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Empowering the South

Bridging Gaps and Building Resilience

EMPOWERING
THE SOUTH



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Background

Over the years of contributing to the development of areas with opportunities and empowering youth and women with partners, the research component of Enroot has been backstopping both during the closure of projects and the launching of new ones, serving as the key element that connects the dots between different phases.

Accordingly, and as MASAAR: Stimulating Youth-led Economies, implemented in collaboration with Drosos Foundation comes to a closure, the research component continues to identify future dots to be connected.

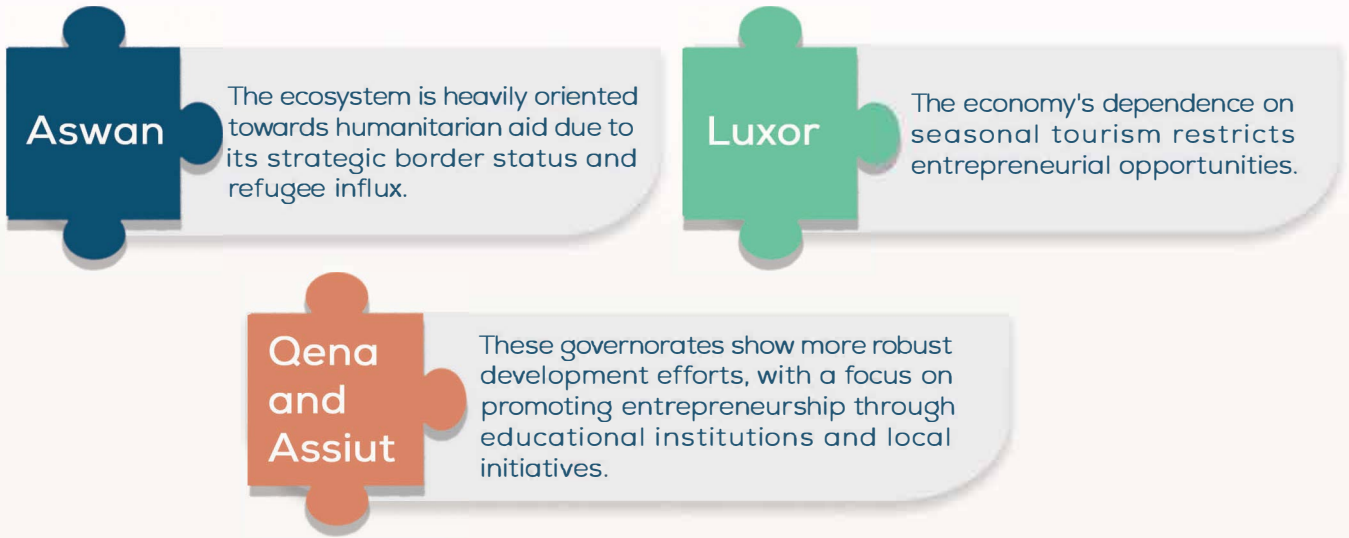
Enroot conducted a study to tie past achievements with future objectives by studying the entrepreneurial ecosystem, identifying gaps that need to be addressed, and proposing a series of interventions. The study aims to bridge the gaps and ensure that the next phase of efforts builds on the foundation established in the current project, thereby driving continued progress.

At the same time, the opening of the Private Sector Promotion for the Agriculture Sector in Upper Egypt, in collaboration with the Embassy of the Netherlands in Egypt provides an opportunity to build on MASAAR and other projects at Enroot's portfolio. The research continues to be not only backstopping from the start, but an important component in linking between this project and MASAAR. Enroot conducted a climate risk assessment as a first step to identifying the effect of climate change on key market players in the agricultural market systems of focus.

This booklet provides a preview of the last study on the entrepreneurial ecosystem for the Stimulating Youth-led Economies project and the first study assessing climate risk for the Private Sector Promotion Project.

Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Mapping

The entrepreneurship ecosystem in Aswan, Luxor, Qena, and Assiut is shaped by distinct contextual factors that influence both the availability of support services and individual perceptions of entrepreneurship.



Perceptions of Entrepreneurship:

Community awareness and perceptions of entrepreneurship vary based on the governorate's context and the outreach efforts of civil society organizations (CSOs) and governmental entities

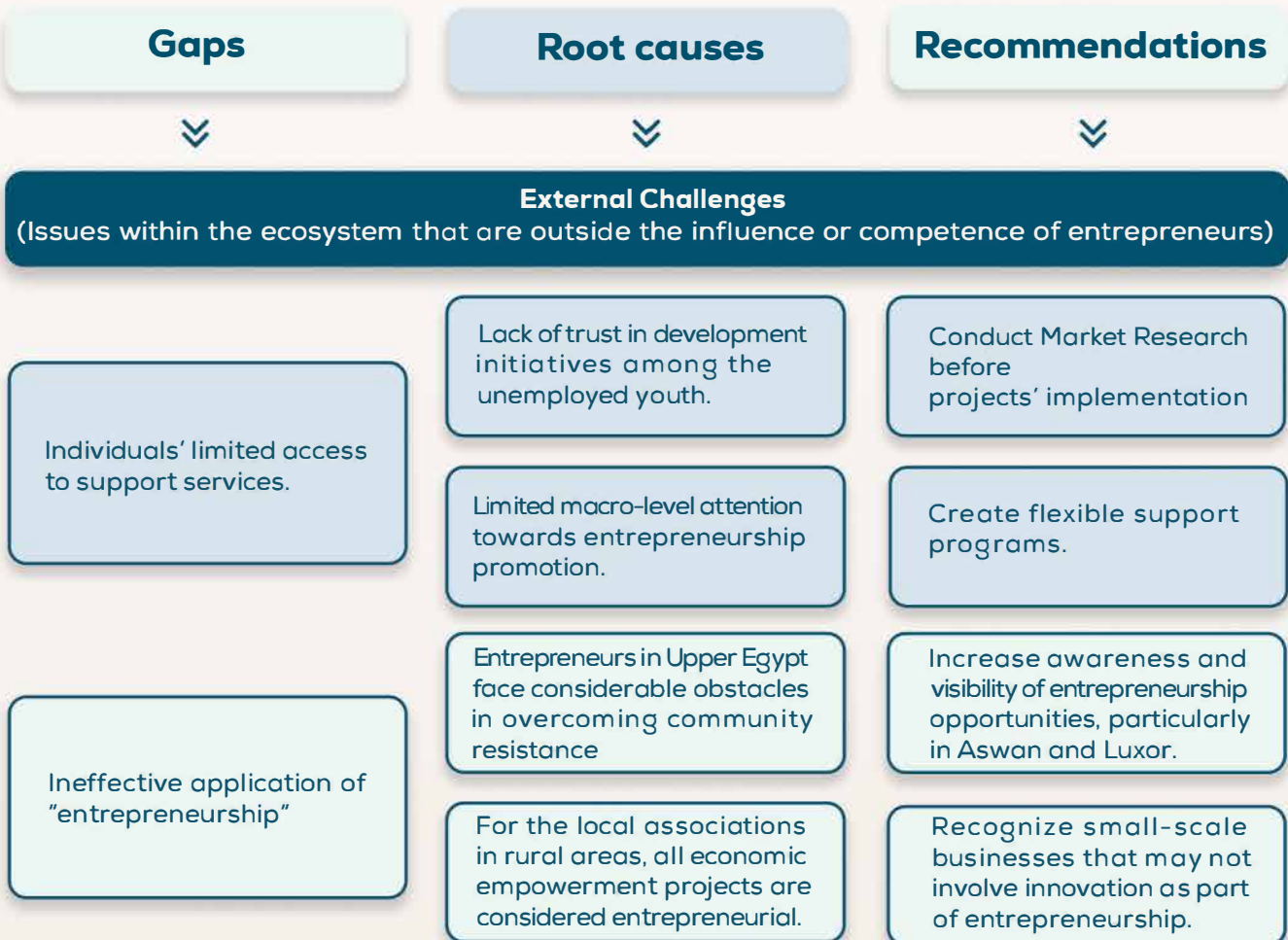
- ➔ In Upper Egypt, entrepreneurship is often conflated with self-employment lacking an emphasis on creative problem-solving and value addition.
- ➔ Entrepreneurial initiatives frequently replicate successful projects without incorporating creative solutions to add value.
- ➔ Unemployed youth in the region often see the lack of funding as the primary barrier to entrepreneurship, overlooking the importance of developing creative skills to address community challenges.

Entrepreneurship Motivations

Business initiation often occurs out of necessity rather than personal preference.

- Young people in Upper Egypt lean towards stable government jobs but are increasingly viewing self-employment as a viable alternative.
- In urban areas, the focus is more on ICT and renewable energy, requiring innovation and leveraging opportunities to address community issues.
- In rural areas, the focus is on income generation, often lacking innovation or community-driven solutions.

Challenges in the Ecosystem



Gaps

Root causes

Recommendations



Internal Challenges

(Challenges including skills, knowledge, and other capabilities of entrepreneurs)

Entrepreneurs' limited skills.

Entrepreneurs' limited awareness of the value of non-financial services.

Financial and legal illiteracy.

Lack of business development services and ongoing mentorship

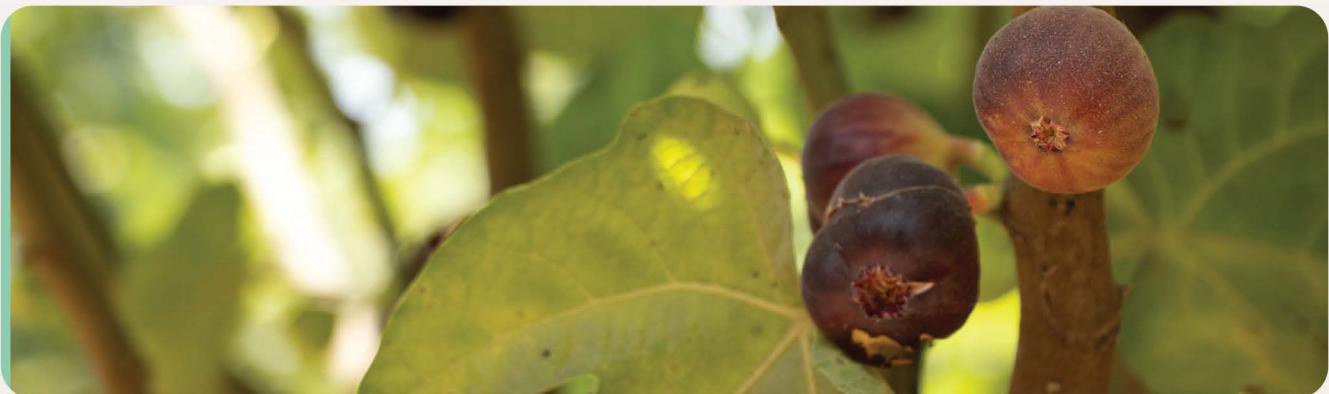
Support legal and bureaucratic navigation.

Offer vocational and technical training.

Support international exposure through participation in exhibitions and connection with investors.

Offer personalized mentorship and long-term follow-up.

Create acceleration programs to provide support beyond the initial stages.



Climate Risk Mitigation Analysis

Background

In light of launching our new project Private Sector Promotion for the Agriculture Sector in Upper Egypt (Clime Up), Enroot conducted a climate risk assessment study that mapped the main climate hazards to which Upper Egypt is exposed. The study is based on a trend analysis covering 30 years of climate change in the governorates of Aswan, Assiut, Sohag, Qena, and Luxor. As the project seeks to promote the integration of the private sector to enhance the adoption of climate and water smart solutions, the assessment was crucial to identify the current and upcoming climate hazards and to analyze their impact on the agriculture sector in Upper Egypt.

The results of the trend analysis reveal the following:

1

Aswan is the most affected governorate by heat waves, high temperature, temperature variability, and drought.

2

Biological hazards are very high-risk in both Assiut and Sohag and high in Qena and Luxor while constituting medium risk in Aswan.

3

Cold wave frost is highly noted in Assiut and Sohag as it falls in very high and high-risk zones, respectively.

Studying the impact of these hazards on the agricultural value chains of Upper Egypt revealed that:



Luffa is the least affected crop as all hazards fall in the medium risk zone except flash floods that fall in the high-risk zone.

Onion is the most affected and sensitive crop to climate hazards as the majority of the hazards range fell in the high to very high-risk zones.

Assiut

Most prevailing climate hazard:

- Cold Wave Frost
- Biological Hazards Agricultural Pests

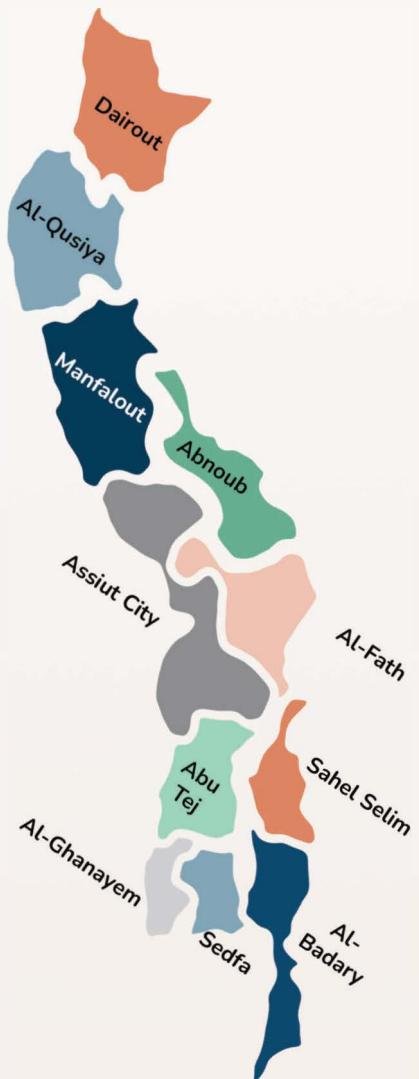
Most affected value chains:

- Pomegranates
- Fennel



Risk Level:

- High - Very High-Risk Zone



Sohag

Most prevailing climate hazard:

- Cold Wave Frost
- Biological Hazards, Agricultural Pests

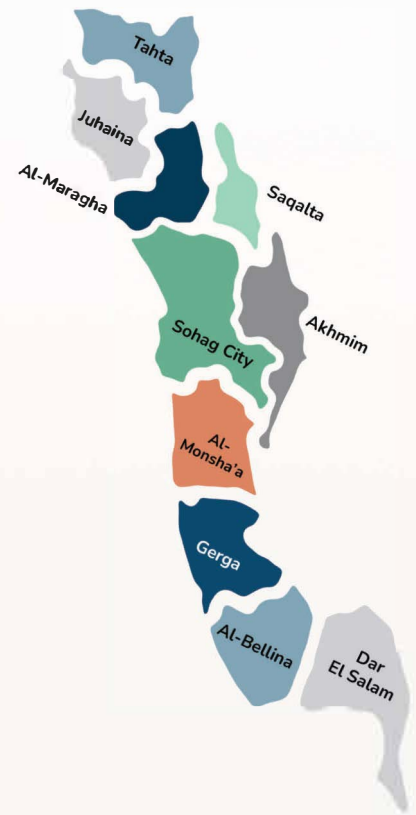
Most affected value chains:

- Onion



Risk Level:

- High - Very High-Risk Zone



Qena

Most prevailing climate hazard:

- Heat Waves
- High Temperatures
- Biological Hazards
- Temperatures Variability

Most affected value chains:

- Pumpkin
- Fennel



Risk Level:

- High - Very High-Risk Zone



Aswan

Most prevailing climate hazard:

- Heat Waves
- Drought
- High Temperatures
- Temperatures Variability

Most affected value chains:

- Henna
- Hibiscus



Risk Level:

- High - Very High-Risk Zone



Luxor

Most prevailing climate hazard:

- Heat Waves
- Flash Floods
- Drought
- High Temperatures
- Biological Hazards
- Temperatures Variability

Most affected value chains:

- Pumpkin
- Hibiscus



Risk Level:

- Medium - High-Risk Zone



Conclusion

This assessment is a milestone for the Private Sector Promotion project interventions. As the project follows a down-top approach as its wheel to steering change, the assessment provides an evidence-based guide for each governorate and each value chain of the key challenges opportunities, and entry points of the project interventions. Throughout the project would build on the prevailing challenges in creating opportunities to pave the way for the targeted communities to grow aspire, and lead the change.



