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Middle East & North Africa

Operational Innovations to  
address Gender Gaps in the  
Egypt COVID-19 Project.

# Project overview

- US\$ 50 million (IPF with PBCs)
- 60% PBC-based, 40% Input based financing
- 40% retroactive financing.
- PBCs focusing on results in terms of: (i) Contextualized messaging; (ii) Training of staff on IPC measures; (iii) Contact tracing; (iv) Technical plans (national and vulnerable groups) as well as NGO participation.
- Input based : PPE's and medical equipment

# COVID-19 is expected to have different impacts by gender

- Males make up nearly 60.7 percent of confirmed cases and represent more than 70 percent of COVID-19 deaths.
- Women represent a very high proportion of the health workforce, particularly in nursing making up around 42.4 percent of doctors and 91.1 percent of nursing staff working for the MOHP.
- 73.1 percent of nursing staff in hospitals and therapeutic facilities in the private sector are women.
- Women in the health sector are therefore more likely to be exposed to the virus and dealing with enormous stress balancing professional work and household roles.
- In addition, as schools close and family members fall sick, the burden of care of children and sick family members is likely to fall on women.
- Domestic violence may also increase with increased stress and anxiety.

The project presents innovative approaches to support health care workers and women at large .

1. Corona Incentive pay
2. Gender tailored contextualized messaging to the public.
3. Staff training on Infection Prevention and Control that is Gender inclusive.
4. Development of a national comprehensive COVID strategy with a focus on Gender issues.
5. Data collection and monitoring will be done in a gender- and age-disaggregated manner

# 1- Corona Incentive Pay

- Paid through exceptional contingency support from the treasury.
- Dedicated to healthcare workers and to a lesser extent to public-facing civil servants.
- Fixed Monthly base amount
- Adjustments (additional amounts based on):
  - Time spent facing confirmed COVID patients
  - Higher risk departments (e.g. ICU)
  - Older age
  - High risk condition : Chronic organ disease, hypertension, diabetics.
  - Job Seniority

# Gender tailored contextualized messaging to the public

- Development and implementation of cost-effective modalities related to handwashing, social distancing, facemasks wearing by the public, protecting high risk groups and care seeking, etc.
- Attention will be paid to the specific concerns and behaviors of different genders (including their different respective roles in promoting children's hygiene) and high-risk groups.
- Support also includes ongoing outreach activities by different sectors, especially those by the ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture and Transport.
- People with pre-existing conditions ( linking with the national NCDs database) with less access to smart phones and the internet will receive either phone calls or access to a hotline.
- Also includes messages related to parenting, conflict resolution, and stress/anger management.

# Staff training on Infection Prevention and Control that is Gender inclusive.

- Support to the training of health workers and first responders (including physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, physiotherapists, medical technicians and community health workers) in IPC and risk mitigation measures.
- Appropriate training modalities will be used to ensure the participation of both genders reflecting the staff demographic composition.

# Development of a national comprehensive COVID strategy with a focus on Gender issues

- Support the development and adoption of a comprehensive national COVID-19 response strategy covering key areas such as: (i) stewardship; (ii) governance considering local or subnational capacities and coordination mechanisms for their adaptation plans; (iii) clinical definitions; (iv) prevention and control measures; (v) treatment; (vi) case detection, contact tracing and surveillance systems; (vi) citizen engagement and communication; and (vii) **gender, environmental and social safeguards**.
- Done through a precursor dedicated study on addressing high risk groups: old age, chronic disease, pregnant women, those with HIV and others exposed to domestic violence.



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**Thank you**