



# EGYPT

Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation  
The Information, Documentation and Decision  
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*The Egyptian National Focal Point (NFP) is the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation through its Information, Documentation and Decision Support Department (IDDS)D. Since 2004, efforts have been made to strengthen the capacity and the resources of the IDDS)D to improve national water data management and to implement a national water web portal in the framework of EMWIS. With the support of the Italian cooperation, the development of a national EMWIS portal has been launched in February 2007 in consultation with the national water stakeholders.*

## DATA

- **Area** : 1 001 450 km<sup>2</sup>
- **Population** (mill) : 71,35 \*\*
- **GDP per capita** : 1 068 € \*\*
- **Water per capita** :  
1 032 m<sup>3</sup>/inhab./year \*\*

- **Water withdrawal** :  
irrigation : 82% \*

Sources :

\* World Bank- World Factbook 2005

\*\* Eurostat - MEDSTAT 2007

## The Arab Republic of Egypt

### ⇒ Legal Framework

Two main laws have been defined in the 80s for regulating the water sector: Irrigation and Drainage Law in 1984 and the protection of the Nile River and Watercourses in 1982.

### ⇒ Right to Water

The right to water is included in Egypt's legislation. Because water is essential to life, the public has access rights to clean fresh water.

### ⇒ Main institution

The relevant institutions for water resource management are the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI) which has established Integrated Water Resources Management districts and directorate; and the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development, working with local authorities. The MWRI cooperates with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) for water quality control.

	Water Resource Management	Drinking water supply	Sanitation	Irrigation
Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	✓			✓
Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development		✓	✓	

**The territorial water management :** The Nile Water Sector, under the auspices of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, is in charge for local/regional water management along the Nile Basin.

**Inter-ministerial coordination** is assured by the Cabinet Council.

### ⇒ Main issues of Water Resource Management

The major challenges for Egypt are related to a rapid population growth, risks of domestic and industrial pollution while the water resources are decreasing. The national master plan proposes solutions to tackle these issues if sufficient financial resources are available.

### ⇒ Water pricing and cost recovery

Major part of the cost recovery of water supply and wastewater services is derived from tax payers. The Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development sets the prices for municipal and industrial water and wastewater.

	Institutions responsible for water pricing	Level of cost recovery (%)
Households	Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development	— no data
Industry	Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development	— no data
Agriculture : Irrigation	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	— no data

### ⇒ Water master plan

In 2005, the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation finished formulating a national water master plan covering till 2017. However, the Ministry's vision extends to 2050.

<http://www.semide.org>

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