

Supporting national priorities for leadership in climate action

The UN Resident Coordinator system in support of Egypt's COP27 Presidency

Collective action across all sectors of society is essential to advance national priorities and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UN Resident Coordinator's independent and strengthened role as the senior-most official of the UN development system at the country level facilitates the convening of all relevant stakeholders to address critical issues. In Egypt, the support provided to the Government for its Presidency of the 27th United Nations Climate Change conference (COP27) reflects the ability of the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system to catalyze coherent and streamlined UN action in the support of national needs and priorities.

Leading a UN country team of 26 entities, the UN Resident Coordinator was able to serve as a one-stop shop for the Government, effectively mobilizing relevant capacities from across the entire UN system in response to and aligned with the priorities of the COP27 Presidency. This also ensured more coherent and impactful UN engagement across all levels.

 **28**

Number of entities in the UN country team

 **US\$ 160M**

UN country team's support through the Cooperation Framework (2022)

1. One port of call for the COP27 Presidency

Responding to the Government's request for strategic and streamlined UN support for COP27 Presidency priorities, the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) enabled coherent assistance from the UN country team and co-chaired the Global Task Team on Climate Change, alongside the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser for Climate Action. The RC served as a one-stop shop for the full range of UN expertise at national, regional and global levels, ensuring timely and relevant support for the development and the launch and rollout of 14

[COP27 Presidential Initiatives](#). 14 UN entities co-led these initiatives, with contributions from an additional 20 UN entities. The resulting insights further shaped and expanded the global climate agenda, highlighting the importance of strengthened resilience of food systems from the adverse effects of climate change; water security; as well as the connections between climate and peace; nutrition; waste management; debt; development; and urbanization.

2. Helping access relevant UN expertise to advance climate priority areas

Through the reinvigorated RC system, Egypt received enhanced support from the UN on its ambition in hosting the 'African COP' through swift and timely access to relevant regional networks, knowledge and policy advocacy. The RC facilitated the engagement of an Africa regional UN coalition of climate-focused capacities – established as part of the regional reforms – helping to prepare a catalogue of good practices in Africa on climate change adaptation and mitigation. The UN and the COP27 Presidency are now partnering to disseminate the findings widely and to scale-up and replicate these good practices. The Catalogue also contributed to identifying a pipeline of investable climate projects for mitigation and adaptation through the African ['Climate Finance Roundtable'](#).

Convening the UN system expertise [such as from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP)], the RC supported the development of the ['Sharm 'El Sheikh Guidebook for Just Financing'](#), an initiative led by the Ministry of International Cooperation which was launched at COP27. The Guidebook provides directions to stakeholders on how to leverage and catalyze necessary finance and investments for climate action, including translating commitments into concrete projects. Together with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the RC Office in Egypt set out practical recommendations for strengthening governance structures to unlock the potential for climate finance in the chapter on 'Governance Structure for Tracking, Monitoring and Assessing Climate Finance.'



The RC led the inter-agency COP27 coordination group and the establishment of the One UN Egypt pavilion at COP27, showcasing joint climate ambition and action of the UN and partners in Egypt. The pavilion hosted 45 high-level events which provided space for dialogue on critical climate issues facing Egypt. It also opened access to those outside of the conference space, serving as a multiplier through its livestreamed events translated into Arabic. The pavilion

amplified UN Egypt's multilateral advocacy for climate action and promoted the National Climate Change Strategy. Overall, the pavilion contributed to further consolidating the coherent and unified approach of the UN country team, optimizing its ability to provide integrated policy and programmatic support to the Government.

3. Sourcing disaggregated data for integrated policy support and programming

Responding to the request of the Minister of Environment, the RC mobilized joint support from the UN country team to understand people's perceptions about climate change and its different impacts on vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, youth, women, and small farmers and issuing a survey to measure the impact of the national public awareness campaign on climate change. The disaggregated data provided through the survey

(by geographic location, gender, age, level of education) offered valuable evidence to underpin the work of government, UN, IFIs, and development partners in the design and implementation of new programmes, awareness campaigns and policies focused on climate change. The results of the survey were presented at COP27 by the Minister of Environment, the RC, and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) representative.

4. Stimulating youth engagement and supporting initiatives for green smart projects

Fostering youth engagement, knowledge exchange and on-site participation at COP27, the RC and the UN country team supported the organization of the Local and Global Conference of Youth (COY). The Global COY, organized by youth-led organizations in Egypt with UN country team support, brought together almost 1,000 young people from around the world and provided regional and global youth the stage to articulate their demands to global leaders. The resulting [Global Youth Statement](#) was officially handed to the UNFCCC Executive Secretary. As a follow-up at country level, a permanent Youth Climate Change Committee is being established at the Ministry of Youth and Sports with the support of the UN country team in order to ensure youth perspectives are reflected in national climate policies.

The RC convened all relevant UN agencies [Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Habitat, UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN Women and the World Food Programme (WFP)] to partner with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development on the National Initiative for Green Smart Projects, initiated by the COP27 Climate Change High-Level Champion. This initiative supports governorates with 18 green and smart projects that offer localized innovative solutions for climate change with a focus on empowering women – ranging from the use of biological or solid waste for power generation, to plastic and food recycling, to water desalination.

5. Looking ahead

Under the leadership of the RC, the UN in Egypt builds on the momentum created by COP27 to spearhead climate action on the domestic policy agenda, both in terms of mitigation and adaptation at local level, in line with the National Climate Change Strategy.

UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023-2027), in which climate action and environmental priorities are mainstreamed while also being addressed as a stand-alone outcome area.

Further support will be provided to ensure operationalization of the COP27 Presidency initiatives and facilitate additional regional and global engagement. The commitments of the UN development system are reflected in the new

The RC is also mobilizing relevant UN agencies' support for the government's climate flagship pipeline of projects launched at COP27 on the Nexus on Water Food and Energy (NWFE), focused on just transition including mitigation and adaptation.



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Egypt's Minister of International Cooperation Rania Al Mashat, UN Resident Coordinator Elena Panova and Representatives of FAO and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) meet with farmers in Minya Governorate, Upper Egypt, to discuss sustainable agriculture investments and livelihoods.