

Evaluation Summary

Evaluation of the social protection policy-based loan in Egypt

Country: **Egypt**

Sector: **Social Protection**

Evaluator: **IQVIA**

Date of the evaluation: **April 2022**

Key data on AFD's support

Projet numbers: CEG 1077

Amount: EUR 60M + 3M€ TA

Disbursement rate: 100%

Signature of financing agreement: January 2019

Completion date: June 2020

Total duration: 18 Months

Context

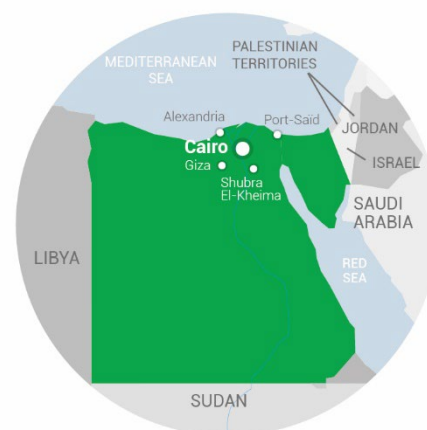
To support the Egyptian government in achieving the universal health insurance system (UHIS) by 2030, AFD has taken action to contribute to guarantee good-quality health care, increasing access to healthcare and improving the equity of the social protection system in Egypt.

AFD has provided assistance in the form of a Credit Facility (Policy based loan - PBL) for a global amount of up to EUR

60 million. It was approved to be accompanied by a Technical Assistance Grant of EUR 2 million and an in-kind technical assistance grant (FEXTE Grant) of EUR 1 million for the mobilization of technical assistance toward the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP).

Stakeholders of the program

The Ministry of Finance was responsible, through the Economic Justice Unit (EJU), for the coordination and implementation of the program, in close relationship with the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) which was co-responsible for the implementation of the Pillar 1. The EJU aims to promote a concerted vision of social protection within the government, as well as to improve coordination between existing social protection programs.



Objectives

The objective of AFD's intervention was to improve the equity and financial sustainability of the social protection system. It was structured around two pillars:

- Supporting the implementation of the Universal Health Insurance Law (UHIL); and
- Strengthening the capacity of the EJU to monitor social protection policies and improve spending efficiency.

Performance assessment

Relevance

The intervention was aligned with Egyptian health priorities and AFD's priority of reducing gender inequality. The choice of support appeared to be most relevant in the given context and was decided by considering the request from Egyptian counterparts and AFD's policies.

Effectiveness

By providing policy-based loan to the Government of Egypt, AFD accelerated the progress of the country towards universal health coverage and at the same time strengthened the institution for implementing and monitoring the social protection schemes. Policy Based Loan was effective in formulation and implementation of Universal Health Insurance Act. The intervention was also instrumental in enhancing the capacity of the Economic Justice Unit by strengthening the institutional structure, undertaking various studies and developing a monitoring and evaluation framework. However, the intervention didn't prove to be effective towards facilitating policy dialogue and technical cooperation. To achieve the objective of the intervention and have a long-term vision of full-fledged implementation of the reform, AFD exchanged dialogues to identify synergies across various development partners.

Efficiency

The intervention efficiently estimated and provided financial resources as per MoF's requirement. The estimation of resources for provision of TA were also aligned with project requirement and the resources were optimally converted into desired outcomes and achievement of important milestones/triggers. Additionally, performance-based disbursement process was very efficient and supported in the progress of reform. AFD was able to efficiently hire a consultant for conducting detailed study and recommend a roadmap for EJU which proved to be very useful.

Sustainability

Sustainability was approached by AFD and Egyptian partners by various mechanisms like imparting training to EJU officials, conducting study tours, developing a foundation for full-fledged implementation of UHIL including support for setting up institutional structures and developing monitoring framework, and by designing a follow-up Policy Based Loan for maintaining continuity.

Added value of AFD's contribution

AFD has been involved in information sharing meetings since 2016 and has been supporting the development of UHIL back-stage since then. Policy-based loan happens to be the first intervention of AFD in the social protection sector in Egypt. AFD has been identified as an agency which was consistent, flexible, knowledgeable, and always willing to support throughout the intervention.

Developments in the sector

The PBL helped in formulating mandate and providing technical assistance in developing tool to carry out EJU's function of assessment of social protection program. This allowed EJU to champion negotiation to involve many worthy initiatives that are being undertaken by the development partners like World Bank, JICA and WHO. The EJU itself is proactively engaging in different initiatives in Social Protection Sector like projects with the Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Supply, and the other line ministries, with regard to subsidy programs and cash transfer programs.

Conclusions and lessons learnt

PBL was aligned not only with health strategies as outlined in the 2030 strategy but also with the objective to contribute to decreasing poverty which is caused by sickness and cost of treatment. It also promoted aspects of gender equity.

Policy matrix indicators / triggers were found to be realistic and performance-based disbursement provided the UHIL reform with the required pace. Achievement of two triggers were delayed due to Covid 19 and other required procedures in Egypt.

Financing tool worked on expanding the sense of local ownership. The TA component cost was a source of conflict which was resolved in the following current phase.

Only the policy dialogue which was to be organized by EJU did not show the expected results. However, effective dialogue happened at the beginning of the intervention between the Egyptian stakeholders and AFD, and between AFD and DPs. Success of this phase is proved by the realization of the need for further assistance during the implementation and roll out.

Based on the results of the evaluation, some points came to light to focus on such as developing a digital platform to facilitate the coordination between 3 UHI authorities, improve the feedback mechanism to strengthen patient engagement, and enhance private sector enrollment in UHIS.