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Promoting social entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean Region

Consortium Leader:



European Partners:



Southern Mediterranean Partners:



Associated Partners:



Outline

- A. Egyptian Context
- B. Priorities
- C. Potential Local Partner
- D. Activities



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A) Egyptian Context

A.1) Current civil society scene in Egypt

A.2) Modality of working organizations

A.3) Main challenges

A.4) Relationship with the government

A.5) Implications of the new law



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A.1) Current civil society scene in Egypt

- In May 2017, Oxfam Egypt Country Office conducted a mapping exercise for the Civil Society Stakeholders. Mapping a total of 112 organizations and groups, divided into 69 civil society organizations and 43 donors, working in 5 different themes; Entrepreneurship, women, empowerment agriculture, and civic engagement and a newly theme was added through a desk review; migration.
- There are different modalities and structures that exist in Egypt. Some have legal exiting where others work without legal format, yet they have other affiliations that enable them to work.



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- Registered companies:

These are companies that are registered and affiliated to ministry of investment and International Cooperation- MIIC.

- NGOs and Associations:

These structures are affiliated to Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS). MoSS supervises their work through a monthly MoM and a yearly visit to check financial reports and technical ones.



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- Incubated projects

Some organizations provide legal umbrella along with technical support to the newly starting projects. These projects are normally in the starting phase and instead of establishing their own companies or NGOs, they apply for these organizations that support them for an average period of a year; i.e. TIEC, Gesr (Masr El-Kheir), and AUC venture capital.

- Youth initiatives/ groups

These are groups of young people that are gathered to implement an idea. Usually they are project-based and they do their activities through fundraising or on a voluntary basis.

- Others

In this category, iNGOs, and governmental entities/ initiatives are classified.



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A.3) Main challenges

- Most of the organizations highlighted that the availability of funding is one of the main challenges they face
- Their needs in relation to technical expertise especially those who are working in industrial based projects or in the agriculture field.
- As for the organizations that work in production, they faced challenges in marketing and opening new markets especially outside Egypt.
- The new law and the security limitations were mainly mentioned by organizations deal with research and collecting information and/ or organizing public events;
- The implications of floating the exchange rate and its effects in selling or importing some of the products or its ingredients.
- The agriculture sector, they highlighted the lack of funds to research and development as this is an area that needs long-term funding.
- The culture limitations especially when it comes to gender mainstreaming in the cooperate sector.



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- Initiation and formulation:

According to the Egyptian law, anyone that wants to register a private company, it has to be registered at the MIIC. On the other hand, NGOs and associations have to be formulated at MoSS.

- Informing and/ or Approval:

During the working phase of any of these organizations, all activities have to be documented and reported back to the affiliated ministry. MoSS supervises closely the work of NGOs and less closely the work of associations. On the hand private co. are more of informing MICC of their work.

For the foreign funding aspect, NGOs and associations are expected to wait for an official written approval from MoSS before they start using the money, as for private sector, they can start using it directly after signing a “contract service” with the donor agency or any other funder.



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A.4) Relationship with the government

- Partnership:

Some organizations succeeded to partner with the government in different ways. For example Nafham has a partnered with MCIT, where Not Guilty succeeded to have an approval from the MoE to implement their program in 300 schools; which is very to get as MoE is known as one of the most difficult ministries to work with especially when it comes to dealing directly with students.

- Strategic partnership

Few organizations were able to initiate and sustain strategic partnership with the government whether on the ministry level; i.e. Care international or governorates level; i.e. ENID.

- Advocacy:

Few organizations can be categorized in this section as they work on information accessibility, producing friendly publications, publish specialized recommendations; i.e. 10 tooba, shamseya, and TfC.



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A.5) Implications of the new law

- Some of the current working NGOs and CS organizations in Egypt perceived the new law as a new limitation for their work especially that puts criminal penalties for organizations that don't abide by the law unlike the old law that limited the penalties to administrative and financial penalties as long as it is not have a criminal nature
- On the other hand, the registered companies didn't have concerns about the new law, and some of them didn't even hear of it
- Worth to mention, that some of the donor agencies decided to channel their funds to registered companies as they need no approvals. As for the NGO, they s are becoming more cautious in getting any foreign funding and ensures official written approvals to avoid any problems with the government



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Situation with Local Partner

- Where is Sekem?



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Priorities

Oxfam Egypt can play a central role at two levels;

1. Organizational capacities: based on 2017 needs' assessment, a lot of organizations highlighted the need of improving their organizational capacities; strategic planning, operational execution, recruiting and maintain good calibers.

Mainly advised for SESOs before starting their own activities with their beneficiaries

2. Specialized training: as there are some organizations that works in very specialized areas; i.e. agriculture and manufacturing, they need access to advanced know-how whether in Egypt or outside Egypt, sorted by sector

In conclusion, the more Oxfam will be working on thematic basis and encourage joint actions, the more sustainable long impact will be achieved.



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Activities

First year Activities

Develop activities and working plan with our local partner

- Upon receiving approval of MoSS
- Or partnering with one of Sekem companies

Setting-up sub granting schemes for financial support to selected social enterprises

- Oxfam Egypt with the advise of The thematic Unit advisors

Visibility Plan

- Oxfam Egypt office in cooperation with the media and communication advisor

Setting the foundation of Egypt MEAL Plan

- Oxfam Egypt in cooperation with Lorenzo (MEAL Advisor)
- To be discussed with Sekem and adjusted according to the activities implementation plan

Provide technical support to SESOs to develop innovative products and services targeting social enterprises

- Oxfam Egypt advises Sekem on the methodology of implementation taking into consideration Impact Hub advises



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