



NBD Information sheet

Egypt

The Nile Basin in Egypt

Egypt is heavily dependent on the Nile for irrigated agriculture, industry and municipal water supplies. In recent years expanding population, irrigation programmes and industry have made water scarcity and pollution critical issues. The Egyptian National Discourse Forum (EgNDF) focuses on awareness raising on Nile issues as well as engaging with NBI activities and supporting community actions for poverty reduction. The EgNDF is an active network of NGOs, community-based organisations, media outlets, women's and youth groups, working through 17 local NDFs around the country.

River Nile in our Eyes – Awareness and Education

The EgNDF has established a resource centre providing a variety of data and information on the Nile. A Knowledge, Attitudes and Perception (KAP) survey was carried out among water users, farmers, community leaders, government and NGOs to assess their knowledge on Nile issues. Awareness raising materials and activities are now being designed to meet the gaps revealed by this survey.

The EgNDF also has a major schools programme. "Aqua Parties" have been created across the country under which groups of schoolchildren organise activities on the theme of water. Materials have been provided so that teachers can replicate the activities widely and one governorate has awarded \$11,000 for the activity.

Engagement with the NBI

The EgNDF has held several workshops with the NBI. Recently a key workshop focused on establishing future modes of cooperation and engagement and was attended by a large number of NBI officials, water experts, Ministry of Water representatives and media. The EgNDF aims to establish a partnership mechanism with governmental agencies to consolidate civil society participation in NBI projects, and to implement a Monitoring and Evaluation scheme so that NDF members can monitor and assess NBI activities themselves, as well as training civil society in policy engagement.

Research

A study is planned to assess the social and technical aspects of the Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Program (NTEAP) micro grants initiative. In addition research will be carried out on the influence of multi-stakeholder dialogues on the NBI, and on a number of scientific issues including the biodiversity of Nile islands, the efficiency of water use in agriculture and a cost-benefit analysis of the shift from flood irrigation to drip irrigation. These studies will inform future engagement with the NBI and local activities.

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