband. Every time I used to inform him about a new project that was about to be launched, he would shut me up telling me that I know nothing. When I joined the program, Mrs. Doua'a taught us how to do a balance sheet. Mrs. Hanan and Mrs. Christina educated us on how to think and approach a new project, and how to make and take decisions. I then started sharing my experience with my husband, and now he takes my opinion in whatever he is going to undertake. He even acknowledges now that he has learned from me how to do a budget. At the beginning I used to pay 20 EGP, and after I got in charge, I am now paying 50 EGP. Thanks to God I have learned a lot of things. At the beginning I did not have value in my husband's eyes, but now I can say that my life has changed"*

- c. A clear resistance from men to the women-led businesses existed at the beginning. This began to decrease in the target communities where the businesses proved successful and of benefit to the family.
- d. This also consequently improved their husbands' attitudes towards them, as husbands became more understanding, more cooperative and more likely to listen to their wives' opinions and share their problems with them and help their wives in their businesses.
- e. Another significant change has been the improvement in relations of the women with their mothers-in-law.

These changes in the attitude and the behaviour of, not only the women, but also their men, and their entire family and community members, are considered significant. Nonetheless, women stressed the need to engage men, conducting more awareness raising and outreach to them, which explain the economic and social benefits of participation in the economic interventions.

**Community level:**

- a. Community members also started to look upon women participants more positively. As they (the women) became able to solve problems faced by their families, friends and neighbours, they were viewed upon as being trustworthy, and began to play an active role in their communities.
- b. Within the framework of the programme, the culture of the targeted villages started to change, and more people of the villages started to send their children to kindergartens.



Figure 5: Reported Changes at Individual, Household and Community Level

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**To what extent has UN Women created linkages and synergies between the three components for greater effectiveness?**

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**Finding 8:** UN Women created some linkages and synergies between the three components, particularly the WLPP and WEE components which enhanced the effectiveness of each component. These linkages between components and partners were not part of the Action design but evolved over the life of the Action and could have been further strengthened from the outset.

The development of linkages across key areas and different partners did not take place at the outset of the Action. During the early stages, implementing strategies in all three (3) key areas and the adopted approaches of each of the contributing partners were individually and separately designed and implemented. While this allowed for adaptation to context and enabled each partner (especially the local NGOs and governmental partners) to focus on their respective roles, the links between the three partners were weak. An integrated approach could have combined all their activities in a more effective way. Nonetheless, the action achieved some degree of internal coherence, integration and linkages among the different programme components and models as it progressed.

According to implementing partners in the field, strong linkage between the economic and the political components emerged. Accessing financial related activities and benefitting from any of the three modules in the financial component required having a personal identification card as a pre-requisite. As a positive impact of the linkages between the key areas, women acquiring ID cards through the citizenship ID cards project were integrated into other relevant activities and benefitted from available services through the existing records / database at the NCW branches. Rural women leaders and local NGOs identified potential women who would benefit from these services, visited them to raise their awareness, and facilitated their access to subsidized products through family ration cards, learning skills, job opportunities, accessing loans, health services, collecting husbands' or fathers' pensions, etc. As a result of these efforts, some members of Parliament volunteered to reach out to poor women in their villages and directorates to issue ID cards for them.

The integration of sessions on promoting awareness on women's rights and responsibilities in the different components was another aspect in the action design that promoting some linkages. There were examples of women engaged in the "social solidarity" / joint venture companies who became more civically engaged as they became more aware of their important role in the community.



*"At the beginning I didn't understand politics and didn't care about elections, but after I started managing my business and my thinking scope widened, I learned more about politics, and I participated in presidential elections and the parliamentary ones. I started to think of myself as a valuable person whose vote counts" women participant WEE component, Assiut, Beni Suef*

### 3.3 Efficiency

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**To what extent did the management structure and operational mechanisms promote efficient delivery of expected outputs or programme implementation?**

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**Finding 9:** The first two years of the Action witnessed a number of challenges related to efficiency and coordination protocols. UN Women teams responded with customized solutions to address these challenges and create greater efficiency. UN Women worked with partners to reduce the time for processes in the different components to secure a more rapid turnaround for services for beneficiaries.

UN Women used a multi-phased process for coordinating and synchronizing efforts of all partners, jointly working on each component, and ensuring a smooth flow of process without any gaps or flaws that would obstruct the progress.

For example, the evaluators found that for the first key area (WLPP) a significant effort was placed in creating a cooperation protocol between NCW, MOI, Civil registry, NGOs and UN Women. Upon harmonizing the cooperation process, a great deal of flexibility and support was shown by each of the partners, and processes became much easier and faster

than before. Nevertheless, there were still some delays highlighted by field rural leaders; despite the full cooperation of governmental entities, the numbers of officially dispatched employees to take photos for the ID campaigns, as well as some of the other activities did not seem to be sufficient compared to the large demand.

Despite some bureaucracy and lengthy legal processes, processes related to key area 2, namely, the provision of loans, assets, etc. were also viewed as highly satisfactory and timely. Figure 5 below demonstrates that the average time for approval of such transactions was one to two weeks. Challenges with respect to lengthy times were addressed through the hiring of consultants that supported in the programme.



Figure 6: Loan Approval Times

**Finding 10:** In consolidating and coordinating the efforts of partners and stakeholders, UN Women contributed to a more efficient and effective collaboration, which promoted successful implementation of the Action objectives and goals. This was due in part to the adoption of a participatory and broad consultative approach with partners, as well as addressing capacity gaps.

UN Women has ensured smooth collaboration across all partners through leading the brainstorming sessions and facilitating dialogue across different partners. Consultations with key primary and secondary duty bearers were conducted, including microfinance institutions, BDS providers, donor agencies and private sector organizations, to identify synergies between their programmes and services within the women’s economic empowerment (WEE) component, and to discuss how the Action could capitalize on these organizations’, their experience and successes, and how to best address capacity gaps.

 *“UN Women has made a very significant contribution in consolidating the efforts of the different partners, national partners, civil society partners” EU Official*

UN Women successfully coordinated the process of planning and managing two (2) NGOs and one government entity to work together under one umbrella, to achieve the goals and objectives of the action. The connection between the three partners needs to be maintained to prevent the individual implementation of similar activities that would result in inefficient operational outcomes, and to ensure an integrated complementary field approach and promote mutual learning interventions.

Although more coordination and collaboration would have positively affected the outcomes of the action, bringing together these organizations, for one purpose, is a tremendous milestone. This could be a point of improvement for future programming.

The Action's focus on enhancing the skills of the key duty bearers and their capacities, in terms of both skills and systems, to manage the execution of the planned initiatives.

For that purpose, during the course of action, some measures were recommended and suggested to NCW, in order to strengthen the capacity of the coordination mechanism within NCW, to deliver more efficiently on the implementation process of different key areas.

- a. In key area 1: The strengthening of the ID card coordination unit within the NCW enabled an intensified public outreach across the 27 Egyptian governorates. The establishment of the dashboard through which to link women to different needed services also has the potential to produce efficiency gains.
- b. In key area 2, skills training was arranged for all the stakeholders working on the different modules, teaching them the soft skills to explain the financial concepts to women with little or no education, as well as help them get the necessary BDS trainings.
- c. In key area 3, training sessions were arranged for different duty bearers to enable them to use the right set of skills to deal with and help survivors of VAW&G as previously mentioned.

### 3.4 Sustainability

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To what extent was the capacity of rights holders and duty bearers developed in order to ensure sustainability of efforts and benefits?

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**Finding 11:** Through various activities across the SRILW action, UN Women has worked with a diverse group of duty bearers, both government and civil society, to enhance their capacities and their own work to advance GEWE. UN Women has also supported rights holders in knowing and accessing their rights. Both these elements are key to promoting sustainability.

In line with focusing on promoting national capacity and ownership, UN Women has worked closely with partners to support and enhance some of their existing models which are already embedded in their programmes and organizations. The Action supported the

establishment of a sustained national initiative, which continues beyond its duration, as per the National Women’s Strategy lasting until 2030.



*“The action was completely aligned and working in synchronization with the national women’s vision of 2030; which allows us to build on the success achieved to take it forward” said an official source at NCW.*

The training sessions arranged and implemented, from which the key duty bearers, members of legal entities and community leaders, enhanced their skills and capacities, forming a strong team that will use these skills in managing the outputs and passing these skills to the younger members of their teams.

UN Women has also contributed to key partners of NGOs receiving life coaching trainings with innovative techniques, allowing them to significantly enhance their performance by assessing and overcoming work-related challenges and issues.

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### How will the benefits of the intervention be secured for rights holders (i.e. what accountability and oversight systems were established)?

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**Finding 12:** All three key areas of the Action had elements of ownership and sustainability integrated into their design and implementation, albeit to different extents across different key components. Through the Action, UN Women has also contributed to accountability mechanisms and information systems that can continue to be leveraged to sustain benefits for rights holders.

Across the three key areas, UN Women has supported mechanisms, systems and structures that can continue to operate after the end of the action to promote sustainable benefits for targeted women. Working through and with government was helpful in this regard.

Facilitating women’s access to ID cards and establishing a dashboard with updates and follow-up with those registered, will allow women to continue accessing benefits and services beyond the life of the programme. Supporting existing NCW work and campaigns rather than creating parallel processes. Many of the VSLAs have also continued to operate.

In the EAW key area, UN Women also supported the establishment of a coalition of 40 local NGOs, in the three intervention areas, which continues implementing programme activities, as well as a network of young volunteers. Accountability mechanisms such as the complaints system have also been established to ensure women can continue to use them to report harassment and violence. The National Strategy for Combatting Violence Against Women and Girls supported by UN Women also includes action plans with the roles and responsibilities of each partner, a clear indication of the human and financial resources required, and a monitoring and evaluation mechanism. The training of trainers (TOT) curricula and practices guides that were provided to the judges, prosecutors, first responders and police investigators will help ensure and sustain the transfer and

dissemination of the knowledge and skills necessary to provide support services to survivors.

### 3.5 Gender Equality and Human Rights

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To what extent was gender equality and women’s empowerment advanced as a result of the intervention? What were the unintended effects, if any, of the intervention? To what extent was gender and human rights considerations integrated into the programme design and implementation?

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**Finding 13:** UN Women worked closely with its main government counterpart, the National Council for Women, to support its efforts in developing the National Strategy for Combatting Violence against Women and Girls, and protocols to ensure the Government of Egypt’s commitment to “respect women’s rights and encourage their effective and active participation in the development of their community.”<sup>11</sup>

The National Strategy for Combatting Violence Against Women and Girls, developed under the leadership of the NCW with the support of the Action, recognized that “Violence against women and girls constitutes a flagrant violation of human rights and is a manifestation of the imbalanced relationship between men and women.” In developing the Strategy, NCW mapped all of the international conventions and Egyptian legislation that provide for women’s protection from all forms of violence.

During the course of action, a protocol of cooperation was developed between UN Women, NCW and the Ministry of Justice, through which a close review of the VAW related legislations took place, resulting in highlighting gaps in the penal code and recommended legislative amendments. This technical assistance, provided by UN Women to the MOJ and the NCW, contributed to the amendment of the Egyptian Penal Code (article 306 (a) and 306 (b)) to introduce the crime of ‘harassment’ thus, facilitating more effective prosecution of sexual harassment incidents.

A number of protocols were developed in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme “Women Safety Audit Tools”, which focused on the development of VAW specialized units to receive VAW cases and were presented to the General Organization for Physical Planning (GOPP) for integration into the strategic planning guidelines.

With the action’s start in 2013, UN Women supported governmental local partners to adopt recommendations to enhance the role of state institutions to respond to and prevent VAWG and provide preventive mechanisms and efficient judicial procedures for

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<sup>11</sup> National Strategy for Combatting Violence Against Women and Girls - <http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/-/media/files/un%20women/vaw/full%20text/africa/egypt%20national%20strategy%20for%20combating%20vaw%202015.pdf?vs=2221>



survivors of violence. In 2014, the action began working with the two strategic partners to implement the recommendations.

**Finding 14:** The Action has contributed to important progress in addressing gender equality and women’s empowerment by addressing some of the structural issues faced by women in the areas of WLPP and EVAW, and as a consequence, has resulted in positive GEWE results at individual and household level. Nonetheless, efforts can be strengthened when working with communities to emphasize a rights perspective, in addition to the benefits of women’s political and economic participation and protection for society as a whole.

Through the WPP component, the Action addressed one of the fundamental structural issues that women faced in Egypt – their right to be recognized as a citizen by the State, a foundation for advocating for GEWE and accessing all other rights, including access to justice, economic opportunities, etc. As previously highlighted, women who obtained government ID cards through the Action, were able to access government services and said that one of the reasons they had applied for an ID card was to participate in elections. Many also reported feeling they now mattered.

As discussed in the effectiveness section, at the household level, as women’s financial contributions to household income has allowed them to start taking joint decisions with their husbands, especially on topics related to finance and economical decisions. This, coupled with their increased capacities and self-confidence, has begun to lead to an improvement in participating women’s independence and status in the home and communities. The extent to which these results are transformational and can be sustained if women no longer have access to income and / or services would need to be further assessed. Strengthening the focus on women’s rights across the key areas and striking a balance between GEWE for the good of the household and community and GEWE as a right could help in this regard.

UN Women’s support to ensuring that legislative frameworks and accountability systems exist to protect women’s rights is also an important strategy for promoting GEWE. Due to the contribution of UN Women, the legislative framework was reviewed and endorsed to effectively respond to, and prevent, VAW&G. UN Women also supported the review and development of institutional frameworks to prevent and better respond to VAW&G in public spaces. The Complaints office also continued to provide legal awareness sessions for the communities and continued improving the case management system. The sessions provided information about the complaint handling schemes, and relevant publications were disseminated, encouraging women to report incidents of violence.

## 4 Lessons Learned and Promising Practices

A number of key lessons learned, and good practices have emerged from the implementation of the Action.

In key area 1 (WLPP) the **Knocking Doors Campaign**, has achieved significant success in spreading awareness of the importance of having an official personal identification, in order to access more services, opportunities and benefits. It was due to that campaign that the numbers of registered IDs accelerated in 2016 and 2017 compared to the first three years of the action. The campaign not only raised awareness on the importance of obtaining a personal identification document, but also has created a strong personal rapport between community leaders and rights holders by having community leaders visit women at home. This has promoted closer relationships and resulted in greater trust at the community level.

In general, for all key areas, the **production and use of visual materials** was reported as very successful and engaging. These materials were particularly effective for key area 2 (WEE), as they helped explain and simplify many of the concepts and processes to modestly educated / uneducated women.



Figure 7: Safe City awareness campaign posters, Ezbet Al Haganna

The establishment of **linkages across different components**, to maximize benefit and support to rights holders, when it occurred was also seen as a good practice. As an example, beneficiaries who obtained ID cards through key area 1 were linked to economic empowerment activities in key area 2. Obtaining an ID card was a pre-requisite to benefit from economic empowerment activities, thus beneficiaries were supported through two components. Another example of linkage was the integration of social empowerment training for the VSLA groups (key area 2) which had messaging on how women view themselves and violence against women (key area 3). A key lesson learnt was that a programme design that would have included those linkages from the outset to foster a more integrated approach could further enhance GEWE results.

The importance of periodic **information sharing meetings** of all partners was another lesson that was learnt early on. Once these meeting were more systematically integrated into the Action, this was seen as a successful practice as well. This practice was incorporated and taken forward after the early stages of the Action had witnessed some lack of communication, work duplication and confusion between different partners, and hence these meetings were introduced to ensure information sharing and regular discussion among partners, and to reinforce the execution of the Action.

Another good practice that was a seed for future sustainability and continuity of the action impact was an initiative that targeted teenagers from 11-18 to be engaged in smaller VSLA groups of their own. The idea behind this endeavour was to create a future adult generation who would be aware of the opportunities and start managing their financial life early enough.

## 5 Conclusions

**Conclusion 1:** The SRILW Action was highly relevant in its focus on addressing the needs and priorities of marginalized women in line with international and national GEWE frameworks. It was closely aligned to international normative frameworks to advance GEWE, as well as national strategies developed to deliver on the Government of Egypt's ratification of international frameworks in the three intervention areas. Working with partners with similar missions and visions and who were embedded in the communities ensured that the action was targeting and addressing the needs and priorities of vulnerable women. Although the socio-demographic profile of targeted women varied somewhat across the three key components based on the criteria for each intervention, the Action targeted vulnerable groups across the work.

**Conclusion 2:** Findings from the evaluation have demonstrated that the action has had positive effects on the lives of participating women at the individual, household and community level. This has been the result of working directly to increase women's knowledge, skills and access to financial assets and social services which has helped them contribute to the family and community and increase their self-confidence and status in the community, working with communities to raise their awareness on the benefits of women's participation and to some extent rights, and collaborating with institutions to build their capacities on GEWE, not only in terms of skills but also with respect to developing legislation, protocols and mechanisms to advance GEWE and enhance women's protection.

**Conclusion 3:** In working on three different aspects of women's empowerment – political, economic and social - the SRILW Action was a complex intervention. While the three components of the programme were not designed as an integrated programme at the outset, with different components targeting different geographic areas and women, UN Women managed to create some linkages. Where it was able to do so, it maximized the benefit to targeted women and produced some efficiencies. Some of the linkages could have been integrated in the design phase, but others only emerged during implementation. Moving forward, UN Women and partners can leverage the learnings from the Action to ensure that linkages are built into multi-themed actions in the design phase.

**Conclusion 4:** Important elements of sustainability and ownership have been integrated into the programme components. UN Women's strategy of supporting, strengthening and complementing the work of government and civil society partners, including the NCW with the WLPP and EVAW components, SFD and Care with the WEE component, has ensured that some of the interventions are embedded in programming of national and civil society partners which may increase the likelihood that these activities will be continued. Support to the development of accountability mechanisms (WLPP, EVAW), information systems, networks (WLPP), and legislation (EVAW) are critical components to ensure that rights holders can continue to experience benefits post-action.

## 6 Recommendations

Based on the analysis of findings, good practices and lessons learnt, as well as discussion with key stakeholders, the following are the key recommendations proposed:

**Recommendation 1:** The “Knocking Door Campaigns” were considered highly effective and efficient in spreading awareness. UN Women and partners should continue to leverage this successful approach for future initiatives that have a direct outreach and awareness raising component with grassroots beneficiaries. It can also be used in spreading awareness for other key areas.

**Recommendation 2:** For future initiatives, UN Women and partners should consider conducting a mapping of services which beneficiaries need when devising engagement protocols. This can further strengthen outreach efforts. For example, among the key reasons of registering for an ID was getting health services. Hence governmental and medical centres would be an excellent place to extend awareness campaigns to, since it is a fundamental service needed. The same applies to pension related sites, elementary schools, etc.

**Recommendation 3:** It is recommended that for future programming, UN Women and partners increase and support linkages between the MSMEDA<sup>12</sup> (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority) and the social solidarity enterprises/joint ventures which were established through the asset transfer module, especially for holding permanent exhibitions and fairs as a sustainability mechanism for their activities.

**Recommendation 4:** UN Women should continue to expand and strengthen its awareness raising and advocacy efforts around women’s rights when working in the communities. This can be linked to an expansion of its work on engaging men and boys and other key community members in order to support women’s participation in such programming, as well as more broadly to promote gender equality and women’s rights.

- a. These groups should be included in social marketing and awareness activities and should encourage more men and boys to become supporters and help in programme outreach. These efforts should be a part of the social marketing of the project through a comprehensive package of awareness activities at the beginning of the project, in addition to refreshers when needed. At the beginning, UN Women should target men, including husbands and other community groups, to introduce them to the project objectives and activities, to counter their resistance and rejection to their wives’ and sisters’ participation in different project activities, particularly the VSLAs and Social Solidarity companies.
- b. This strategy should not only focus on the benefits of participation, but on gender equality and women’s rights.

**Recommendation 5:** In future programming focusing on several thematic areas, UN Women should strengthen integration among key programme partners through the development of a **unified action plan** that integrates the work of all the implementing

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<sup>12</sup> Former Social Fund for Development (SFD)

partners and promotes joint learning. This action plan should clearly state the role of each partner and the outputs and outcomes expected from them. Women beneficiaries of each model should also be involved in the strategy planning in order to ensure the feasibility and practicality of the plan from the perspective of the end-user. This could also include

- a. The joint development of a collective integrated project implementation strategy where the project interventions and activities complement each other to contribute to achieving the set objectives.
- b. The holding of quarterly or bi-annual joint meetings to discuss issues and exchange best practices and experiences among the partners to promote mutual learning and enhance integration, as well as organize exchange visits for the staff working on the programme, to share their experiences, have a common vision and learn from one another. This was recently started but should be continued, tracked and monitored.

## 7 Annexes

### Annex 1 Terms of Reference

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

The UN Women Egypt Country Office (ECO) is seeking to recruit a company to conduct the final evaluation for its EU funded programme “Securing Rights and Improving Livelihoods of Women”. The evaluation will assess UN Women ECO’s contribution to gender equality and the empowerment of women particularly in the political, economic and social spheres in Egypt from 2013.

##### **I. Background (programme/project context)**

Created in July 2010 by the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) was assigned a mandate that is grounded on the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), relevant General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, Commission on the Status of Women and other applicable United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions. The mandate of UN Women consists in three areas of work:

- 1) Normative work: to support inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women and the General Assembly, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms;
- 2) Operational work: to help Member States implement international standards and to forge effective partnerships with civil society; and
- 3) UN Coordination: to hold the UN system accountable for its own commitments on gender equality, including regular monitoring of system-wide progress, and the broader role of the entity in mobilizing and convening key stakeholders and partnerships.

The ECO, based in Cairo, works with various stakeholders to bring about transformational change for women and girls in Egypt in line with the UN Women Strategic Plan (SP) (2014-2017), the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) (2013-2017) pillars and outcomes, also linking to the results pursued by the relevant corporate Flagship Programmes.

The ECO Strategic Note (SN) (2014-2017) focuses on four of the six impact areas outlined in UN Women SP (2014-2017) and is aligned to its outcomes and indicators. The aligned SP impact areas are:

- 1) Women lead and participate in decision making at all level;
- 2) Women, especially the poorest and most excluded, are economically empowered and benefit from development;
- 3) Women and girls live a life free from violence; and
- 4) A comprehensive and dynamic set of global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment is in place and is applied through action by Governments and other stakeholders at all levels.

Following the 2011 citizen uprising, UN Women developed a multi-year programme entitled “Women’s Political Empowerment” with the aim to increase the political participation of women as voters and candidates, strengthen the representation of women’s interest in the political agenda, and strengthen women’s voice. The programme has been successfully implemented on the ground, extending all possible support to Egyptian women during an overall duration of 3 years, extending until the end of 2015, in line with a renewed national agenda.

Millions of Egyptian women are unable to apply for a job; access government services, including public health services; banking services, process a property title or deed; or join literacy programmes, or obtain travel documents. For millions of poor women living in Egypt, exercising their rights as full citizens is impossible without ID cards and birth certificates. The national ID card is required for women to fully exercise citizenship rights, including the right to vote.

Full and productive employment and decent work for all remains a challenge in Egypt, particularly for women and young people. Unemployment and underemployment constitute, according to the 2010 Egypt Human Development Report (EHDR), the most serious kind of exclusion for the young and especially women. There is severe disparity in labor force participation between genders, with 13.4 percent labor participation among females aged 15–29 years as opposed to 61.4 percent among males. The percentage of women out of the labor market is threefold that of men, a gap which is due to the difficulties women face in transitioning from school to the labor market. These gaps are more pronounced within the context of large scale youth unemployment, but are also due to the fact that women are encouraged by society to specialize in so called “suitable” fields that do not match market demand. Accordingly, women are concentrated in only a few sectors of the economy (agriculture, public administration, education), while men are more evenly distributed across sectors and occupations.

Women’s participation in the labor market in Egypt is among the lowest in the world. The share of women in wage employment in the non-agriculture sector is very low and declining since the early 1990s, because of an opportunity structure that is not conducive to women’s employment in the formal private sector, and due to the retrenchment of public sector employment. There is limited participation of women in self-employment and micro and small enterprise ownership at 18% of the total number of micro and small enterprises, and significantly less in medium and larger enterprises.

While medium and long-term outlooks for Egypt's economy are largely optimistic, current security concerns and intermittent unrest are resulting in the deceleration of economic growth and employment. The poor, a segment representing a big majority of Egyptians, and especially among 18-45 years lack the resiliency to cope.

The informal sector currently represents the main source of employment for new labor market entrants. Women’s engagement in the informal sector differs from men. Whereas most men in the informal sector are either wage workers or employers, women are primarily non-wage workers contributing in various ways to household production and family businesses. The informal sector is by nature an insecure sector, as it does not offer a work contract or social or medical insurance. In addition, while women make important contributions to the rural economy, their productivity is limited due to lack of access to land, credit, networks, marketing and information, as well as their heavy workload due to household responsibilities. Of the 1.1 million women working in the informal sector, 93% reside in rural areas.

Across the world, in all countries – regardless of social development and economic status –women and girls experience violence in public spaces, on streets, public transportation and even in their own neighborhoods. Sexual harassment and assault are realities limiting the rights and freedoms of women and often acting as a barrier to their education, and full participation in public life. VAW & G is a global pandemic women worldwide experience physical and/or sexual violence at some point in their life. While domestic abuse is increasingly recognized as a human rights violation, sexual harassment in public spaces remains a neglected issue and is accepted as a normal part of urban life.

The costs of VAW & G are massive. The phenomenon has serious social and economic development repercussions at all levels. At the personal level, women are deprived from personal security and the ability to seek opportunities of education, recreation and work in the public sphere. At the household level, the family is often deprived from much needed sole or additional income from women’s work. The cost to the community and the nation in terms of public services, physical and mental health, are also significant, eating into public budgets and depriving the country from the contribution to development of half the population.

In 2008, a study was conducted by the Social Planning Analysis and Administration Consultants (SPAAC) and the National Council for Women (NCW) in seven governorates. A total of 2,320 females and 2,088 males were surveyed, and of these, 72.4% of married women and 94% of unmarried female youth reported being exposed to verbal forms of sexual harassment, while 22.2% of married women and 21.7% of unmarried female youth reported having being physically harassed. In urban governorates (Cairo and Alexandria), an even higher prevalence of harassment was seen, with 86.2% and 34% of married women, and 99% and 37.4% of unmarried female youth, respectively reporting incidences of verbal and sexual harassment. In addition to this, large numbers of married respondents in urban governorates reported experiencing verbal (59.5%) and physical (26.9%) harassment while using modes of public transport in the year preceding the survey. Sadly, these cases are all too common, and have reportedly increased since the revolution, due to the breakdown in security, a rise in crime, and deteriorating economic conditions.

## **II. Description of the programme/project**

The EU funded program, “Securing Rights and Improving Livelihoods of Women”, implemented by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), is a 5-year project which started on 22 December 2012, ending in 21 December 2017. The project seeks to empower women in Egyptian society, including through women’s increased leadership and participation in the public sphere, their economic empowerment in Upper and Lower Egypt, and the protection of women and girls from violence in public and private spaces.

The programme consists of a package of interventions featuring mutually reinforcing protection and empowerment measures designed to strengthen the position of Egyptian women in society, and ensure their participation alongside men in post revolution development processes.

The overall goal of the programme is to maximize the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women in Egypt. The programme is in line with UN Women’s 2014 -2017 Strategic Note and seeks to contribute to the following expected outcomes under three key areas:

**Key Area 1: Increased Leadership and Participation of Women in the Public Sphere**

**Outcome 1.1 Responsive services promoting women’s citizenship in Egypt enhanced;**



Key Area 2: Increased Economic Security and Autonomy of Marginalized Women, in Upper and Rural Egypt, and in Slum Areas

Outcome 2.1 “Safety Net”: Improved livelihoods of families of targeted women;

Outcome 2.2 “Enterprise Development”: Women-led income-generating enterprises have become economically solvent;

Outcome 2.3 “Capacity-development”: Institutional capacity of the Government of Egypt and civil society partners strengthened;

Key Area 3: Reduced Prevalence of Violence against Women & Girls in the Public and Private Spaces

Outcome 3.1 Enhanced capacity of duty bearers, in the intervention areas, to respond to and prevent violence against women and girls in public spaces; and

Outcome 3.2 Enhanced capacity of rights holders, in the implementation areas, to respond to and prevent violence against women and girls in public spaces.

The programme (SRILW) consists of complementary interventions between WPE, WEE and VAW, that are context-specific, prevention-oriented, as well as gender-responsive. The programme capitalizes on efforts and investments in GE and women’s rights, and responds to opportunities and challenges with strategies and initiatives that will support the engagement of women in reform and democratization processes, as well as ensuring that they are empowered to benefit equally from the political, social and economic dividends of the reforms.

The purpose of the TOR is to hire a consultancy company to conduct the final evaluation of the SRILW programme. The end-line evaluation will be in line with the guiding documents for evaluation at UN Women, including the Evaluation Policy, Evaluation Chapter of the POM, the GERAAS evaluation report quality checklist, the United Nations System-wide Action Plan Evaluation Performance Indicator (UN-SWAP EPI), and the Evaluation Handbook. These documents serve as the frame of reference for the Evaluation Manager and the evaluation consultant(s) for ensuring compliance with the various requirements and assuring the quality of the evaluation report.

The overall goal of the programme is to “Maximize the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Women in Egypt”. By advancing women's rights and gender equality through targeted interventions, in 3 key areas:

- (1) Political: Increased Leadership and Participation of Women in the Public Sphere
- (2) Economic: Increased Economic Security and Autonomy of Marginalized Women  
in Upper/Rural areas
- (3) Social: Reduced Prevalence of Violence Against Women and Girls in Public Spaces

### **The Political Component:**

The Women's Citizenship Initiative aims to increase women's political participation and enhance women's economic status through facilitating an on-going national registration process for the issuance of national identification cards (IDs) for women, and linking women to basic social and financial services.

The National Council for Women is the lead government body coordinating between the Civil Status Organization/Ministry of Interior, who are responsible for the actual issuance of IDs, and the national and civil society partners, who oversee outreach and mobilization of program participants.

Under this programme, a simplified implementation methodology is being adopted by NCW to ensure that the national ID cards are issued in a short period. The process adopted under this program is as follows:

1. NCW targets women based on information made available by the Civil Registry (CR) of the MOI about women who do not have ID cards <sup>13</sup>
2. NCW liaises with the data collectors <sup>14</sup> to connect with women in the areas identified by MOI
3. Data collectors fill out ID card issuance request application forms for women and attach supporting documents<sup>15</sup> and submit to the NCW branch Rapporteur
4. NCW branch Rapporteur submits all applications and supporting documents to the CR and requests a verification and photoshoot mission within a week
5. CR mission verifies application and conducts photoshoot
6. ID cards are processed by the CR and submitted to NCW branch
7. NCW branch delivers to women at house

### **Economic Empowerment Component:**

International best practice in financial support to start-ups indicates that the highest survival rates among start-up enterprises are achieved when the loans are complemented with conditional productive asset transfers. This reduces the financial burden on the entrepreneur and lowers the risk of default and bankruptcy. Moreover, empirical studies demonstrate that poor people save and that mobilization of savings is significantly inhibited by impediments in policies and instruments, rather than by poor people's savings preferences. Important principles for small-scale savings schemes include convenience and security, a broad array of savings products with different levels of liquidity and returns, a low minimum opening balance, and competitive return on savings. The VSLA program implemented by CARE is particularly suited to poor and very poor, as it enables them to manage their household cash flow more efficiently and to invest in income-generating activities. The intervention is based on strengthening the traditional informal practice of Rotating Savings "el gam3eya" that already exists in most, if not all Egyptian communities, yet it is more organized and includes more than the obvious financial aspect. In cases where women have the potential to engage in income generating activities, but may not yet be ready to access formal financial services, the programme includes them as a first step in a VSLA group from which they can, if they wish, graduate to form enterprises that they own and manage collectively. In addition, there is a productive assets component where assets are transferred to women groups in conjunction with training and skills development; and is based on a cost-sharing arrangement.

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Civil Registry/MOI provides information about the estimated number who do not have ID cards by <sup>13</sup> governorate and villages

Data collectors include: rural women leaders, youth, NCW branches, and other data collectors <sup>14</sup>

Birth certificates and/or electricity bill as available <sup>15</sup>

The cost-sharing arrangement ensures the groups' commitment to the enterprise and minimizes the risk of selling their asset.

Another component is the Asset transfer, implemented by Misr el Kheir. This component targets 2,000 women in Beni Suef, Menia and Assiut throughout the lifetime of the action. The program capitalizes on the huge database and outreach of Misr el Kheir to ensure the right caliber of women is selected.

A total of around 8,000 marginalized women is targeted under this component. Intervention areas are Beni Suef, Menia, Assiut, Sharkeya and Beheira. Key stakeholders under this component are: CARE, SFD and Misr el Kheir.

### **The Social Component:**

The overall purpose of the joint 'Safe Cities Greater Cairo Region: Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls (VAW & G)' project component, is to improve the quality of life for women through the creation of safe neighborhoods and communities that are free from violence against women and girls (VAW & G). The main objectives of the Safe Cities project components are to: provide the relevant institutions in Egypt with the skills and knowledge to respond to, and prevent, VAW & G in public spaces, while also reducing the prevalence of VAW & G in implementation sites.

Impact of Interventions:

- A greater sense of safety, reduced fear, and increased comfort of women and girls in public spaces;
- Increased use of public spaces and increased autonomous mobility of women and girls in the city;
- A reduction in different forms of Sexual Violence in public spaces, especially in the sites of intervention.

The first result of this project component is related to an enhanced capacity of duty bearers, in the intervention areas, to respond to and prevent VAW & G in public spaces. This includes a review of legislative framework to effectively respond to, and prevent, VAW & G, through building on the work of civil society organizations and National Women Machineries. Partnerships with relevant government ministries and bodies, and consultations with Legislative experts, are in place to support the project component in developing a comprehensive legal structure that responds to the needs of women and girls in having safer public spaces free of sexual harassment.

Institutional frameworks and dynamics have been reviewed and/or developed to prevent, and better respond to VAW & G in public spaces. Training materials and practical guides have been produced for prosecutors and First- Responders, on the revised legal framework, sexual assault evidence collection and preservation, prosecuting cases of sexual harassment and violence against women and girls, and dealing with victims. Furthermore, the development and integration of the Women Safety Audit into Guidelines for Strategic Development Planning took place based on lessons learned from other cities, as well as the selected sites. The Women Safety Audit was conducted at the beginning of the project to inform its design and form a baseline of the intervention areas. The audit has highlighted main areas where women lack feeling safe, and potential means of affecting these public spaces, to increase women accessibility to equal opportunities and public services. In the meantime, the capacity of the GOPP Gender Units has

been assessed and enhanced to provide technical assistance on gender issues to Detailed Planning (including Women Safety Audit) and strategic urban planning social profiling exercise. Officially designated GOPP Gender Focal Point have an active role in drafting detailed plans for intervention areas.

Knowledge, skills, and partnerships for preventing and responding to VAW & G in public spaces, has been strengthened amongst duty bearers in the implementation areas. This has been achieved through on-the-job trainings to GOPP urban planners in conducting women safety audits, so that they are equipped with the knowledge and tools to be able to conduct participatory planning in the intervention areas. Support was provided to the relevant government bodies with the aim of advancing safety of public spaces for women and girls. The project component also identified NGOs operating in the intervention sites on violence against women, and supported them in the provision of services for women and girls affected by drug related violence and abuse, and to undertake community outreach among drug users with needle and syringe exchange programmes, condom distribution, HIV and hepatitis C voluntary counselling and testing and referral to treatment.

#### **Key Stakeholders identified:**

- a. Government, including but not limited to the National Council for Women (NCW), the Ministry for Social Solidarity, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, the former Social Fund for Development;
- b. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs);
- c. Private Sector;
- d. Academic and Research institutions;
- e. Media; and
- f. UN and Development partners (UN agencies within the UN Country Team (UNCT) as well as other development partner representatives through the Development Partners Group (DPG) framework in Egypt.

### **III. Purpose (and use of the evaluation)**

The evaluation will be a summative evaluation of the ‘Securing Rights and Improving Livelihoods of Women’ programme conducted by an external team. It is mandatory as reflected in the programme document and agreed with the European Union. The evaluation is being undertaken towards the completion of programme implementation. The main purpose of the evaluation is to assess the programmes contribution to the Economic, Political and Social Outcomes of UN Women as well as progress of the programme against stated outcomes, as well as identify valuable lessons and recommendations to further expand on, sustain, and scale-up the work of the programme. The exercise will support accountability, learning and knowledge generation, as well as decision-making. The results of the evaluation will inform UN Women’s future programming in WPP, WEE and EVAW.

The main users of the evaluation are UN Women senior management, the European Union, programme coordinators, UNDP, USAID and national partners.

The specific purposes of the evaluation are to:

- a) Assess intermediate progress and deliverables, indicating progress against indicators;
- b) Draw, identify and communicate key lessons learned and develop recommendations for UN WOMEN, stakeholders and partners, based on the project’s design and progress of its

implementation, with a forward-looking approach based on improving project performance, sustainability of results, and prospects for impact and upscale. This may help improve the selection, enhancing the design and implementation of similar future projects and activities in the country and on a global scale; and

c) Determine major challenges and suggest appropriate solutions to overcome them.

It will assess project performance against the evaluation criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact.

The evaluation should provide an analysis of the attainment of the programme objective(s) and the corresponding outcomes and technical components. It should consider geographical locations addressed by the project. Through its assessments, the evaluation should enable the Government, the national counterparts, the development partners, UN WOMEN and other stakeholders and partners to verify prospects for development impact and promoting sustainability, providing an analysis of the attainment of objectives, delivery and completion of project outputs/activities, and outcomes/impacts based on indicators, and management of risks.

The key questions of the evaluation are whether the project has achieved or is likely to achieve its main objective; and to what extent the project has also considered sustainability and scaling-up factors to increase contribution to sustainable results and further impact.

#### **IV. Objectives**

The main objectives of the evaluation are as follows:

- Assess the **relevance** of UN Women contribution to the Economic, Social and Political areas of work at national level and alignment with international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Assess **effectiveness and organizational efficiency** in progressing towards the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment results as defined in the intervention.
- Assess the sustainability of the intervention in achieving sustained gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Analyse how **human rights approach** and gender equality principles are integrated in the intervention design and implementation.
- Identify and validate **lessons learned, good practices** and examples, and innovations of efforts that support gender equality and human rights in the three areas of work.
- Provide **actionable recommendations** with respect to future UN Women interventions in WPE, WEE and EVAW.

#### **V. Key evaluation questions:**

The following section provides a listing of the key evaluation questions to be covered throughout the assignment. The evaluation team will be expected to prepare and share a more targeted and specific set of questions and appropriate data collection tools (ex: surveys, questionnaires, observation tools, etc.) in the inception phase.

## **Relevance and Ownership**

The evaluation will examine the extent to which:

- The programme design and deliverables are aligned with national and international, government and donor strategies and development priorities;
- The programme reflects a participatory and broad consultation approach including main stakeholder groups (e.g. counterparts and target beneficiaries);
- The programme is relevant to the needs and priorities as defined by beneficiaries and target groups: relevance of the project's objectives, outcomes and outputs to the different target groups of the interventions (e.g. beneficiaries, civil society etc.);
- The intervention is aligned with relevant normative frameworks for gender equality and women's empowerment;
- UN Women has comparative advantage in this area of work compared to other UN entities and key partners;
- Government counterparts and other partners in all components are involved throughout the programme's implementation as the main counterparts and have ownership of programme outcomes; and
- Local ownership and measures for sustainability were ensured from both government counterparts and at the beneficiary level.

## **Effectiveness**

The evaluation will assess to what extent results at various levels, including outcomes and outputs, have been achieved. The following issues will be assessed; the extent to which:

- The programme objective was achieved;
- Expected outcomes were achieved;
- UN Women contributed towards the achievement of outcomes;
- Outputs were successfully delivered, with effective outreach within the targeted communities;
- Interventions have successfully improved local capacities and raised awareness (government, civil society, beneficiaries);
- The programme has generated results that could lead to changes of the assisted target groups, institutions, beneficiaries, etc.;
- The programme team has succeeded in building strong connections and rapport with various stakeholders in the targeted governorates, including local civil society, governmental counterparts etc.;
- An effective strategy for sustainability has been formulated and adopted throughout the project design;
- There is a high probability of having a multiplier effect that promotes further outreach of outcomes and improved sustainability;
- Interventions managed are interlinked effectively amongst the different stakeholders to maximize benefits and impact; and
- Unplanned effects occurred and how they were dealt with.

## **Efficiency**

The extent to which:

- The management structure of the intervention support efficiency for programme implementation;

- Outputs and outcomes: The programme produced results within the expected time frame, and schedule of implementation is in line with agreed upon deliverables as per the work plan, and as defined by the team;
- The disbursements and project expenditures are in line with budgets;
- There has been quality and timeliness regarding input and activity delivery from the donor, UN Women and Government/counterpart to adequately meet requirements;
- Procurement services are provided as planned (timing, value, process issues etc.);
- There is adequate efficiency in all managerial, communication and work functions, in Cairo and at the field level;
- Local resources within the targeted communities have been mobilized/committed;
- There is coordination with other UN Women and other donors' projects, as well as government counterparts and civil society, to promote successful implementation of the project and possible synergy effects;
- In case of delays in project implementation, what were the causes and how was the achievement of results affected.

### **Impact**

The evaluation should in addition assess how the project design and implementation modality provide prospects for analyzing actual/potential long-term impacts and indicate potential findings on impacts (e.g. economic, social, institutional etc.) that are likely to occur as a result of the intervention, and how far they are sustainable.

Moreover, the evaluation should assess the sustainability of project outcomes and results as well as any catalytic or replication actions that the project carried out. Dimensions or aspects of risks to sustainability can be identified.

The extent to which:

- Gender equality and women's empowerment advanced as a result of the intervention; and
- There were unintended effects, if any, of the intervention.

### **Sustainability**

The extent to which:

- Capacity was developed in order to ensure sustainability of efforts and benefits; and- Benefits of the intervention were secured for rights holders (i.e. what accountability and oversight systems were established).

### **Gender Equality and Human Rights**

The extent to which:

- Gender and human rights considerations been integrated into the programme design and implementation; and
- Attention to/integration of gender equality and human rights concerns have advanced the area of work.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the final analysis, the evaluation should include strategic and specific conclusions and propose recommendations and further actions for the implementing partner and counterparts to improve linkages between various components, and enhance deliverables which would

potentially improve future impact and sustainability of interventions. This includes discussing the need for further support, and recommended improvements in design and implementation strategies.

## V. Scope of the evaluation

The scope of an evaluation defines:

- **Timing:** this is a final evaluation of the programme
- **Time frame:** The Evaluation will cover programme implementation from 22 December 2012-21 December 2017
- **Geography:** The Evaluation team will conduct field visits in 6-8 governorates of the programme
- **Thematic coverage:** The evaluation will include all aspects of the programme (ending violence against women, political participation and economic empowerment)
- **Programmatic coverage:** The evaluation will include all aspects of the SRILW programme
- **Limitations:** no limitations identified

## VI. Evaluation design (process and methods)

The Evaluation will be a transparent and participatory process, conducted by an independent evaluation team, and carried out as an independent in-depth evaluation, using a mixed-methods approach, primarily qualitative, that aligns with the final matrix of questions (to be completed by the Evaluation team in consultation with the Reference Group). However, it will also include quantitative data collection/analysis as feasible. A participatory approach will be used throughout the assignment, consulting with stakeholders and the implementing agencies, as well as integrating their feedback during the editing and finalization of the evaluation report. The evaluation is to be carried out in keeping with agreed evaluation standards and requirements. More specifically, the evaluation will be based on gender and human rights principles, as defined in the UN Women Evaluation Policy,<sup>16</sup> the UNEG Guidance on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluation, the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System as well as other ethical and research codes, and adhere to the “UN Norms and Standards for Evaluation”.<sup>17</sup> The standard DAC evaluation criteria should be applied, ensuring objectiveness and a reliance on a systematic approach throughout the assignment.

The evaluation team will be required to use different methods to ensure that data gathering and analysis deliver evidence-based qualitative and when applicable, quantitative information, based on diverse sources, as necessary:

- Desk review of documents;
- Review of baseline data;
- Surveys;
- Case studies;
- Analysis; and

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<sup>16</sup> UN Women, *Evaluation policy of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women* (UNW/2012/12)

<sup>17</sup> United Nations Evaluation Group, *Norms and Standards for evaluation in the UN System*, access at: [http://www.uneval.org/normsandstandards/index.jsp?doc\\_cat\\_source\\_id=4](http://www.uneval.org/normsandstandards/index.jsp?doc_cat_source_id=4)



- Interviews with counterparts, beneficiaries, donor representatives, project staff and others through data cross-validation, focus group discussions, and direct observation.

An unbiased and independent approach is to be maintained throughout the evaluation. Triangulation of data sources is important, to ensure that evaluation findings, evaluator hypotheses etc. are evidence based, and to ensure validity and reliability. The evaluation team will develop interview guidelines. Field interviews can take place either in the form of focus group discussions or one-to-one consultations.

### **Deliverables:**

The evaluation will have four key phases:

#### **1- Inception Phase:**

- Conduct an initial desk review of available documents
- Conduct brief interviews (via Skype or phone) with key stakeholders to refine the Evaluation scope and methodology
- Establishment of the Reference Group
- Draft an Inception Report containing work plan, key findings of the desk review, methodology, sampling technique, evaluation tools and interview guidelines to be reviewed by the Reference Group
- Refine the Evaluation methodology/question matrix based on feedback and integrate proposed changes (as appropriate) into the final inception report

#### **2- Data Collection Phase:**

- A more in-depth review of specific documents
- Review existing baseline data (primarily from individual country-based research studies) to determine the available data with which to measure progress
- Conduct a quantitative survey, as feasible and in consultation with the Reference Group.
- Conduct field visits to interview key stakeholders and review national documents (as available)
- Conduct follow-up, in-depth interviews with global, and national UN Women staff, partner organizations, the EU, and others as necessary

#### **3- Analysis and Report Writing Phase:**

- Review and analysis of all available data
- Prepare first draft of the synthesis evaluation report
- Receive feedback from Reference Group on draft report and revise (as appropriate)
- Submit draft final report and share main findings/recommendations through a final Evaluation meeting with the Reference Group
- Use and follow up: (UN Women)
- Management response,
- Dissemination of the report,
- Follow up to the implementation of the management response.

## **Methods**

### **The methodology should outline:**

- A wide range of data sources (e.g., documents, field information, institutional information systems, financial records, beneficiaries, staff, funders, experts, government officials and community groups)
- Data collection methods and analysis (e.g., appreciative inquiry, most significant change case study, survey, interviews, focus group discussions, observation, site visits, etc.) that will address gender equality and human rights issues; the evaluator will elaborate on the final rationale for selection and their limitations. The use of innovative methods is encouraged
- Participatory tools for consultation with stakeholder groups and a plan for inclusion of women and individuals and groups who are vulnerable and/or discriminated against in the consultation process and a plan for translation, as necessary
- Specify that the evaluator should detail a plan on how protection of subjects and respect for confidentiality will be guaranteed
- A sampling strategy (area and population represented, rationale for selection, mechanics of selection, limitations of the sample) and specify how it will address the diversity of stakeholders in the intervention
- Measures to ensure data quality, reliability<sup>18</sup> and validity<sup>19</sup> of data collection tools and methods and their responsiveness to gender equality and human rights; for example, the limitations of the sample (representativeness) should be stated clearly and the data should be triangulated (cross-checked against other sources) to help ensure robust results

## **VII. Evaluation Management**

The UN Women ECO will hire an external and independent evaluation company to conduct this evaluation. The Evaluation Management Group (EMG), comprising the Deputy Country Director, Gender Advisor, Monitoring & Evaluation focal point, the programme officer responsible for the programme, and the Regional Evaluation Specialist at the ASRO, shall oversee the conduct of the evaluation for quality assurance. The Evaluation Task Manager will provide administrative and substantive support to ensure that the evaluation is conducted in accordance with the UN Women Evaluation Policy, United Nations Evaluation Group Norms and Standards, Ethical Guidelines and Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System and other key guidance documents. S/He will be responsible for day-to-day evaluation oversight including joining the evaluation consultant in selected field missions to ensure timely delivery of a high-quality evaluation and to minimise risks that may occur during the evaluation process. The Evaluation team will report directly to the Evaluation Task Manager.

The Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) composed of representatives of key governmental and non-governmental organization stakeholders, bilateral partners and UN agencies will provide input at key stages of the evaluation: terms of reference; inception report; draft and final reports.

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<sup>18</sup> Reliability is consistency in results using the same method (i.e. if the same survey is instituted several times it should give you similar results each time).

<sup>19</sup> Validity refers to the accuracy of data collection tools; in other words whether the tools are collecting the information they are intended to collect or measuring the right construct.

The ERG will help ensure that the evaluation approach is robust and relevant to staff and stakeholders, and will make certain that factual errors or omissions or errors of interpretation are identified in evaluation products.

This evaluation will be a participatory process and the evaluation manager will consult with the European Union, UN Women Programme ECO as well as programme country offices as required. At the end of the evaluation, the ECO Management will draft the management response, in consultation with the Reference Groups, and support dissemination of the evaluation report, findings and recommendations.

ECO reserves the right to ensure the quality of products submitted by the external evaluation team and may request revisions until the product meets the quality standards as expressed by the UN Women Independent Evaluation Office (IE) and as set forth in UN Women’s GERAAS System. All information and data collected throughout the evaluation process will be stored within a platform provided by the IEO for this purpose and is subject to review.

### VIII. Time frame

The evaluation is planned to take place until 20 December 2017.

There will be 4 main deliverables produced during the Evaluation:

- a. Inception Report: This report will include a detailed evaluation methodology, evaluation matrix, TOC, stakeholder analysis, proposed data collection tools and analysis approach, and evaluation work plan (with corresponding timeline)
- b. Draft Evaluation Report (to be reviewed by UNW first, then the ERG)
- c. PowerPoint Presentation to Reference Group on Main Findings/Recommendations and proposed dissemination strategy.
- d. Final Evaluation Report

The following table provides an indicative timeframe and activities for the Evaluation and the corresponding deliverables:

	Primary Activities	Output	Due date
<b>Milestone 1: Inception Phase</b>			
1.1	Evaluation team submits a draft Inception Report, including proposed methodology, work plan, and agreed-upon deliverables/timeframe.	Draft inception report, deliverables and final time line.	2 weeks after contract signature
1.2	Convene Reference Group to discuss Inception Report, provide feedback to evaluation team, finalize methodology, questions, and work plan.	Comments on Evaluation Methodology, Question Matrix, and work plan	5 days after
1.3	Evaluation team submits revised Inception Report, and UN Women HQ shares the final inception report with country programme offices.	<b>Final Inception Report</b>	1 week after
<b>Milestone 2: Data Collection Stage</b>			

2.1	Evaluation team conducts field visits.	Field visits Completed	2 weeks after
2.2	Concurrently, evaluation team conduct further document review, interviews with UN Women staff, partner organizations, donors, etc.	Review and Analysis of data	1 week after
<b>Milestone 3: Report Writing and Validation Phase</b>			
3.1	Evaluation team submits first draft evaluation report, including summary country-level reports and summary of global efforts.	1st draft evaluation report	2 weeks (for UNW internal review, followed by ERG review)
3.2	UN Women ECO and the reference group review first draft and provide feedback.	Feedback gathered	1 week
3.3	Evaluation team submits final evaluation report.	<b>Final Evaluation Report</b>	3 days

The evaluation team:

A team of evaluation experts are expected to undertake the assignment within the agreed upon timeframe. The team should be composed of a team leader and 3 expert evaluators (one for each thematic area of the programmer). All team members should have experience in gender responsive evaluations. All individual evaluation experts wishing to apply should apply through a consultancy firm. International Companies are encouraged to apply if having a branch in Egypt.

## Annex 2 Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation criteria	Key question(s)	Sub-question(s)	Indicator(s) data	Collection method(s) & Data sources
<b>Relevance</b>	<p>A. To what extent were the programme design and implementation aligned with national and international normative frameworks and government and donor strategies and development priorities?</p> <p>B. Did the programme adopt a participatory and broad consultative approach which included the main stakeholder groups (e.g. counterparts and target beneficiaries)?</p> <p>C. To what extent was the programme relevant to the needs and priorities as defined by beneficiaries and target groups (e.g. beneficiaries, civil society etc.)?</p> <p>D. To what extent did UN Women's approach complement and add value to the work of other partners working in this area?</p>	<p>1) What are the most important objectives for them vs. the least important ones?</p> <p>2) Was the program tackling an important objective for them? Is it relevant to their daily life space?</p> <p>3) Does the programme touch upon the needs and priorities of beneficiaries?</p> <p>4) Are the programme objectives of importance to beneficiaries and stakeholders?</p> <p>5) Is the programme reflecting a participatory and broad consultation approach including main stakeholder groups (e.g. counterparts and target beneficiaries)?</p> <p>6) To which extent the programme design and deliverables are aligned with national and international, government and donor strategies and development priorities? (to be asked to stakeholders)</p> <p>7) Is the intervention aligned with relevant normative frameworks for gender equality and women's empowerment?</p>	<p>1. Alignment with is this referring to the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030, the Sustainable Development Strategy?</p> <p>2. Evaluation of UN Women role by key stakeholders</p> <p>3. Referrals to UN Women key stake holders/ programme managers</p> <p>4. International framework regulations/ gender equality documents</p>	<p>1. Quantitative survey</p> <p>2. Qualitative Focus groups with beneficiaries and stakeholders</p> <p>3. Desk research</p> <p>4. Qualitative depth interviews with key partners</p> <p>5. Qualitative depth interviews with UN Women stakeholders</p>
<b>Effectiveness</b>	<p>A. What is the progress towards programme results that UN Women has contributed to so far? Are</p>	<p>1) What are enabling and limiting factors that contributed to the achievement of results and what actions need to be taken to</p>	<p>1. Evidence of contribution to results as outlined in the programme/project plan and articulated in the inception report</p>	<p>1. Qualitative depth interviews with key partners</p>

Evaluation criteria	Key question(s)	Sub-question(s)	Indicator(s) data	Collection method(s) & Data sources
	there opportunities for up-scaling good practices and innovative approaches?	<p>overcome any barriers that limit the progress?</p> <p>2) What are the key challenges/constraints in the project? How they dealt with?</p> <p>3) To what extent does the programme have an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place and how has the project used the information generated to inform programmatic adjustments?</p> <p>4) To what extent are the beneficiaries satisfied with the results?</p>	<p>2. Evidence of effective consultation with key partners</p> <p>3. Evidence of unintended effects of UN Women Intervention (positive or negative), including on excluded/more vulnerable groups and men/boys</p>	
	B. To what extent has UN Women created linkages and synergies between the three components for greater effectiveness?	1) What were the obstacles facing stakeholders? How they were able to overcome this? What kind of interventions were needed back then? What was the ideal scenario required for a maximum effect?	4.	1. Qualitative depth interviews with key partners
	C. What are the enabling and limiting factors that contribute to the achievement of results and what actions need to be taken to overcome any barriers that limit the progress?	<p>1) What are the key parameters that would indicate that the programme has been successfully implemented? what is the most important and least important ones?</p> <p>2) What were their expected outcomes?</p> <p>3) Has the programme team been successful in building strong connections and rapport with various stakeholders in the targeted governorates, including local civil society, governmental counterparts etc.?</p> <p>4) What were the points of strengths and points of weaknesses of the interventions done? Have they been managed effectively in a way that they were interlinked amongst the different stakeholders, allowing maximum benefits and impact?</p>	5.	<p>2. Qualitative depth interviews with key partners</p> <p>3. Qualitative depth interviews with UN Women stakeholders</p>

Evaluation criteria	Key question(s)	Sub-question(s)	Indicator(s) data	Collection method(s) & Data sources
Efficiency	A. To what extent did the management structure and operational mechanisms promote efficient delivery of expected outputs or programme implementation?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) There has been quality and timeliness regarding input and activity delivery from the donor, UN Women and Government/counterpart to adequately meet requirement</li> <li>2) In case of delays in project implementation, what were the causes and how was the achievement of results affected.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evidence of contribution to results as outlined in the programme/project plan and articulated in the TOC</li> <li>2. Evidence of effective consultation with key partners</li> <li>3. Evidence of effective Budget allocation</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Document analysis (annual and donor reports and other financial documents , etc.)</li> <li>2. Monitoring records</li> <li>3. Progress reports</li> <li>4. Quantitative survey</li> <li>5. Qualitative Focus groups with beneficiaries and Depths with stakeholders</li> </ol>
	B. There is adequate efficiency in all managerial, communication and work functions, in Cairo and at the field level;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To what extent the local resources within the targeted communities have been mobilized/committed;</li> <li>2) How efficient was coordination with other UN Women and other donors' projects, as well as government counterparts and civil society, to promote successful implementation of the project and possible synergy effects;</li> <li>3) If we are to redo this programme once again, how can we utilize all the resources in the best way to achieve optimum efficiency required?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.</li> </ol>	
Impact	A. How the project design and implementation affected the beneficiaries?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What kind of economic / social / political impact did it have?</li> <li>2) What kind of impact was it expected to have? Did it achieve all this? What was missing? How could it be improved?</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monitoring records</li> <li>2. Progress reports</li> <li>3. Quantitative survey</li> <li>4. Qualitative Focus groups with beneficiaries and Depths with stakeholders</li> </ol>

Evaluation criteria	Key question(s)	Sub-question(s)	Indicator(s) data	Collection method(s) & Data sources
<b>Sustainability &amp; Ownership</b>	A. To what extent was capacity of rights holders and duty bearers developed in order to ensure sustainability of efforts and benefits?	1) What measures are being used to guarantee that the positive effects of the intervention are sustainable over time? 2) Do sufficient institutional capacities exist to maintain the changes produced 3) Are there any scaling and/or expansion opportunities to the programme in other areas or countries? 4) To which extent government counterparts and other partners in all components are involved throughout the programme's implementation as the main counterparts and have ownership of programme outcomes?	1. Evidence of presence of strategic plan for maintaining results as outlined in the programme/project plan and articulated in the TOC 2. Evidence of following up with Beneficiaries.	1. Qualitative depth interviews with key partners 2. Qualitative depth interviews with UN Women stakeholders
	B. How will the benefits of the intervention be secured for rights holders (i.e. what accountability and oversight systems were established)?	1) What kind of measures did government counterparts take in order to ensure sustainability and local ownership? 2) On a beneficiary level, to what extent did they feel ownership of the programme?	3.	
	C. To what extent was local ownership and measures for sustainability ensured from both government counterparts (duty bearers) and women targeted by the programme (rights holders)?	3)	4.	1.



Evaluation criteria	Key question(s)	Sub-question(s)	Indicator(s) data	Collection method(s) & Data sources
<b>Gender Equality</b>	<p>A. To what extent was gender equality and women’s empowerment advanced as a result of the intervention? What were the unintended effects, if any, of the intervention?</p> <p>B. To what extent was gender and human rights considerations integrated into the programme design and implementation?</p> <p>C. Were there any constrains (e.g. political, practical, bureaucratic) to addressing human rights and gender equality efficiently during implementation? What level of effort was made to overcome these challenges?</p>	<p>1) Have Gender and human rights considerations been integrated into the programme design and implementation; and</p> <p>2) Did the attention to/integration of gender equality and human rights concerns have advanced the area of work?</p>		<p>1. Desk research</p> <p>2. Qualitative depth interviews with key partners Qualitative depth interviews with UN Women stakeholders</p>

## Annex 3 List of Organizations and Sample Size

- Hawaa Al Mostaqbal
- NCW
- UN Women
- EU
- El Shehab
- EACD
- CARE
- **Key Area#1**
  - End Beneficiaries: women who have participated in the programme, who could pursue their citizenship activities based on the availability of their identity cards and birth certificates registration
  - Key stakeholders and partners (in-process beneficiaries):
    - NGOs
    - NCW local bureaus in different cities
    - Moqarerat and rural leaders (رائدات ريفيات)
  - **Locations:**
    - Beni Suef
    - Sohag
    - Beheira

Sample size		
<b>Beni Suef</b>	1 FGD with female participants	1 IDI with moqarera/ rural leader 1 IDI with NCW branch official
<b>Sohag</b>	1 FGD with female participants	1 IDI with moqarera/ rural leader 1 IDI with NCW branch official
<b>Beheira</b>	1 FGD with female participants	1 IDI with moqarera/ rural leader 1 IDI with NCW branch official

- **Key Area #2**
  - End Beneficiaries: women who have benefited from this component, through its 3 facades: VSLA, partnership companies and loans.
  - Key stakeholders and partners (in-process beneficiaries):
    - NGOs
    - MSME
  - **Locations:**
    - Beni Suef
    - Assiut

- Menia
- Beheira

Sample size		
<b>Beni Suef</b>	1 VLSA FGD 1 Social Solidarity Companies FGD	2 IDIs with stakeholders
<b>Assiut</b>	1 VLSA FGD 1 Social Solidarity Companies FGD	2 IDIs with stakeholders
<b>Menia</b>	1 Social Solidarity Companies FGD 1 loans FGD	2 IDIs with stakeholders of NGOs 1 IDI with SFD
<b>Beheira</b>	1 loans FGD	1 IDIs with stakeholders of NGOs

- **Key Area#3**
  - End Beneficiaries:
    - Youth who have been approached and invited to events (inside/ outside educational systems)
    - Volunteers
    - Converted abusers
    - Women who have had cases of violence that were handled by the action activities/ those who were incorporated in activities with the implementing parties.
  - Key stakeholders and partners (in-process beneficiaries):
    - NGOs
    - NCW complaints offices in different cities
  - **Locations: only Cairo & Giza**
    - Ezbet Al Haggana
    - Imbaba
    - Mansheyet Nasser

Sample size		
<b>Ezbet Al Haggana</b>	1 converted offenders FGD 1 female FGD 1 male youth FGD 1 volunteers FGD	2 IDIs with Stakeholders (NGOs)
<b>Imbaba</b>	1 female FGD 1 male youth FGD 1 volunteers FGD	2 IDIs with Stakeholders (NGOs)
<b>Mansheyet Nasser</b>	1 converted offenders FGD 1 female FGD 1 volunteers FGD	2 IDIs with Stakeholders (NGOs)

c) **Quantitative F2F CAPI**

Simple random sampling: A Form of random selection; where some process or procedure assures that the different units in your population have equal probabilities of being chosen. The purpose behind this methodology is to validate the qualitative findings and help put the right weight of importance to the identified attributes of evaluation.

This phase was executed only among females rights holders.

Key Area/Governorate	Region 1 (CAIRO)		Region 2 ( UPPER)			Region 3 ( DELTA)	
	Cairo	Giza	Beni suef	Assuit/ Sohag	Menia	Beheira	Total
<b>Political</b>	-		60			45	<b>105</b>
<b>Economic</b>	-		30			45	<b>75</b>
<b>Social</b>	-		-			-	-
<b>Total</b>			<b>90</b>			<b>90</b>	<b>180</b>

## Annex 4 List of Documents Reviewed

EU Project Document  
Progress Reports (Quarterly and Final)

## Annex 5 Team Profile

Aliaa Darwish – Qualitative Team Manager

+12 years of experience in market research.

Aliaa has worked extensively on various kinds of projects, research modules and techniques, as well as second level analysis using various models. She moderates both in Arabic and English fluently, and has capability to break the ice with all kinds of respondents.

She has managed several cultural and social multi-country studies across Middle East & North Africa.

She has moderated over 2000 FGDs and IDIs.

Category Experience Includes:

FMCGs

Luxury

Media research

White goods & Appliances

Fashion & Cosmetics

Telecommunication

Banking

Real Estate

Automotive

Tobacco

Sarah Hany – Qualitative Research Manager

Research Experience

10 years of experience in marketing research within Egypt, as well as managing multi-country projects with several clients across the MENA region.

Have been working on Qualitative projects extensively which help me acquire much knowledge and empowered my skills starting with understanding clients' needs until delivering quality work to fulfill all research objectives.

Moderating a wide spectrum of consumers of various segments; social classes in both rural and urban, as well as business experts has helped me deeply be aware of consumers behaviors and attitude towards different categories.

Experience in segmentation tools helped me explore various segments in the market and improved my analytical skills.

Copy testing tools as well as conducting online qualitative studies.

Research Specialist

Worked on a wide variety of studies; U&As, product and concept testing, segmentation, Copy testing.

Attended several international trainings on research tools and techniques.

Categories handled

Experienced within a variety of categories, including but not limited to: Telecom, FMCGs, Banking, Real Estate, Healthcare Personal care & grooming, etc.

Key Clients Served:

Orange, Edita, Nestle, Etisalat, Hero Baby, Dabur, Reckitt Benckiser, Bel, Mondelez, Lactalis and others

***“I am very much into creative artwork and arts in general. I am so much interested in traveling worldwide, exploring new places and discovering various cultures and aspire to tour the whole world.”***

## Annex 6 Interview, In depth and Focus Group Guide

### NCW Question Guide

Good morning, my name is..... I am a researcher at Feedback Market research; I am pleased by meeting you today in the course of evaluating UN Women programme SRILW that has been going since December 2012 and is planned to end this very month.

We have been looking forward to meet you, as having your feedback was amongst the most important aspect in our evaluation process, due to the crucial role that NCW takes on in implementing such programmes. And since you are considered to be the highest authority in the chain, it will be enlightening listening to your own evaluation to the programme. We shall be looking on the programme in general, and the 3 different components in specific.

Let me start by asking you in general about the programme, before going into the evaluation parameters:

1. How was the programme introduced to the NCW? Who contacted you? What were the channels taken to put the project on your desk?
2. How did you react initially to the idea of the programme? Where there any initial barriers from the first perspective?
3. In your words, could you kindly summarize to me how the chain works? Where does the NCW role come? In the beginning? Middle? End? **Probe on the process in different components**
4. Apart from the UN Women, are there any other stakeholders that deal with you directly on these programs? Who are these?
5. For each one of these, how do you evaluate their overall interaction and contribution?
6. Are you aware of the statistical representations of women who didn't have a chance to benefit from the programme pre- 2013 vs. now?
7. Have you got any reports from the ground work team on the initial reactions towards the campaign in different cities?
8. What were the main cities that have scored a significant change/ satisfactory results?
9. On the other hand, what were the cities that haven't scored sufficient success levels from your perspective? Why do you think? What were the barriers for this?

Information Area	Key questions / areas of discussion
Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upon the many required needs for women rights in Egypt, where does the citizenship component come in terms of relevance and weight in the importance hierarchy?</li> <li>• Was the programme strategy aligned with NCW strategic objectives / plan?</li> <li>• Who were the key partners that have contributed to planning and implementing the programme?</li> <li>• Were these partners identified initially by the UN Women plan? If not, how were the key partners decided?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To what extent, has the programme been successful in identifying the most relevant partners for this project, including the sub-contracts?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What were all the techniques and approaches adopted to drive this initiative to success?</li> <li>• Which of the techniques were devised by UN Women, and which were devised by NCW or any other partners?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What is the added value of having such an integrated approach to the programme design?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the programme design and deliverables are aligned with national and international, government and donor strategies and development priorities? Why / why not?</li> <li>• How did you arrive at the concept of requirement to citizenship application prior to this programme? Can you please give me some examples of how women suffered prior to implementing this programme component? How was their life affected by the lack of official papers/ ID cards? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To what extent is the programme relevant to the needs and priorities as defined by beneficiaries and target groups?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>The National Council for Women is the lead government body coordinating between the Civil Status Organization/Ministry of Interior, who are responsible for the actual issuance of IDs for instance, and the national and civil society partners, who oversee outreach and mobilization of program participants.</b> With this leading role, how did you plan internally for a smooth process and such successful outcome?</li> <li>• What Government counterparts and other partners in all components are involved throughout the programme’s implementation as the main counterparts and have ownership of programme outcomes?</li> <li>• To what extent is UN Women contributing/adding value to the implementation of the programme and to the issue of women’s leadership? <b>I would like to assure you that this question is to improve the outcomes of future projects, hence your frank opinion is highly appreciated even if it has any negative components</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Effectiveness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what extent was the programme effective? In terms of contributing to changing knowledge, attitudes and behavior of targeted women in their path towards the transformative leadership?</li> <li>• In key bullet points, what were the main outcomes anticipated from your perspective? <b>Probe for each components separately and then ask the following for each component separately.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Taking your answer in consideration. Have there been any unintended/or unforeseen changes/results (both positive and negative) to date? Are there unintended beneficiaries in the programme?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Are there any clear signs that show progress in the outcome of this initiative/ programme?</li> <li>• <i>For example, are there any clear signs that the women who participated in the programme are more aware of their rights or of gender roles and relations to the women economic empowerment &amp; autonomy – including the decision making process on different levels ?</i> Does the programme foster gender equity as a core component of leadership building?</li> <li>• How the implementation process / techniques was, Was the programme strategy flexible and responsive to address shortcomings in implementation or to make use of opportunities? <b>If it can be done in a better way, how do you imagine having done it?</b></li> <li>• To what extent did the programme achieve internal coherence, integration and linkages among the different programme components and models, as feasible taking into account the different contexts?</li> <li>• If there are some specific successes, what are the key factors contributed to lead to such success?</li> <li>• What are the key challenges/constraints in the project? How they dealt with? Do you think the way ot was handled was the best way? Or do you think UN Women or any of the other partners would have done a better job handling challenges? Please elaborate.</li> <li>• To what extent does the programme have an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place and how has the project used the information generated to inform programmatic adjustments? Again, do you think UN Women or any of the other partners would have done a better job on this front? Why do you say so?</li> </ul>

<p><b>Efficiency</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding efficiency of execution approach, how was the plan of execution agreed upon? Solely planned and presented by UN Women? Or have been devised through series of brainstorming sessions and meetings among NCW, UN Women and other participants? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Has the plan that was established for the execution of the programme been carried out in the most efficient timeframe? To what extent did it align with the initial timeframe? Have synergies with other actors and interventions been taken advantage of sufficiently where it could ensure better programme performance?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Do you know how much was the funds assigned for the different components of the programme? What do you think of these funds? Are they adequate? Were they used wisely and in the right channels? Why/ why not? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Were the funds adequate and clearly and sufficiently distributed in the design of the programme?</li> <li>○ Where- if any- were resources not used effectively and reasons behind that?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What measures have been taken during the planning &amp; implementation phase to ensure that resources are efficiently used? Was these measures taken by NCW or UN Women</li> <li>• How well has the coordination efforts between UN Women and partner organizations worked (time efficiency)? How well have communications worked, given also the different languages involved (time, financial efficiency)? Do you believe in this specific fronts, anything could have been done better to attain better outcomes?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Impact &amp; sustainability</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding end beneficiaries (women), <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What was the impact of the implementation of the programme over beneficiaries?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What about other indirect beneficiaries (children and men) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What was the impact of the implementation of the programme over beneficiaries?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How about the volunteers, key stakeholders, was there any impact (be it positive or negative) that came on them from this programme?</li> <li>• To what extent there were unintended effects, if any, of the intervention?</li> <li>• What are the key aspects/ measures that were taken to sustain the impact of this programme?</li> <li>• Do you think these aspects/ measures were enough to attain the maximum sustainability level?</li> <li>• Do sufficient institutional capacities exist to maintain the changes produced? If yes, could you please enlighten us how is that? And If no, would you kindly let us know how to reverse that?</li> <li>• Is appropriation by both women and men being promoted? Are there any scaling and/or expansion opportunities to the programme in other areas or countries?</li> <li>• To what extent does the positive impact justify continued investments?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Optimizations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the end of this discussion, if you go back to 2012 and throughout the whole journey of this programme, and if you get the chance to change anything to attain better and more successful results, what would you change?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Locations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If we are to choose 2-3 locations to interview end beneficiaries, which cities would you recommend for us?</li> </ul>

## Discussion Guide Beneficiaries Key Area #1

Outcome	A. Responsive services promoting women's citizenship in Egypt enhanced.	B. Women in Greater Cairo and Upper Egypt are more aware of their citizenship's rights
Output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access of women and rural dwellers to their basic citizenship rights (ID cards) ensured.</li> </ul>	
Indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of national ID cards issued for women in the targeted areas (Baseline as July 2015: 181,868; Target: 190,000 in December 2016).</li> </ul>	
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the capacity of the coordination mechanism within NCW to deliver more efficiently on the facilitation process</li> <li>Purchase 190,000 ID application forms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a comprehensive public awareness information strategy- in partnership with NCW and the state information services, private sector, and media for raising awareness of the public on the importance of ID cards in women's lives.</li> </ul>

### 1. Key partners of the components:

- NCW
- UN Women
- Civil Status Registry of the MOI
- MCIT
- NGOs

## 2. Brief process

The role of the NCW branch is to reach out to marginalized women in given governorates, educate them about the importance of having an ID card, and support them in obtaining the correct documentation and filling out the application forms. Once these steps are completed, the local branch communicates with the NCW central branch and hence MOI to check the eligibility of women in the national databases and then proceed with actual photo shooting, followed by actual issuance. It is also worth noting that each of the NCW local branches has an Ombudsperson office. Due to the lack of birth certificates of women in many of the governorates, the branch reverts those cases to the Ombudsperson office to assist in the issuance of the missing birth certificate documents before registering in the initiative.

## 3. Focus Group Introduction

Good morning, my name is..... I am a researcher at Feedback Market research; It is my pleasure to meet you today in the course of evaluating the programme implemented by UN Women, that has been going for 5 years as of now.

I would like each one of you to introduce herself to us:

- Name
- Age
- Occupation (if applicable)
- Marital status
  - Number of kids
  - Household structure (nuclear family/ extended family)
- Where do you live (urban/ rural areas)
- When was the ID Card issued for you

## 4. Status before benefiting from the programme:

- Have you got any kind of education? As children or adults?
- I want you to remember with me the time before you have issued the ID card:
  - How was your life going? In terms of activities that required your participation
  - Have you met any challenges or difficulties attaining any requirements or needs?
  - Moderator to probe and give theme examples if they don't understand the question.
    - Registering their children in schools
      - How did that go?
    - Having any encounter with police without having an ID card.
    - Ability to issue a health certificate.
    - Ability to obtain a passport to go for pilgrimage/ omra;
    - Ability to collect the husband's pension;
    - Access to subsidized products through family ration cards;

- Land ownership, purchase and sale of assets, and inheritance from deceased family members; and
- Political engagement, particularly the opportunity to vote in elections.
- Applications for micro-credit loans;
- Support from civil society organizations for skill improvement, business establishment and employment opportunities;
- Expansion of business, earn more money and become economically independent

Moderator to try generate as much “Anecdotes/ stories” as possible.

- Taking the challenges you mentioned, how did you overcome them? How did you manage without any official documentation?

#### 5. Getting approached by the programme stakeholders

Now, I will ask you about what exactly happened when you got the ID cards, I want you to imagine you are telling me the drama series I missed in the TV, you know how detailed you narrate the drama episodes? Now I want you to tell me in the same details.

- Did anyone approach your town/ village in order to know if you have ID card or not? Who approached you? Were you open to talking with them? What did they ask you?
- Then, what happened? How did they come back to you to give you the application?
- How did you fill the application? Did you fill it yourself? Or did someone fill it for you? How did this process go? How did you feel back then?
- Then, what happened after that? What was the next step?
- What about the photo-shoot, how did it go?
  - Did they come to your house/ neighborhood? Or did you go to them?
  - How did they inform you about the photo-shoot?
  - When you stood, to have your picture taken, how did you feel inside your heart at this very moment.
- What happened next?
- How long did it take to have the ID issued?
- How did they inform you it was ready?
- How did you receive it? Was it sent to you at home? Or you were informed to go receive it somewhere else?
- Once you have held your ID card in your hands, how did it feel back then? What did you think that you can do then that you couldn't do before that?
- What was the first thing you wanted to do back then?
- Now, you had your ID issued, how different was your life? What was added?
- Did anything become easier? Like what?
- After you had your ID issued, have you talked about this with your social circles? Neighbors, friends, relatives, etc.?
- What did you tell them to encourage them do the same?

At the end of the discussion, moderator to choose the most 2 articulate ladies, and ask them to do a 1 minutes individual speech to the Camera (according to their consent), with recapping on what they have mentioned in the discussion:- please assure the respondents that this materials will not be used for any public communication purpose, and only will be displayed internally to the partners managing the programme.

*“My name is....., I live in..... before issuing my ID card I couldn't/ didn't ..... but since I have issued my ID Card now my life is changed because I can .....”*

## Discussion Guide Beneficiaries Key Area II

### 6. Quick reminder for the moderator, Key area #2 progress

Outcome	C. “Safety Net” improved livelihoods of families of targeted women.	D. “Enterprise Development” Women-led income-generating enterprises have become economically solvent.	E. Capacity-Development” Institutional capacity of the Government of Egypt and civil society partners is strengthened.
Output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human, natural and financial capital of poor women’s families who received non-financial services is improved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women’s access to financial and non-financial services is enhanced.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pro-poor and gender orientation and targeting capacity of key service providers is enhanced</li> <li>Referral mechanism of network of key stakeholders is developed.</li> </ul>
Indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Per cent of women completed graduation scheme (VSLA and/or Productive Asset Transfer)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of women and women groups who received loans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of Government of Egypt and NGOs who had their capacities developed on gender integration and gender equity</li> <li>Increase in number of key stakeholders who are referred through the network</li> </ul>
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify women who will participate in the VSLA scheme or VSLA productive asset transfer implemented by</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of financial services</li> <li>Consult with BDS providers concerning the development and provision of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of capacity building activities</li> <li>Periodic meetings for</li> </ul>

	<p>CARE and National NGO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Hands on training and basic BDS</li> <li>• Awareness raising messages disseminated by the NGOs</li> </ul>	<p>appropriate BDS package to the target groups and activity of Implementing BDS package to include trainings and technology transfer, product development, marketing information and advisory services</p>	<p>information sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation of best practices and lessons learnt</li> </ul>
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#### 7. Key partners of the components:

- UN Women
- NGOs (CARE- MISR AL KHEIR)
- SFD

#### 8. Summary of the achievements

The WEE programme was applied through 3 different methodologies

- a. VSLA
  - i. Applied through: CARE NGO
  - ii. Project Name: قدم الخير
  - iii. Target Segment : The poorest women in the society (no income or very limited income population)
  - iv. **Location: Beni Suif, Assuit**
- b. Women Partnership companies
  - i. Applied through : Misr el Kheir NGO
  - ii. Target Segment: Women with limited income
  - iii. **Location: Beni Suif, Assuit & Menia**
- c. Loans
  - i. Applied through: Social Funds for development
  - ii. Target Segment: Women applying for loans for business use  
**Location: Menia, Sharkia & Behera**

#### 9. Focus Group Introduction

Good morning, my name is..... I am a researcher at Feedback Market research; It is my pleasure to meet you today in the course of evaluating the programme implemented by UN Women, that has been going for 5 years as of now.

I would like each one of you to introduce herself to us:

- Name
- Age
- Occupation (if applicable)



- Marital status
  - Number of kids
  - Household structure (nuclear family/ extended family)
- Where do you live (urban/ rural areas)

#### **10. Questions related to VSLA**

- I would like to know more about your day to day life,
  - How does it go daily?
  - What is the source of income in your household?
- Can you take me through how you managed your day to day life?
  - With the low income, it must be very difficult answering to all the needs and requirements of daily life. How did you manage the day to day requirements, they say the Egyptian women do miracles in managing her household financials, what are the miracles that you did?
  - What is the daily expenditure on different items?

Getting approached by the programme stakeholders

- How did you hear about the VSLA?
- Who first told you about it?
- Upon hearing about it for the first time, how did you think of it? What was your first impression?
  - a. Any triggers you thought of?
  - b. Any barriers/ apprehensions you thought of?
- Who explained the whole idea to you? Did they explain it well?
- Were there any points that you haven't understood clearly back at that point?
- What was the process to get enrolled in one of the VSLA groups? Were there any specific steps or things to do?
- How much did you start with? Who was handling the fund box back then?
- How long have you been participating in VSLA?
- Across all that time, have any changes/ updates got applied to the system?
- How do you see these changes? Good or bad?
- In general, what is good and what is bad about this programme?
- How did you feel when you have got the first money fund through VSLA? What did you do with it?
- Did it impact your daily life/ general life in any way? How is that?
  - a. Give me an example, before that your life how did it go and after what exactly changed?
- If I am the person responsible for developing this programme and changing it, and I wanted to ask you if this programme has any negative sides, weakness points that can be changed for it to be more beneficial and you make more use of it, what would be your suggestions?

### **11. Questions related to Enterprises development.**

- I would like to know more about your day to day life,
  - How does it go daily?
  - What is the source of income in your household?
  - I understand that you are a small businesswoman and you are running your own project right now, what is your project about? What do you do?
  - Did you work before getting help from the programme or that was your first time working? **PLEASE PROBE**

Getting approached by the programme stakeholders

- How did you hear about this programme?
- Who first told you about it?
- Upon hearing about it for the first time, how did you think of it? What was your first impression?
  - a. Any triggers you thought of?
  - b. Any barriers/ apprehensions you thought of?
- How did everything start with you? MODERATOR TO ASK THEM TO TELL THE STORIES OF THEIR PROJECT IN THEIR OWN WORDS.
  - a. Was it already existing project? Or you have started it from scratch with the programme?
  - b. How did you get the idea of this specific project? Why?
  - c. Did you get any help from the programme stakeholders at this stage?
  - d. What was the process of setting up your project? And through the different steps, where did the help from the programme owners come to you?
  - e. Do you feel their help was enough? Was there any further help that they should have offered you?
  - f. After setting up your project, did anyone from the programme kept in touch with you to check up on your business?
  - g. Did you need any further help from them after that? Have you got enough help that you need?
- In general, what is good and what is bad about this programme?
- How did you feel when you have got the first income through this project?
- Did it impact your daily life/ general life in any way? How is that?
  - a. Give me an example, before that your life how did it go and after what exactly changed?
- If I am the person responsible for developing this programme and changing it, and I wanted to ask you if this programme has any negative sides, weakness points that can be changed for it to be more beneficial and you make more use of it, what would be your suggestions?

### **12. Questions related to Loans funding**

- I would like to know more about your day to day life,
  - How does it go daily?
  - What is the source of income in your household?
- Can you take me through how you managed your day to day life?
  - With the low income, it must be very difficult answering to all the needs and requirements of daily life. How did you manage the day to day requirements, they say the Egyptian women do miracles in managing her household financials, what are the miracles that you did?
  - What is the daily expenditure on different items?

#### Getting approached by the programme stakeholders

- How did you hear about this programme?
- Who first told you about it?
- Upon hearing about it for the first time, how did you think of it? What was your first impression?
  - a. Any triggers you thought of?
  - b. Any barriers/ apprehensions you thought of?
- Why did you decide to apply for this loan? Why did you need it for?
- Ok, now after you have applied to this loan, what happened? MODERATOR PROBE FOR THE OFFICIAL PROCESS AND THEIR PERCEPTION TOWARDS IT:
  - a. Time taken before approval
  - b. Background check steps
  - c. Any forms were required, could they fill it themselves? If not, was that a challenge?
  - d. Has she been updated through this process with the progress?
  - e. Has she been informed once approval was issued?
  - f. When did she receive the money after approval? Was it immediate or did it take time?
- Once you got the loan, what was the first thing that you have done?
- What is the re-paying system for this loan? Was it fair for you?
- Did it cause you any pressure, financially?
- Have you found any challenges in installment payments?
- In general, what is good and what is bad about this programme?
- Did it impact your daily life/ general life in any way? How is that?
  - a. Give me an example, before that your life how did it go and after what exactly changed?
- If I am the person responsible for developing this programme and changing it, and I wanted to ask you if this programme has any negative sides, weakness points that can be changed for it to be more beneficial and you make more use of it, what would be your suggestions?

At the end of the discussion, moderator to choose the most 2 articulate ladies, and ask them to do a 1 minute individual speech to the Camera (according to their consent), with recapping on what they have mentioned in the discussion:- please assure the respondents that this materials will not be used for any public communication purpose, and only will be displayed internally to the partners managing the programme.

*“My name is....., I live in..... before participating in the programme I couldn’t/ didn’t ..... But since I became part of the programme now my life has changed because I can .....”*

## Discussion Guide – All Areas

### Interview introduction

Good morning, my name is..... I am a researcher at Feedback Market research; It is my pleasure to meet you today in the course of evaluating the programme implemented by UN Women, that has been going for 5 years as of now.

### Ask all stakeholders

- I. Can you please introduce yourself and your organization? With which organization do you work?
- II. How did you get to work with this organization? How did you know about them?
- III. Did they recruit you or you have applied there by yourself?
- IV. So, can you please talk to us about your role? What exactly are your tasks when it comes to issuing ID cards for women in your city/ village? MODERATOR TO PROBE FULLY ON ALL THE DETAILS ON HIS/HER ROLE.
- V. Regarding the task you are taking care of, what are all the positives/ triggers you encounter, what keeps you going every day?
- VI. On the other hand, what are all the challenges/ disappointments that you have to face every day in order to keep doing your job?
  - a. Moderator to focus on right holder related challenges, society related and
- VII. Who do you normally cooperate with on your day to day task?
  - a. What is the level of cooperation and that you are getting from each of the partners you are working with?
- VIII. After 5 years of this program, how strong you think is the effectiveness of the programme? Did you see it change any lives? Be it in Knowledge/ citizenship/ social lifestyle/ economic life style,....etc? How is that?
- IX. How were you introduced to the execution approach? Who told you what you have to do?
  - a. Did you think this approach was effective enough? Have you had any suggestions to work differently?
  - b. If yes, what happened upon voicing out these suggestions?
- X. Regarding end beneficiaries (women),
  - a. What was the impact of the implementation of the programme over beneficiaries?
- XI. What about other indirect beneficiaries (children and men)
  - a. What was the impact of the implementation of the programme over beneficiaries?
- XII. What about you as a programme volunteer/ stakeholder,...etc: how did this programme affected you personally?

Ask all stakeholders **except field personnel (Mogarerat/ rural leaders)**

- XIII. Are you aware of the national goals on gender equality and women's empowerment? What are they? What is the entity responsible for ensuring their sustainability?
- XIV. Was this component of the programme aligned with these national goals? Can you please explain how/ how not?
- XV. Upon the many required needs for women rights in Egypt, where does this component come in terms of relevance and weight in the importance hierarchy?
- XVI. Does it align with the women's empowerment vision of 2030? why/ why not?
- XVII. To what extent, has the programme been successful in identifying the most relevant partners for this project, including the sub-contracts?
- XVIII. What were all the techniques and approaches adopted to drive this initiative to success?
- XIX. Which of the techniques were devised by UN Women, and which were devised by NCW or NGOs?
- a. What is the added value of having such an integrated approach to the programme design?
- XX. To what extent is UN Women contributing/adding value to the implementation of the programme and to the issue of women's leadership?
- XXI. Before starting on implementing that programme, what were the key objectives that were taken as reference? MODERATOR TO LIST DOWN ALL THE OBJECTIVES
- a. Having the programme coming to an end now, which of these objectives was achieved?
    - i. What is your indicator on that?
  - b. Which objectives were not achieved? Why do you think they were not achieved?
    - i. What are all the barriers? And is it from which partner's end?
    - ii. How the implementation process / techniques was, Was the programme strategy flexible and responsive to address shortcomings in implementation or to make use of opportunities? If it can be done in a better way, how do you imagine having done it?
- XXII. Apart from the planned objectives, were there any collateral benefits that came along? Which? And why do you think? How important were these benefits?
- XXIII. Do you know how much was the funds assigned for the component you were working on?
- a. What do you think of these funds? Are they adequate? Were they used wisely and in the right channels? Why/ why not?
  - b. Were the funds adequate and clearly and sufficiently distributed in the design of the programme?
  - c. Where- if any- were resources not used effectively and reasons behind that?
- XXIV. How well has the coordination efforts between UN Women and partner organizations worked (time efficiency)? How well have communications worked,

given also the different languages involved (time, financial efficiency)? Do you believe in these specific fronts, anything could have been done better to attain better outcomes?

**XXV. Ask only for personnel who handled more than 1 component:**

- a. To what extent did the programme achieve internal coherence, integration and linkages among the different programme components and models, as feasible taking into account the different contexts?

XXVI. To what extent does the programme have an **effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism** in place and how has the project used the information generated to inform programmatic adjustments? Again, do you think UN Women or any of the other partners would have done a better job on this front? Why?

XXVII. What are the key aspects/ measures that were taken to sustain the impact of this programme?

XXVIII. Do you think these aspects/ measures were enough to attain the maximum sustainability level?

XXIX. Do sufficient institutional capacities exist to maintain the changes produced? If yes, could you please enlighten us how is that? And If no, would you kindly let us know how to reverse that?

XXX. To what extent does the positive impact justify continued investments?

**XXXI. Ask everyone- Optimizations:**

- a. At the end of this discussion, if you go back to 2012 and throughout the whole journey of this programme, and if you get the chance to change anything to attain better and more successful results, what would you change?