



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



PROJECT FACT SHEET

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR WATER

Ensuring sustainable and resilient water resources requires the sustained, collective efforts of the education community working in partnership with the private sector and policymakers. The Center of Excellence for Water will inform national and local water policy formation, promote water use efficiency, and develop innovative applied research solutions to issues such as irrigation, agricultural and industrial water use, groundwater management, desalination, water infrastructure and governance, wastewater management, and urban water planning. Alexandria University, a recognized leader in water research, will host the Center of Excellence for Water while overall the activity will be implemented by The American University in Cairo, renowned for its highly productive higher education partnerships between Egypt and the U.S.

Through the Center of Excellence for Water, USAID, in cooperation with the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, will help build the capacity and sustainability of water research and innovation at Alexandria University and other partner universities in Egypt. It will also create linkages between academic researchers and the public and private sectors to encourage practical, timely research.

Implementing Partners: The American University in Cairo and Alexandria University (with Ain Shams University, Aswan University, Beni Suef University, and Zagazig University in Egypt and Temple University, Utah State University, University of California, Santa Cruz, and Washington State University in the U.S.); Life of Project: February 2019 – February 2024; Total Estimated Cost: \$30 million; Governorates: Nationwide

PHOTO: MOHAMED ABDELWAHAB FOR USAID

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Convene Egyptian and American water experts from academia and the public and private sectors to share best practices and breakthroughs in research; organize symposia to share water research being conducted in Egypt and the United States
- Support research projects and expand curricula related to the water sector through new and enhanced course offerings, as well as certificate and degree programs that utilize state-of-the-art pedagogical methods and topics
- Offer scholarship and exchange programs for Egyptian students at The American University in Cairo or U.S. partner universities and provide internship opportunities in American and Egyptian industries. Scholarships will focus on women, financially disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities
- Develop training opportunities for Egyptian faculty at The American University in Cairo or in the United States; support training of Egyptian faculty by visiting American scholars
- Expand connections between the private sector and universities from diverse regions of the United States and Egypt to increase sustainability in water research, address Egypt's water needs, and foster innovations and technologies in the water sector that may be suitable for commercialization

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Provide academic training in hydrology and water-related fields that aligns with the current needs of Egypt's commercial and public sectors and that leads to lower unemployment and improved private- and public-sector performance
- Support applied research projects that address local challenges in the water sector in Egypt; the quantity and quality of these projects will increase and entrepreneurial approaches to issues in the water sector will be encouraged and may offer potential for wider international applications
- Increase effective government policy-making regarding water infrastructure, water resilience, and governance over water systems informed by high-caliber, collaborative research