



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

2023 – Revised Template

Period covered: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Table of contents

1.	BASIC PROJECT DATA	2
2.	PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) (DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE)	
3.	IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS (IP)	12
4.	SUMMARY ON PROGRESS AND RATINGS	18
5.	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS (ESS)	22
6.	RISKS	24
7.	FOLLOW-UP ON MID-TERM REVIEW OR SUPERVISION MISSION	30
8.	MINOR PROJECT AMENDMENTS	31
9.	STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT	33
10.	GENDER MAINSTREAMING	36
11.	KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	38
12.	INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES INVOLVEMENT	42
12	CO-FINANCING TARIF	13

1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Near East and North Africa				
Country (ies):	Egypt				
Project Title:	Sustainable Management of Kharga Oasis Agro-Ecosystems in the				
	New Valley Governorate				
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP/EGY/030/GFF				
GEF ID:	9928				
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity, climate change				
Project Executing Partners:	Ministry of Agriculture and land reclamation (Desert Research				
	Center, agricultural directorate)				
Initial project duration (years):	3 years				
Project coordinates:	NA				
This section should be completed ONLY by:					
a) Projects with 1st PIR;					
b) In case the geographic coverage of project					
activities has changed since last reporting period.					
periou.					

Project Dates

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	14 December 2018
Project Implementation Start	1November 2019
Date/EOD:	
Project Implementation End	31 December 2021
Date/NTE¹:	
Revised project implementation End	31 July 2023
date (if approved) ²	, '

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	1,045,890
Total Co-financing amount (USD) ³ :	9,000,000
Total GEF grant delivery (as of June	991,304
30, 2023 (USD):	
Total GEF grant actual expenditures	933,699
(excluding commitments) as of June	
30, 2023 (USD) ⁴ :	
Total estimated co-financing	9,837,707
materialized as of June 30, 2023 ⁵	

¹ As per FPMIS

 $^{^{\}mathrm{2}}$ If NTE extension has been requested and approved by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

³ This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO Document/Project Document.

 $^{^{\}rm 4}$ The amount should show the values included in the financial statements generated by IMIS.

⁵ Please refer to the Section 13 of this report where updated co-financing estimates are requested and indicate the total co-financing amount materialized.

M&E Milestones

Date of Last Project Steering	3 rd August 2022
Committee (PSC) Meeting:	
Expected Mid-term Review date ⁶ :	NA
Actual Mid-term review date (if	NA
already completed):	
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date ⁷ :	July 2023
Tracking tools (TT)/Core indicators (CI)	Yes
updated before MTR or TE stage	
(provide as Annex)	

Overall ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes	Satisfactory
(cumulative):	
Overall implementation progress	Satisfactory
rating:	,
Overall risk rating:	Low

ESS risk classification

ent ESS Risk classification:	Low
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Status

Implementation Status	Final PIR
(1 st PIR, 2 nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	

Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail	
Project Coordinator (PC)	Ashraf Elsadek, CTA/ FAOEG	ashraf.elsadek@fao.org	
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Lead Technical Officer (LTO)	Forestry Officer/FAORNE	g	
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	Mohamed Bergigui	mohamed.bergigui@fao.org	

⁶ The Mid-Term Review (MTR) should take place after the 2nd PIR, around half-point between EOD and NTE. The MTR report in English should be submitted to the GEF Secretariat within 4 years of the CEO Endorsement date.

⁷ The Terminal Evaluation date should be discussed with OED 6 months before the project's NTE date.

2. Progress towards Achieving Project Objective(s) (Development Objective)

(All inputs in this section should be cumulative from project start, not annual)

Please indicate the project's main progress towards achieving its objective(s) and the cumulative level of achievement of each outcome since the start of project implementation.

Project or Outcome		Mid-	Mid-	End-of-	Cumulative progress ¹⁰ since project start	Dungungs		
Development Objective	Outcomes	indicators ⁸	Baseline	term Target ⁹	project Target	Level at 30 June 2023	Progress rating ¹¹	
Objective:	•	Component 1: Building an enabling environment for sustainable land, water and agro-biodiversity management contributing to produ						
Ensure	oasis agro-ecosys	tems			T			
sustainable	Outcome 1.					Cumulative progress is estimated at 100%		
food	Strengthened					based on:		
production	institutional,				80% of			
systems that	management	Participants of			participants	• The capacity development plan for the key		
help maintain	and technical	workshops and			– both	governorate institutions based on the results of		
and	capacities of	other learning			women and	both the capacity needs assessment and KAP		
progressively	key stakeholder	activities apply			men equally	survey was developed.		
improve soil	groups at the	newly acquired	0%		- report	 Six functional and technical training topics were 		
quality and	Governorate	technical and	070		systematic	selected by the 30 participants of the validation	S	
agro-	level in order to	functional			application	workshop. Five institutions are being benefited		
biodiversity	support the	knowledge			of new	from training their staff.		
status in oasis	mainstreaming	systematically			knowledge	• A total of 105 participants (67 males and 38		
agro-	of sustainable	Josephacicany			in KAP	<u>females)</u> from the different project		
ecosystems of	management of				surveys	stakeholders_attended the selected training		
the Egyptian	land, water and					_According to the KAP study, 77.5% of training		
Western	agro-					participants stated they strongly implemented		
Desert	biodiversity					what they had learned, while 21.17% said they		

⁸This is taken from the approved results framework of the project.

⁹Some indicators may not identify mid-term targets at the design stage (refer to approved results framework) therefore this column should only be filled when relevant.

¹⁰Please report on results obtained in terms of Global Environmental Benefits and Socio-economicCo-benefits as well.

¹¹Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory** (HS), **Satisfactory** (S), **Moderately Satisfactory** (MS), **Moderately Unsatisfactory** (MU), **Unsatisfactory** (U), and **Highly Unsatisfactory** (HU).

into development investments	DRC provides more targeted support to farmer communities in oasis agro- ecosystems on SLWM and agro- biodiversity conservation	Existing DRC objectives , strategies and plans poorly embed SLWM and agro- biodiversi ty conservati on DRC procedure s for planning, managem ent and monitorin g of support		Reviewed and strengthene d DRC objectives, strategies, plans and procedures for planning, managemen t and monitoring of service delivery to farmer communitie s	applied the knowledge they had received just moderately. Cumulative progress is estimated at 90% based on: Improvement frameworks have been recommended after reviewing the DRC's strategy, programmes, and goals. Due to the DRC president's initial refusal to perform such a study, there has been a delay in the implementation of this activity. On June 14, a visit to the DRC headquarter in Cairo was held to meet with DRC officials to clarify the scope of the strategy revision study. The suggested revision's adoption was measured. Out of the 16 suggested interventions, 5 (31.25%) have been implemented, 4 (25%) are nearing completion. Six interventions have not yet begun, while one has just begun. Unfortunately it will be difficult to monitor the implementation of the remaining interventions due to the project's termination.		
		services is lacking			termination.		
Component 2: Demonstrate effective and efficient SLWM and agro-biodiversity conservation practices to improve oasis agro-ecosystems in 3 pilot sites to sustain food production and livelihoods							
Outcome 2:							
Improved	landscapes		ha		based on:		
management and sustainable use of oasis	under sustainable land and water				 - 4338 ha through 105 FFSs linked to SLWM and agrobiodiversity conservation practices and 196 demonstration plots attended by 		
agro- ecosystems through the	management in production systems				2956 farmers - A natural resources management plan was developed for the three intervention sites.		

introduction of locally adapted and adopted SLWM practices and agrobiodiversity conservation			Key soil and water indicators and their magnitude in the three villages were identified and/or mapped. The NRM plan was validated through three workshops that were held at the three villages and were attended by 75 farmers followed by a workshop that was held with local officials and key farmers from the three villages. The monitoring and management arrangements of the NR management plan were identified. This included the establishment of the 3 local development committees. A total number of 105 farmers and staff members of Ag. Directorate, irrigation directorate and DRC station were trained as facilitators for the farmers field schools. 35 FFSs facilitators received the Training of master trainers. The FFSs plans and curriculum were developed through the two LoAs with DRC and NVU A total number of 105 FFSs were established in the three villages during the winter season of 2021/2022, summer and fall seasons of 2022 The Union of Agricultural councils in New Valley was contracted to monitor the status of Natural resources in the three villages. Four trainings were delivered for building the capacity of the local development committees' members on natural resources management The project marketing groups were created and received a technical training on different marketing issues	
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				 196 demonstration plots were established on the sustainable management of faba bean and wheat The establishment of the biological control Lab at the DRC station in Kharga Three shredders and three seed crushers were purchased delivered to the three cooperatives The project included several additional activities connected to the management of salt-affected soils, such as the improvement of drainage status and the introduction of the Panicum crop (Panicum maximum cv.Mombasa), which was cultivated in 30 fields. 	
	0 species	3 species	3 species	Cumulative progress is estimated at 100 % based on:	
Improved diversity status of selected target species				 A total of 96 wild species were detected through the agrobiodiversity assessment study, from which 22 species were identified as crop wild relatives. The 3 most important worldwide CWRs to be conserved were selected via a workshop that was conducted in presence of the project stakeholders and it was attended by 60 (40 males and 20 females) participants. Through an LoA, the Environment Without Borders foundation (NGO), a seed bank at the DRC station in Kharga was created. The project collected the seeds of all the 22 crop wild relatives including the three selected by the stakeholders and 28 landraces and were conserved at the seed bank. In 2022/2023 winter season some of the landraces were propagated at the DRC 	S

				experimental farm and redistributed among the local farmers	
Number of community-based initiatives supporting local development	0	0	3	 Cumulative progress is estimated at 100% based on: The Academy of Scientific Research and Technology was contracted to carry out these activities. One study was conducted on the agrienterpreneurship in New Valley and included SWOT analysis to help focusing activities into areas of strengths and where the greatest opportunities lie. Four workshops to present and discuss the agro entrepreneurship opportunities and were attended by 46 participants Four entrepreneurship camps were organized (Ideation camp, business model canvas, Start And Improve Your Business , and Rural invest) Six community based initiatives have been selected and funded by the project with a total grant of 300,000 EGP The six funded initiatives are: Al-Abadi for Agricultural Products, EMY Herbs, Tasty Food Valley, The Happy Farm, Healthy Milk and Vermi Tea A monitoring plan for the winning initiatives was prepared 	S
Increased awareness of the roles of women and men in the sustainable management and use of	TBC	N/A	Self-assessed increased awareness	Cumulative progress is estimated at 100% based on: A raising awareness plan in the context of SLWM practices and agrobiodiversity conservation was prepared and the following activities were conducted; 16 training courses, 13 workshops, 9 field visits, 3 technical and scientific competitions for farmers and university	S

natural resources				students, communication and visibility materials, social networking and radio programs. > 630 farmers (10-15 % women) have been trained in aspect of SLWM practices and agrobiodiversity conservation. The low participation of women is due to the limited number of women practicing agriculture although they own the land in few cases. > For the above reason, special training sessions were assigned to women e.g., Improving women's diet using moringa which were attended by 150 women in the three villages. > For all the training events, the improvement of participants' knowledge in the SLWM and agrobiodiversity topics was assessed and ranged from 20-40% and reached above 60% in some cases > To raise the awareness of the role of men and women in NR management, 120 participants (40-50% women and almost 20% youth) were engaged in the NR mapping activity in the three villages. Key natural resources indicators were identified in a participatory manner. A final map was developed and analyzed for each village	
% of women entrepreneurs that have been granted credit for community-based initiatives	0	N/A	At least 50%	3 out of the 6 funded initiatives were granted to women	S

Outcome 3: Achievements and lessons of the project are well established and perpetuated	Number and types of documents and tools developed to monitor and evaluate the project and share knowledge	None	- M&E framework developed - md-term and final evaluation conducted - communicati on strategy developed - communicati on materials are produced - reports are regularly submitted	Cumulative progress is estimated at 80% based on: Project communication strategy was developed Project webpage was created 500 CRW atlas was published and other products are under preparation 1000 brochures, 3 roll-ups developed and distributed to smallholder farmers Three steering committee meetings were conducted A video on project activities was produced DRC was participated in 2 scientific networks i.e., the world association of soil and water conservation and global water partnership Inception workshop was conducted The project M& E plan was created Technical reports and the project progress reports are submitted in a timely manner The terminal report is developed Two evaluators have been hired and began to work.	S
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Measures taken to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings on Section 2

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
Outcome 1. Strengthened institutional, management and technical capacities of key stakeholder groups at the Governorate level in order to support the mainstreaming of sustainable management of land, water and agro- biodiversity into development investments	1.3.3 Assist the DRC in the understanding, validation and adoption of the proposed revisions. The project recommends that the execution of the agreed amendments be monitored via the new TCP project signed with DRC.	Project PMU	July 2023

3. Implementation Progress (IP)

(Please indicate progress achieved during this FY as per the Implementation Plan/Annual Workplan)

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹³ (please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
Component 1: Build ecosystems	ing an enabling environment for sustainable	land, water and ag	gro-biodiversity management contributing to productive oa	sis agro-
Output 1.1: Capacity needs assessment and KAP conducted of MoALR and Irrigation Directorate agencies at the Governorate level	-One KAP study at the end of the project		 Implementation status (90%) The post-KAP study was undertaken and the first draft of the report was submitted and revised. The report is awaiting for the final clearance from the LTO 	
Output 1.2: Based on the capacity needs assessment and KAP, a capacity development plan prepared and implemented in order to equip these agencies	- A total of 6 technical and functional training delivered for the stakeholders' staff		 Implementation status (100%) All the six functional and technical training were delivered. A further session on GIS was held to assess the trainees' comprehension of the subject by giving them assignments, which were then evaluated by the consultant, in order to make sure they applied what they had learnt. 	

¹²Outputs as described in the project Logframe or in any approved project revision.

¹³Please use the same unit of measurement of the project indicators as per the approved Implementation Plan or Annual Workplan. Please be concise (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

¹⁴Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

with the functional and technical capacities needed to fully support farmer communities in their transition towards SLWM and agrobiodiversity conservation adoption Output 1.3: Agencies' (DRC in primis) objectives, strategies, plans and procedures for planning, management and monitoring are reviewed in support of SLWM and agrobiodiversity conservation mainstreaming Component 2: Demosustain food produc	_	ro-biodiversity con	Implementation status (90%) A proposal for supporting the institutional structure and capacity enhancement of the DRC to support local communities and better mainstreaming SLWM practices is developed. The PMU explained the major components of the study to the DRC and helped its management in implementing some of the suggested measures. Out of the 16 suggested interventions, 5 (31.25%) have been implemented, 4 (25%) are nearing completion. Six interventions have not yet begun, while one has just begun. Unfortunately it will not be difficult to monitor the implementation of the remaining interventions due to the project's termination.	The execution of this activity was delayed based on DRC president recommendation and the consultant was hired by the first of February 2023. There was no funding allocated in the PRODOC to carry out this activity.
Output 2.1: Local	An awareness raising plan		Implementation status (100%)	
smallholder farmer communities in the 3 pilot sites have increased awareness of the	No. of workshops, training sessions and thematic days delivered in the pilot sites		Reported in the first PIR	

need to sustainably manage agro- ecosystems (land, water and agro- biodiversity) in order to support food production and livelihoods			
Output 2.2: In a participatory and integrated way, and guided by DRC, a sustainable land management plan for 3 pilot sites in the Kharga oasis agroecosystem developed	A report on Water accounting and auditing	 Implementation status (100%) The water accounting and auditing activity was conducted for the 2021/2022 growing season this includes the production of crop mapping, calculation of the groundwater discharge and crops water consumption, data collection on groundwater qualit geohydrology characteristics of the area. The report was prepared by the project team and cleared by the LTO 	у,
Output 2.3: Local smallholder farmer communities in the 3 pilot sites of the Kharga oasis agro-ecosystem are trained on a selection of SLWM practices and conservation and monitoring of agro-biodiversity through the Farmer Field School approach	 A well-implemented 100 FFSs in place At least 6 PMGs " project marketing groups" within the 3 intervention sites are created N of facilitators received the ToT training Community seed bank established 	 Implementation status (100%) 35 FFSs facilitators received the Training of master trainers. A total number of 105 FFSs were established in the three villages during the winter season of 2021/2022 summer and fall seasons of 2022 Through an LoA, the Environment Without Borders foundation (NGO) created the seed bank at the DRC station in Kharga. Three training sessions on establishing and managing a seed bank, one training on seed selection, production and cleaning and three workshops on mapping crops, varieties and food plants diversity were delivered. 196 demonstration plots were established on the sustainable management of faba bean and wheat The establishment of the biological control Lab at the DRC station in Kharga 	project's objectives, additional activities were carried out to increase the number of beneficiaries, such as the establishment of

		 Three shredders and three seed crushers were purchased and were delivered to the three cooperatives The project included several additional activities connected to the management of salt-affected soils, such as the improvement of drainage statues and the introduction of the Panicum crop, which was cultivated in 30 fields. The project marketing groups were created and received a technical training on different marketing issues 	added 1,176 beneficiaries (total number became 2,956), allowing the project to exceed its target of 2,700 farmers while also providing a good spatial coverage of the project activities.
Output 2.4: Business models for 3 community- based initiatives assessed and implemented, creating new revenue streams from the sustainable production, processing and/or marketing of agricultural oasis products	 One study on SWOT analysis One study on agro entrepreneurship elements analysis Four workshops to present and discuss the agro entrepreneurship opportunities Four entrepreneurship camps are organized 3 community based initiative are financed and implemented Monitoring plan for the progress of the initiatives 	Implementation status (100%) ➤ The Academy of Scientific Research and Technology was contracted to carry out these activities ➤ One study was conducted on the agrienterpreneurship in New Valley and included SWOT analysis to help focusing activities into areas of strengths and where the greatest opportunities lie. ➤ Four workshops to present and discuss the agroentrepreneurship opportunities and were attended by 46 participants ➤ Four entrepreneurship camps were organized (Ideation camp, business model canvas, Start And Improve Your Business, and Rural invest) ➤ Six community based initiatives were financed and implemented. ➤ The decision of selection was taken by a committee that included the project manager, the head of the SMEs authority, the director of the agricultural directorate, and officials from the academy and NVU. ✓ The 6 initiatives were granted a total amount of 300,000 EGP ➤ A monitoring plan for the winning initiatives was	Due to the large number of applications received, the project was planned to undertake and finance three community-based initiatives. The project increased the number of initiatives that were undertaken to six, half of which were led by women and all of them had female participants.

		 ✓ The project, the startup, and the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology all signed a tri-agreement. According to the agreement, a 3-month technical and functional report shall be presented to the project and then to the academy after the project's completion to measure the development of each initiative. ➢ The first technical and financial report due in May was already submitted by each initiative 	
Output 2.5: Innovative microfinancing options assessed to support future sustainable livelihood development community-based initiatives	A study on micro-financing options One workshop to present the results /ledge management for project results up-sca	Implementation status (100%) ➤ The final draft of the report was delivered and was cleared by the LTO . ➤ The validation workshop was conducted on 28 May.	
Output 3.1: Recommendations are put forth for the further improvement of agro-ecosystem services in Kharga and other oases of the Western Desert in order to achieve sustainable food production and livelihoods	N1 communication strategy N 2scientific articles N1 video about project activities N2 DRC participated in 2 scientific networks N3 steering committee meetings	Implementation status (100%) Project communication strategy was developed 500 CRW atlas was published and other products are under preparation Three steering committee meetings were conducted A video on project activities was produced DRC was participated in 2 scientific networks i.e., the world association of soil and water conservation and global water partnership	According to the agreement reached at the start of the project between FAO and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, no data from the project's findings shall be released. As

2023 Project Implementation Report

			a result, despite the fact that many publishable results were obtained, no scientific articles were published.
Output 3.2: The project's results and lessons are identified, documented, and reported upon in a timely manner	1 project terminal report Conduct the final evaluation Prepare and disseminate the terminal report 1 closing workshop	 Implementation status (100%) Terminal report was created and submitted to the reporting Dept. The Two evaluators have submitted the first draft of the evaluation report. The closing workshop took place on July 20 	

4. Summary on Progress and Ratings

Please provide a summary paragraph on progress, challenges and outcomes of project implementation consistent with the information reported in sections 2 and 3 of the PIR (max 400 words)

Since its launch, the project has successfully completed all its expected results and related activities following a participatory approach with a high-level engagement and commitments from its national partners and other parties. Among those achieved results some have stabilised its impact in Kharga Oasis, as follows:

- > 105 staff members from the agricultural directorate, irrigation directorate, DRC station and the NV governorate have their capacities improved on different functional and technical topics including; 21 staff members received the training on the application of Geographic Information System (GIS) and remote sensing in NR management. 41 staff members from the same entities attended functional trainings on crisis and risk management, Building partnerships for sustainable development and Communication skills and problem solving. A second level of training on GIS application on natural resources management were organized and attended by 16 trainees. Training on integrated groundwater management in the western desert was attended by 12 trainees. And finally a technical training was delivered on the agrobiodiversity assessment and conservation and was attended by 17 participants.
- A total number of 105 Farmer Filed Schools (FFSs) in 2021/2022 winter season and summer and Nili seasons of 2022 were implemented in the field of Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM) practices and agrobiodiversity conservation for field crops i.e., tomato, clover, wheat, barley, date palm, faba bean and poultry and were attended by 1,780 farmers (273 females and 1507 males).
- > 1,176 farmers were trained on the use of organic and bio-fertilizers through the demonstration plots of wheat (103 plots) and fababean (93 plots).
- > 22 Crop Wild Relative (CWR) and 28 landraces were conserved in the established seed bank at the DRC station in Kharga.
- ➤ 383 beneficiaries from the three villages were technically supported on agri-entrepreneurship and 32 community based initiative (startups) were developed from which six initiatives formally by the project and granted a total amount of 300,000 EGP. As a result, 20 jobs were created of which half of them were reserved for women, in addition to seven other jobs were created for women, including one technician position at the DRC station in Kharga and six sewing machine-equipped positions.
- > Other results were achieved beyond the initial workplan to maximize the benefit, such as supporting the creation of a biological control lab in DRC, purchasing shredders and seed crushers, introducing the new crops such as Panicum, the poultry FFSs and assisting local women with income-generating activities.

Major challenges experienced by the project

- The number of women beneficiaries in the project document is higher than what can be achieved due to the nature of the local community of Kharga oasis, women are envisaged to work in the field. Based on the Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) study, the project though of integrating some activities that would meet their nature and the restricted cultural norms of the western desert communities. This issue was clearer in Nasser El Thawra village where women don't participate in any agricultural activities. Women's participation in the FFSs was quite limited because to the low number of women working in agriculture in the oasis. However, the project made further attempts and efforts to expand their participation by establishing poultry FFSs (9) aimed specifically to women. As a result, their participation in the FFSs was increased to 15%.
- Implementing a large number of FFSs in only three villages posed challenges in terms of group formation (some fields were located on the outside of the communities, where population density is quite low). Furthermore, finding a large number of trained facilitators in only three villages was difficult, thus each facilitator was allocated to more than one FFS to supervise.
- The high diversity of project activities in many topics, such as capacity building and development, water accounting and auditing, farmer field schools, community-based initiatives, and agrobiodiversity conservation, increased the number and nature of activities and required contracting several service providers and consultants, the natter the required close monitoring of those activities to ensure their effectiveness. The project team had to expend extra work and resources to bring the situations back on track and provide the needed technical and logistical support to all parties.
- Also, some challenges were faced in terms of accomplishing the targeted activities by the end of the implementation date (31 October 2022) due to the delay in obtaining the necessary national clearance for the Project's launch. Before its end the Project was granted a no cost extension on 24 August 2022. However, it would be much efficient if it was obtained since the launch of the Project to ensure well-implementation.

Development Objective (DO) Ratings, Implementation Progress (IP) Ratings and Overall Assessment

Please note that the overall DO and IP ratings should be substantiated by evidence and progress reported in the Section 2 and Section 3 of the PIR. For DO, the ratings and comments should reflect the overall progress of project results.

		FY2023 Development Objective rating ¹⁵	FY2023 Implementation Progress rating ¹⁶	Comments/reasons ¹⁷ justifying the ratings for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project / Coord	Manager linator	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	- Despite significant delays induced by the COVID-19 epidemic, difficulties in recruiting and posting national consultants, and other delays relating to administrative and coordinating issues at the Governorate level, the project was able to achieve its goals. The Project's followed participatory approach during the execution and monitoring phases, which included representation from several stakeholders, was deemed beneficial and enhanced the level of government commitment towards achieving the Project's objectives. The diversity of the DRC and NVU technical team and speciality; assisted the Project in resolving several technical challenges. The governor's and local authorities' support to the project was extremely beneficial in carrying out the project's operations. The project team's awareness of other FAO and DRC projects in the same or similar areas contributed to the addition of new activities or the improvement of the quality of the delivered activities.
Budget	Holder	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	The project was effectively implemented, addressing a host of regulatory, social and logistical constraints, and has satisfactorily met its objectives. Given the nature of the location and the local security limitations, this project was among a very few internationally-financed projects in the New Valley Governorate. Supporting oasis ecosystem was critically important and the stakeholders have expressed great satisfaction and appreciation for the technical and knowledge-empowerment they received. The Governor of New Valley has already

¹⁵ **Development Objectives Rating** – A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁶ **Implementation Progress Rating** – A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project's components and activities is in compliance with the projects approved implementation plan. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁷ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

			developed proposals for scaling up the activities seeking donor funding as well as government support.
			Thanks to the project, sustainable land and water management agenda have been well placed in the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in Egypt 2023-2027.
GEF Operational Focal Point ¹⁸	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	The project has successfully achieved its goals as the first GEF-funded project carried out by FAO in Egypt. We are glad to endorse the report and its contents and I express my best wishes for future collaboration with FAO in similar projects.
Lead Technical Officer ¹⁹	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Despite all the shortcomings encountered by the project, as listed above, the project is successfully achieved most of its objectives, and yielded satisfactory results. To date, the project has made significant progress in terms of development objectives such as the area of landscape under sustainable land and water management practices and the improved diversity status of selected target species. The project showed a satisfactory implementation pattern and reached a delivery of high percentages in most of its activities. All what is needed is to complete the remaining activities during the rest of the project life, plan a closing workshop showing lessons learned, prepare success stories to be shared with larger audience and finally use project's results to approach donors for fund raising to enable expansion to other geographical areas.
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	The perseverance of the project team and the valuable support received from project partners and stakeholders were key for the project to overcome obstacles, accelerate delivery and successfully meet most of its targets. Building on the findings and recommendations of the TE, it is crucial to sustain project results through capacities built, partnerships established, and knowledge generated. Lessons learned, tools developed and good practices should be widely disseminated and replicated at scale across the oasis landscapes to catalyse global environmental benefits and livelihoods.

 $^{^{18}}$ In case the GEF OFP didn't provide his/her comments, please explain the reason. 19 The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

This section is under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

Please describe the progress made to comply with the approved ESM plan. Note that only projects with <u>moderate</u> or <u>high</u> Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement. This does not apply to <u>low</u> risk projects. Please indicate if new risks have emerged during this FY.

Social & Environmental Risk Impacts identified at CEO Endorsement	Expected mitigation measures	Actions taken during this FY	Remaining measures to be taken	Responsibility
ESS 1: Natural Resource Management				
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habita	ts			
ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agricu	lture			
ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Res	ources for Food and Agricultur	e		
ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management				
ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement				
ESS 7: Decent Work				
ESS 8: Gender Equality				
ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage				
New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY				

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate:

Initial ESS Risk classification	Current ESS risk classification
(At project submission)	Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²⁰ . If not, what is the new classification
	and explain.
Low risk	Yes, it is still valid

Please report if any grievance was received as per FAO and GEF ESS policies. If yes, please indicate how it is being/has been addressed.
NA

²⁰ **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has changed, the ESM Unit (<u>Esm-unit@fao.org</u>) should be contacted. The project shall prepare or amend an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or other ESS instruments and management tools based on the new risk classification (please refer to page 13 https://www.fao.org/3/cb9870en/cb9870en.pdf)

6. Risks

The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and reflects also any new risks identified during the project implementation (including COVID-19 related risks). The last column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in the project, as relevant.

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
1	Public health risk: Nationwide mobilization limitation due to Covid 19 pandemic	Moderate	N	Monitoring of the situation , follow the instructions and messages disseminated by FAO	Prevention measures are being implemented during meetings, workshops and trainings (regular washing of hands, measuring of temperature, wearing of masks and distancing) and, messagesare widely disseminatedfrom various media (radioand television), NGO andUnited NationsOrganizations (pamphlets,posters, etc.). following biosafety measures and minimizing risks for personnel performing field activities	

²¹ Risk ratings means a rating of the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High. For more information on ratings and definitions please refer to Annex 1.

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
2	Administrative risk: There is insufficient inter and intra government cooperation.	Moderate	Y	DRC is being equipped through component 1 activities to take a more central role in coordination and intra-governmental consultation and communication. Furthermore, during project implementation, the PMU will liaise with a number of players simultaneously to ensure appropriate coordination of activities of geographically linked investments. The Project Steering Committee (interdisciplinary, multi-level and multi-stakeholder by design) will review coordination mechanisms and engagement strategies on a regular basis.	Has extensive work experience in the governorate, solid relationships with all the governorate's stakeholders, and the advantages of the project. The DRC with PMU were able to control how smoothly the tasks were carried out. When it came time to implement the DRC's revised plan and strategy, the DRC president, thinking that this was an evaluation for the DRC administration, declined to support the project activities in one instance. However, after numerous discussions and careful coordination between FAO and DRC, the issue was resolved, and the study was finished.	

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
3	Environmental risk: Climate change leads to increased threats to oasis agro-ecosystems, through increased water stress, soil salinity, pests, diseases and changing climate conditions (temperature, precipitation).	Low	Y	Dry spells can occur during the project implementation phase and have been plaguing the area for a long time already. Though climate change adaptation is not the main objective of this project, it is part and partial of the project's logic and sustainability plan to propose climate resilient solutions. Therefore, it is considered that by greatly improving land and water management, the production land would become more climate resilient in the New Valley oases. As for other risks, the situation will be monitored and the project approach adapted as necessary with support of the appropriate institutes in the country.	The project team, DRC, and NVU were able to design agricultural practises that can mitigate and adapt to climate change scenarios thanks to careful study of the situation on the ground during the first season. Examples of these practises include the use of heat-tolerant crops and varieties and integrated water management practises.	

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
4	Political and institutional risk: The current level of commitment, interest and participation by the local partners, the Governorate in particular, diminishes because other priorities appear.	Low	Y	The likelihood for this risk to occur is considered rather low, as the Governor has been recently reconfirmed in his position, a term that should bridge the full duration of project implementation. Furthermore, the highly participatory and cross-sector approach of the project makes it less dependent of one player, whether this is an individual or institution. Working on the enabling environment and knowledge management, through components 1 and 3, a tendency in favour of the project's narrative is expected.	The New Valley governor was kept up to date on the project's development and took part in a field visit to the project intervention areas as well as a meeting with farmer beneficiaries. This helped the governor trust in the project and its accomplishments since he had doubts about the project's beneficial impact because it is mostly dependent on technical services rather than hardware services.	

5	Socio-economic risk: Technical measures are not fully implemented or recognized in the selected areas because of economic pressure for development and insufficient capacity.	Moderate	Y	Media campaigns/sensitization and awareness raising messages about the benefits of sustainable land and water management, agrobiodiversity conservation and oasis agro-ecosystem restoration have been foreseen. This operates at the local/community level, and is complemented by the work at the institutional level in component 1. Capacity on approaches and practices of the local farmer community will be built using the tried and tested Farmer Field School approach, which has a high success rate when it comes to uptake and replication. The economic viability of proposed and demonstrated practices and approaches is a key criteria in the selection	 The project began in the first season with awareness-raising activities utilizing many means, including the media. The participation of the project stakeholders in the various technical training sessions offered. The FFSs' effective implementation and the demonstration plots in places where FFSs weren't used The farmers were quite impressed with the outcomes of utilising compost, so the project bought shredders to enable them continue producing it. Additionally, the project supported the biological control lab at DRC station in order to continue serving farmers after the project is completed. The percentage of farmers who have adopted the SLWM practices and have the willingness to 	
5	recognized in the selected areas because of economic pressure for development and insufficient			Field School approach, which has a high success rate when it comes to uptake and replication. The economic viability of proposed and demonstrated	 Additionally, the project supported the biological control lab at DRC station in order to continue serving farmers after the project is completed. The percentage of farmers who 	

Project overall risk rating (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High):

FY2022	FY2023	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous
rating	rating	reporting period
Low	Low	

7. Follow-up on Mid-term review or supervision mission (only for projects that have conducted an MTR)

If the project had an MTR or a supervision mission, please report on how the recommendations were implemented during this fiscal year as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented during this Fiscal Year
Recommendation 1:	
Recommendation 2:	
Recommendation 3:	
Recommendation	
Recommendation	
Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please summarize	

8. Minor project amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines²². Please describe any minor changes that the project has made under the relevant category or categories and provide supporting documents as an annex to this report if available.

Category of change	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the timing of the change	Approved by
Results framework		9	
Components and cost			
Institutional and implementation			
arrangements			
Financial management	During implementation and taking into account COVID-19 restrictions, the modality of implementation that was foreseen at formulation stage has completely change, which required allocation of various budget lines to accommodate this change in light of the Project's results. Hence, a budget revision was legitimate to ensure that needed inputs	24 August 2022	PSC, budget holder, LTO
Implementation schedule	Implementation schedule	An extension was introduced to enable the project finalize the remaining interventions.	April 2022
Executing Entity	 The Implementation of FFSs and its associated activities were assigned to DRC and NVU (2.3.1 and 2.3.4) The monitoring of the NR status was assigned to the agricultural directorate (2.3.5). 	September 2021 April 2022	PSC + Project LTO

²² Source: https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/guidelines-project-and-program-cycle-policy-2020-update

	 The establishment of the seed bank was assigned to an NGO (2.3.6) Three more LoAs were signed with DRC, NVU and ASRT to increase the number of beneficiaries and cover a wider area under the SLWM practices 	February 2022 October, 2022	
Executing Entity Category			
Minor project objective change			
Safeguards			
Risk analysis	Risks related to Covid-19 were added and mitigation actions put in place.		
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%			
Co-financing			
Location of project activity			
Other minor project amendment (define)			

9. Stakeholders' Engagement

Please report on progress and results and challenges on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan) included at CEO Endorsement/Approval <u>during this reporting period</u>.

Stakeholder name	Role in project execution	Progress and results on Stakeholders' Engagement	Challenges on stakeholder engagement
Government Institutio	ns		
Desert Research Center	Main executing partner, NPC is the president of DRC, cofinancer of components 1,2 and 3	 Three LoAs have been signed with DRC DRC was a beneficiary of the project shown from the results of component 1 	
New Valley governorate	Member of the project steering committee, overseeing the implementation of project activities, co financer of components 1,2 and 3	- The governor is updated with all the project activities and the implementation progress. Several meetings have been conducted with him and his suggestions and recommendations were considered - The project team organised a field trip for him to visit the intervention sites and interact with farmer beneficiaries Three staff members from the governorate received technical training on GIS and remote sensing	The governor always seeks the support of the project in purchasing equipment and facilities and the infrastructure rather than the technical support.
The agricultural directorate	Member of the project steering committee, manages the project intervention areas, supports the community involvement and it is a direct beneficiary	Through an LoA, the agricultural directorate is conducting the monitoring of the status of the natural resources by training and supporting the local development committees. The directorate was strongly involved in the raising awareness activities and its staff will be directly	

Ι			
		benefiting from the capacity	
		development initiatives	
		awarded to the NVU	
The irrigation directorate	Member of the project steering committee, a direct beneficiary of the project	The directorate supported the project in providing the data on water wells and more. received training under components 1 and 2	
The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency	GEF focal point in Egypt, Member of the project steering committee, overseeing the implementation of project activities	It has been updated with the project implementation progress through the project focal point. Two field trips were organized for the agency's focal point in the project to the intervention sites	
Non-Government Orgo	anizations (NGOs)		
The agricultural cooperatives	A direct beneficiary of the project	Received training under components 1 and 2	The Ag. Cooperatives are managed by the cooperation department in the agricultural directorate
Women's Associations	Partner	Participated in different workshops On a rolling basis during the life of the project, working closely with the PMU	
Private sector entities			
El Tahan company	Beneficiary	Numerous meetings and field trips to the private sector were held, along with consultative meetings specifically aimed at enhancing the supported community initiatives (El Tahan Co. for dates). The project provided El Tahan Co. with a lot of technical assistance, such as the cultivation of panicum and the eradication of <i>Tuta Absoluta</i> in tomato. However, the company makes its facilities (e.g., the rearing house and the nursery for the Mulberry production) available for the project's training in silkworm rearing.	

Local farmer community in Kharga project sites	Direct beneficiary Farmers are represented in the PSC by 3 members through the local development committees	The total number of farmers beneficiaries is 2938 through the implementation of the FFSs(105) and the demonstration sites (196	
New stakeholders ide	ntified/engaged		
New Valley University	Member of the Project Steering Committee. Supports in terms of research and academic consultation	Three LoAs was signed with the NVU Staff members from NVU received training from components 1 and 2	

^[1] They can include, among others, community-based organizations (CBOs), Indigenous Peoples organizations, women's groups, private sector companies, farmers, universities, research institutions, and all major groups as identified, for example, in Agenda 21 of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and many times again since then.

10.Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on Gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable) during this reporting period.

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio- economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.	Yes	Even though a gender assessment was conducted during the design stage, a proper gender analysis was not delivered. A socio-economic expert was hired by the project during implementation to conduct the bassline study and a section on gender analysis was included to address the role of gender in managing the oasis agro-ecosystem.
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Yes	
Indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at project design stage):		
a) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	- The project succeeded to address gender issues in all capacity development and workshops sessions, by having sufficient women participation in them. A substantial number of women participated in various activities under the two components. In component 1, 36 percent of the trainees who received functional and technical training under this component were women. While Component 2, Women made about 10-15% of the attendance in the raising awareness campaign, which is low for the same reasons outlined above. Again, a special raising awareness session to enhance women's diets was held, which was attended by 150 women (100%) and they even represented 40-50 percent of the attendees during the mapping of natural resources.
b) improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	- During the development of the groups for the community-based initiatives, it was requested that each created group include at

		least one woman. The project sponsored and funded six community-based initiatives, half of which are owned and operated by women, and even those awarded to males had female participants.
c) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	- Some income-generating activities (ongoing) will be allocated to women in order to enhance the number of women beneficiaries. Some of these efforts include giving goats to 40 women and teaching 100 women how to raise chickens while producing feed from low-quality dates. income percentage, change occurred to women, etc figures will be measured after conducting the activities in July.
		 As a result of the community based initiatives, 20 jobs were created of which half of them were reserved for women, in addition to seven other jobs were created for women, including one technician position at the DRC station in Kharga and six sewing machine-equipped positions.
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	Yes	M&E keeps gender-disaggregated records of the beneficiaries who participate in the various training and workshops activities. Similarly, it is a requirement for the different consultants who carry out activities in the project to provide information disaggregated by gender on those who participate in the activities they carry out.
Staff with gender expertise	Yes	The project staff has a sociologist that is conducting the gender analysis and is ensuring the disaggregation of gender in all the project activities Moreover, the two project evaluators have gender expertise.
Any other good practices on gender		Many women experts were employed over the project's lifespan, including the capacity needs assessment study. In addition, three women consultants were working via the DRC on agrobiodiversity evaluation, biofertilizers, and improving rural women's diets. The poltry FFSs were led by a female expert from NVU

11. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval during this reporting period.

Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far

Internal and external communication of project progress and results has been strengthened. Documents have been entered into FAO's PWS publication system. Which include the systematization of the knowledge gained from the various project consultancies, including the atlas of the crop wild relatives of Kharga oasis and the Kharga crop calendar.

Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.

The project has a Communication Plan, which contains the communication strategy to be follow achieving significant and tangible progress. Monthly content has been prepared for social networ allow real-time monitoring of the actions implemented by the project. Activities of the project a disseminated regularly at FAO page on twitter as well as the page of the agricultural directorate facebook. Also, many interviews have been conducted with the local radio to spread the information about the project

Please share human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project helped improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socioeconomic Cobenefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote

"Sound of Silence"

The first ever Farmer Field School for farmers with disabilities (Khaled)

In the heart of the Western Desert of Egypt, specifically in the Kharga Oasis, that is abo away from the Egyptian capital, where a speacialised team from the FAO Egypt cooper the authorities to raise the awareness of local communities on sustainable management for soil and water in the context of the "Sustainable Management for Kharga oa Ecosystems in New Valley Governorate" project, funded by the Global Environment Faci

Khaled was among those audience, although being deaf-mute and unable to commun others. The Project's staff noticed Khaled's passion to learn about the Project's activitie interest to follow photos, illustrative videos, and field visits. The team also noted his keenness and endeavor to obtain copies of all the Project's produced handouts v disseminated to other beneficiaries.

Until this moment, the project work team was not fully aware of what is behind this pe he actually benefit from attending this awareness-raising activities, or is he just atter curiosity?! When asked (Khaled) about the reason for his attendance and interest in the answered that he owns a date palm agriculture land, and needs support and imp

and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits. skills. Hence, the Project thought the importance of establishing a Farmer Field School (FFS) for deaf-mute farmers in the village. The idea that was well received by all the Project's stakeholders. Ahmed Abadi, a local leader who obtained a training of facilitators of farmer field schools informed that there are more than fifteen (15) deaf-mute farmers inhabited in village who would be interested in benefiting from the Project's activities.

After this, the project team assigned Mr. Ahmed Abadi to establish a FFS for the hearing and speech impaired. Khaled says, according to his wife: In the first session, we learned about the winter season agricultural practices of the date palm by adding compost and chemical fertilizers, and in the second session, we did the pruning and dusting with sulfur to treat the wounds of the palm tree, while in the third session we learned and exchanged experiences about the pollination process and the conditions for a good pollen, and in the fourth session we discussed the summer fertilizer requirements For palm trees, in the fifth session, we performed the thinning, hanging and bagging operations, and in the sixth session the crop was harvest and post-harvest operations were addresses, then we concluded with the seventh session in which good seedlings were separated and planted in the nursery, then we attended the graduation cermoney.

Over the course of an entire year of sessions, in which the hearing and speech impaired members presented great achievements from the point of view of the project experts, whether in terms of exchanging experiences and information, or through the economic benefits achieved from increasing the crop yield and quality, in addition to improving social capital by building and strengthening networks of social relations among this category.

(Nhamdeh) explains to us the words of (Khaled), where he says: I learned a lot from my colleagues in the farmer field school. Before the project, I was not interested in the fertilization process for palm trees, and I did not use compost, and I did not perform the thinning process, and I had a problem with The timing of most agricultural practices, all of which have improved greatly through the activities of the farmers' field schools, so I can say that I have become an expert in date palm production now.

With regard to the economic aspect, (Khaled) says: As a result of the activities of the Farmers Field School, the quantity of production increased and its quality improved. This was reflected in the selling price and thus was reflected in the income, as I divided my income this season into three parts, the first part: I paid off the debts accumulated on me from the previous season, the second part: I did - through it - charitable work, and the third part: I allocated it to family expenses and preparation For the new season, all this is due to what the project provided me with production requirements such as chemical fertilizers, compost, pesticides, and others, in addition to the technical support from peers in the farmer field school and from project experts.

As for Mrs. (Nhamdeh), she is the stake in the tent of the (Khaled) family, all of her children suffer from deafness, and she is considered the tongue and ear for all members of her family. She played a major role in communication between the hearing and speech impaired members of the school on the one hand, and between the facilitator and the members of the project team on the other hand. Another says: The family situation was positively affected by the project, whether the increase in family income resulting from the improvement in the productivity of date palms, or other activities that the project carried out for us.

In view of the great role that (Nahmdeh) played in facilitating the Date Palm School for the deaf and mute group, the project management assigned her to form a rural school for raising domestic poultry in the barn of her house. (Nehamdeh) says that at school we compared traditional poultry raising practices with improved ones based on inputs that are available in the surrounding environment and are cheap. These chickens produce eggs or meat to help improve the family's diet, primarily thanks to the project.

	(Khaled) and (Nehamdeh) have four male children who also suffer from deafness, which prevents them from obtaining decent job opportunities, so project was the refuge that might provide them with decent means of living - according to the mother's words -, so he The project directs the children to make a small project in which they produce the bags used to preserve the date fruits from infection with dust and other pests (the bagging process: in which farmers insert the clumps of dates after pollination and fruiting in bags like)
Please provide links to related website, social media account	 Project page on FAO website https://www.fao.org/egypt/programmes-and-projects/kharga-oasis-agro-ecosystems/ar/ Project page on DRC website https://drc.gov.eg/en/category/fao/ https://drc.gov.eg/category/%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%81%d8%a7%d9%88/ NV agricultural directorate facebook page https://www.facebook.com/groups/278821225957351 FAO page on twitter https://twitter.com/FAOEgypt
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.	 Tweet on the visit of FAO Egypt Rep. to The project sites https://twitter.com/FAOEgypt/status/1555203499323015169?t=wboJUjcnqtzUwojEqE HDw&s= 08 Tweet on the meetings of the NV governor and FAO Eg Rept. With the farmers https://twitter.com/FAOEgypt/status/1555203499323015169?t=wboJUjcnqtzUwojEqE HDw&s= 08 Press release on the sand dune fixation training course https://www.dostor.org/4149223 Tweet on the meeting of FAO Eg. Rep. with the members of the disabled farmers Field school https://twitter.com/FAOEgypt/status/1559090416833667072?t=k8dFmh4qoG3YcO2-nllmtA&s=08 Press release on the the community based initiatives competition https://www.gomhuriaonline.com/Gomhuria/1112021.html
	 Tweet on your farm , your firm initiative to support entrepreneurship https://twitter.com/FAOEgypt/status/1564608906135216142?t=i5BjYkbFARC-wDjmEX3CBQ&s=08 YouTube video on your farm , your firm initiative to support entrepreneurship https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NotdVLGR9MQ Tweet on the women training on the medicinal and aromatic plants drying and conservation https://twitter.com/FAOEgypt/status/1572130581877604352?t=um7HKFLW14ggThrjApIESA&s= 08 Tweet on the training of project stakeholders staff on communication and partnership https://twitter.com/FAOEgypt/status/1572314021474504704?t=22X02XoiDeJWKzpFdarJbg&s=0
	 A tweet on the advanced training on GIS and remote sensing https://twitter.com/FAOEgypt/status/1580133143448674306?t=XVQk6BCGi64JClOi2aBkmw&s= 08 A tweet on the maize FFSs https://twitter.com/FAOEgypt/status/1582642112444579840?t=klUocYlRkzdeXwQfdquUPQ&s= 08 A press release on the project of mainstreaming of SLWM practices https://gate.ahram.org.eg/News/3802798.aspx A tweet on the workshops conducted under the community based initiatives component

	https://twitter.com/FAOEgypt/status/1594600037937561600?t=kBWBLSYF3-
	au5tWiao8W1g&s=08
	A press release on the training of 17 start-ups
	https://misrelzraea.com/%d9%85%d8%b2%d8%b1%d8%b9%d8%aa%d9%83-
	%d8%b4%d8%b1%d9%83%d8%aa%d9%83-%d8%aa%d8%af%d8%b1%d9%8a%d8%a8-
	%d9%84%d9%80-17-%d9%85%d8%a8%d8%a7%d8%af%d8%b1%d8%a9-
	%d9%86%d8%a7%d8%b4%d8%a6%d8%a9-%d8%a8%d8%a7/
	A press release on the graduation of the FFSs members A press release on the graduation of the FFSs members A press release on the graduation of the FFSs members
	https://www.youm7.com/story/2023/5/15/%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%B2%D9%86%D9
	<u>%D8%A7-%D8%AA%D8%A8%D9%82%D9%89-%D8%AE%D8%B6%D8%B1%D8%A7-</u>
	<u>%D8%AA%D8%AE%D8%B1%D8%AC-%D8%AF%D9%81%D8%B9%D8%A9-</u>
	<u>%D8%AC%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D9%85%D9%86-</u>
	%D9%85%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%B3-
	%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%86-
	%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%82%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9/6179359
	A press release on the innovative micro-finance options workshop
	https://www.rosaelyoussef.com/1089619/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%85%D9%88%D9%
	%D9%84-%D9%85%D8%AA%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%87%D9%8A-
	%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D8%BA%D8%B1-%D9%81%D9%8A-
	%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%B9-
	%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A-
	%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%B4%D8%A9-%D8%B9%D9%85%D9%84-
	%D8%A8%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%A9-
	%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%8A-
	%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%AF
	A press release on the establishment of a collective trade mark for Kharga farmers
	https://almessa.gomhuriaonline.com/%d9%85%d8%ad%d8%a7%d9%81%d8%b8-
	%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%88%d8%a7%d8%af%d9%8a-
	%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%ac%d8%af%d9%8a%d8%af-%d9%8a%d9%84%d8%aa%d9%82%d9%8a
	%d9%81%d8%b1%d9%8a%d9%82-%d8%b9%d9%85%d9%84-%d8%a3%d9%83%d8%a7/
	A press release on the GI and collective trade marks for date palm workshop
	https://almessa.gomhuriaonline.com/%d8%aa%d8%b9%d8%a7%d9%88%d9%86-
	%d8%a8%d9%8a%d9%86-%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%81%d8%a7%d9%88-
	%d9%88%d8%a3%d9%83%d8%a7%d8%af%d9%8a%d9%85%d9%8a%d8%a9-
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Please indicate	RawyaEldabi Communication Expertrawya.eldabi@fao.org
theCommunication	Salma Alshinitty Monitoring and Evaluation Associate salma.alshinetty@fao.org
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point's Nameand	
contact details	
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12. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Involvement

Are Indigenous Peoples and local communities involved in the project (as per the approved Project Document)? If yes, please briefly explain.

Prior to initiating project implementation, the local communities located in the three intervention sites of the project were consulted about their interest in participating in the project; The participation of the local people in decision-making has been active, with equal participation of men and women.

Among the activities that have been consulted and are in execution we have: Selection of participants in the different farmer field schools implemented in the communities, selection of the learning locations for the implementation of the farmers field school, development of the NR management plan, the selection of the CWR to be conserved selection of areas for date palm nursery establishment, as well as the crop species to be cultivated in the selected sites,

Actions have been implemented for the active participation of the local communities, reflected in the following results:

- The local community has representation with voice and vote in the Project Steering Committee.
- They participate in the working groups formed for the design of methodologies to be applied in the management of the farmers field school
- Actively participate in the training courses/workshops.

13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co- financing ²³	Name of Co- financer	Type of Co- financing ²⁴	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2023	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
TCPs	FAO	Grant	1,200,000	1,697,225	NA	1,697,225
National government	DRC	In-kind	5,000,000	5,270,433	NA	5,270,433
National government	Local Government of Kharga Oasis	Grant	2,500,000	2,516,093	NA	2,516,093
National government	Local Government of Kharga Oasis	In-kind	300,000	303,956	NA	303,956
National government	New Valley university	In-kind	New co-financer engaged (providing a furnished office to the PMU)	50,000	NA	50,000
		TOTAL	9,000,000	9,837,707	NA	9,837,707

https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF FI GN 01 Cofinancing Guidelines 2018.pdf

²³Sources of Co-financing may include: GEF Agency, Donor Agency, Recipient Country Government, Private Sector, Civil Society Organization, Beneficiaries, Other.

²⁴Grant, Loan, Equity Investment, Guarantee, In-Kind, Public Investment, Other (please refer to the *Guidelines on co-financing* for definitions

Please explain any significant changes in project co-financing since Project Document signature, or differences between the anticipated and actual rates of disbursement?

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development Objectives Rating	g. A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives.
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Project is expected to achieve or exceed all its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as "good practice"
Satisfactory (S)	Project is expected to achieve most of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Project is expected to achieve most of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits
Moderately Unsatisfactory	Project is expected to achieve its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only some of its
(MU)	major global environmental objectives
Unsatisfactory (U)	Project is expected not to achieve most of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, any of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits

Implementation Progress Rating implementation plan.	g. A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project's components and activities is in compliance with the project's approved
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as "good practice"
Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action
Moderately Unsatisfactory	Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components
(MU)	requiring remedial action.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

<u>Risk rating</u> will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale:		
High Risk (H)	There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.	
Substantial Risk (S)	There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face substantial risks	
Moderate Risk (M)	There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only moderate risk	
Low Risk (L)	There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only low risks	

Annex 2.

GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as OpenStreetMap or GeoNames use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: https://coordinates-converter.com Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking https://coordinates-converter.com Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking https://coordinates-converter.com Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking https://coordinates-converter.com Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking https://coordinates-converter.com Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking https://coordinates-converter.com Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking https://coordinates-converter.com Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking https://coordinates-converter.com Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking https://coordinates-converter.com Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking https://coordinates-converter.com Please see the Geocoding User Guide by cli

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description
Kharga	25.45101	30.54653		The project activities were implemented in three villages with the domain of Kharga oasis

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate.