Egypt energy conservation

Rural area, Monofiya Governorate, Egypt.

Egyptians are experiencing firsthand the impacts of climate change as temperatures soar, droughts are more frequent and future water supply is less certain. That is why Egypt has put climate change as one of its top development priorities.

A key element of the Egyptian government"s efforts to address climate change is connecting the dots between the food, water and energy sectors. This was particularly evident during Egypt"s presidency of COP27 when -- building on its national strategies and updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and on the World Bank"s Egypt Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR) -- the government launched a flagship program called the Country Platform for the Nexus of Water, Food and Energy (NWFE).

The first phase of this program bundles nine priority projects, extracted from the National Climate Change Strategy 2050, that focus on water, food, and energy. These projects support Egypt"s green transition by leveraging partnerships and mobilizing climate finance and private investments. One year into its implementation the NWFE program has attracted a significant amount of support for a variety of projects, while engaging donors, multilateral development banks and the private sector. The Ministry of International Cooperation took stock of implementation of NWFE, the Arabic translation for "Fulfilling pledges", in November 2023.

"Focusing on efficient and inclusive ways of managing the water, food and energy sectors boosts the economy and creates jobs, while also helping to protect Egypt from the adverse effects of climate change and making it more competitive globally," said Stephane Guimbert, World Bank Country Director for Egypt, Yemen, and Djibouti. "NWFE is a trailblazing country platform that brings partners together, under the leadership of the government, to ensure our programs are more than the sum of the parts. The World Bank is committed to supporting Egypt"s ambitious and innovative climate endeavors, helping Egyptians to live healthier and more productive lives."

The World Bank has supported NWFE from the outset through its research and projects. For example, the CCDR helped to guide the design of NWFE, laying out the kind of investments and policy actions needed to decrease the negative impacts of climate change and at the same time creating economic and developmental wins for Egyptians. The CCDR identifies opportunities to reduce climate action inefficiencies, manage risk, and strengthen the foundation for increased private-sector participation. In addition, it offers a set of policy options and investment opportunities that, if implemented within five years, can deliver short-term benefits in selected sectors and create momentum for important long-term benefits.

These examples of support to NWFE are also fully aligned with the new World Bank Egypt Partnership

framework, which was designed to address the country"s emerging development needs, including climate action. The framework focuses on integrating climate action aspects into all relevant projects.

Much of Egypt"s population is already suffering from the effects of climate change, and many more are at risk. If the country continues the mitigations it has started, it can still help to protect them.

The Middle East Program in Washington combines in-depth regional knowledge with incisive comparative analysis to provide deeply informed recommendations. With expertise in the Gulf, North Africa, Iran, and Israel/Palestine, we examine crosscutting themes of political, economic, and social change in both English and Arabic.

Before evaluating the socioeconomic and political consequences of climate change, it is necessary to outline Egypt"s preexisting environmental challenges. This overview will establish a baseline for understanding the compounding impact of climate change, with a view to how climate change deepens existing vulnerabilities, aggravates governance challenges, and requires new public policy designs to address it.

With population density in Egypt"s LECZ being orders of magnitude greater than the national average (1,075 people per square kilometer in the LECZ compared to seventy people per square kilometer nationally) and with four-fifths of Egypt"s population residing within 100 kilometers of the sea, crowding in coastal cities may make accessing services or emergency relief more difficult.11 As Egypt"s national and coastal populations rise, the problem will only become more urgent. This is especially alarming considering that between 11.75percent and 15.56 percent of the entire belt of the Nile Delta may be inundated by the year 2100 because of land subsidence alone--that is, even without accounting for sea level rise or other effects of climate change.12

Egypt"s economic conditions make the problem even more difficult. Even as Egypt faces the demand to finance climate mitigation and adaptation, it also must contend with an economy suffering from surging debt, skyrocketing inflation, and persistent inequality.13 With unemployment hovering around 7 percent and annual core inflation soaring to over 40 percent in May 2023, millions of Egyptians are struggling to make ends meet, with about three in ten (29.7 percent) living below the country"s national poverty line.14 Difficult macroeconomic conditions may increase the challenges involved in adapting to climate change. Egypt"s economic dependence on its agriculture and livestock sector is a case in point.