



EGYPT: PROVIDING CLEAN WATER TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

Egypt Utilities Management Program

Duration: 2014–2019

North Sinai Initiative

Duration: 2014–2019

Challenge

Egypt's population is rapidly growing, and its infrastructure needs to keep pace. In both urban and rural areas, population growth has led to an expansion of communities, placing a strain on current water and wastewater systems. In rural areas, communities are often built close to unsanitary waterways, posing a public health threat by carrying the risk of waterborne disease.

Opportunity

USAID is working with local water companies to increase access to safe water and sanitation services. In underserved communities of rural Upper Egypt, USAID is constructing wastewater facilities for basic sanitation and connecting households to those facilities by installing pipelines for potable water and sanitation services.

In the North Sinai, USAID and the Government of Egypt are improving the lives of the local Bedouin population with 16 projects targeting water access and infrastructure in the isolated region. Projects include the drilling of deep wells;

USAID has helped to bring potable water and sanitation to nearly one-third of Egypt's population, directly improving their health and environmental conditions. Photo credit: USAID/Egypt

the construction of desalination plants, distribution lines, and water reservoirs; and the procurement of trucks for water distribution and wastewater removal.

Since 1978, USAID has invested more than \$3.5 billion on a broad range of projects to improve water and sanitation services for more than 25 million Egyptians, directly improving their health and environmental conditions.

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“We used to have to take our children to the doctor. We washed our clothes in the canal or in the sewage water and our kids got sick from this bad water,” says Om Taha, a resident of Awlad Suweilem village in Minya governorate. Om Taha says that since the water company connected their home to the potable water pipeline, her family's health has improved, exclaiming that the safe drinking water is 100 times better than the water that came from the ground.