Thematic Impact Study Report - Egypt
Newton Fund Evaluation

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Partners

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Acronyms

AHRC – Arts and Humanities Research Council
BEIS – Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
FCO – Foreign and Commonwealth Office
GDP – Gross Domestic Product
HCR20 - Historical Clinical Risk Management-20
IMF – International Monetary Fund
LIFE - Long Term Incarcerated Patients in Forensic Settings: Role of Research in Socioeconomic Enhancement
MBA – Master of Business Administration
MoU – Memorandum of Understanding
MoHESR - Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
ODA – Official Development Assistance
PI – Principal Investigator
SDG – Sustainable Development Goals
S&I – Science and Innovation
STDF - Science Technology and Development Fund
SuS-MAR - Sustainable Green markets, regenerating the urban historic core to sustain Socio-Cultural heritage and economic activities
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
WHO – World Health Organization
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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this report

This report presents the findings of the Thematic Study of Newton Fund activities in Egypt, with a focus on three activities in the country. The findings emerged from an in-depth review of documentation, in-country interviews, and UK-based consultations, as outlined in Section 1.2 below. Findings from this and the other seven country studies will inform the Mid-term Evaluation report.

As outlined in our Evaluation Strategy, thematic impact studies were carried out in eight countries: Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines and South Africa. Concentrating on these countries allows for a breadth of coverage across Newton partner countries and regions of focus. It also allows for broad coverage in terms of the existing innovation capacity and infrastructure of Newton partner countries.

As part of our thematic studies, we conducted a comparative analysis of the factors (such as type of local funding agencies, size of universities, local research structures, among others) that contributed to the Fund’s outcomes across different contexts. This helped us map the pathways of change and capture early signs of the Newton Fund’s impact. By focusing on the factors which facilitate specific research activities, increase the quality of research outputs, enhance international collaboration and translate research into innovative practices, the thematic impact studies help us understand how sustainable solutions to economic development and poverty reduction have emerged so far from Newton Fund activities.

Case study selection

For each country, we shortlisted potential case studies based on three measures: size, pillar and sector. The selection of projects took thematic areas of focus into consideration, aiming to include priority areas for the Newton Fund in the country. We sought to achieve a spread of Newton Fund Delivery Partners and action types across the countries in our sample. We also consulted the in-country teams (ICTs) to identify potential impact ‘stories’.

Following additional consultations with delivery partners and the Newton Fund Central Team, we selected three cases per country to be explored in more depth.

In Egypt, the shortlisted activities were:

- AHRC-STDF Sustainable Green markets, regenerating the urban historic core to sustain Socio-Cultural heritage and economic activities (SuS-MAR);
- British Academy Newton Fund Advanced Fellowship;
- British Council-STDF Long Term Incarcerated Patients in Forensic Settings: Role of Research in Socioeconomic Enhancement (LIFE) (a project supported by an Institutional Links grant).

When selecting the award holders, we also considered the relevance of the specific project’s research area to the Newton Fund’s priorities in Egypt. The selection of case studies was, however, complicated by the small number of delivery partners operating in Egypt.

1.2 Evaluation approach

Research scope

The thematic impact studies involved wide-ranging in-country consultations, with the inclusion of as many diverse interview respondents as possible within the timeframe of our fieldwork activities. This was combined with consultations with UK-based partners and researchers involved in the actions included in the study.

This thematic study explored:

- The development of each action – examining its origins, how engagement with the Newton Fund occurred, and an overview of the process of securing Newton funding
The relevance of each action to Egypt's development needs and to Newton Fund and ODA goals

The additionality of each action

The results of each action in terms of the outputs, outcomes and impacts generated in terms of strengthening the science and knowledge base, innovation capacity and influencing policy in Egypt and beyond

The success factors (and barriers) of each action, and examination of benefits that might be expected to arise in the future

We took into account that all activities included in this study are still ongoing, and that the impact of projects can often take years or even longer to unfold. Our research approach was adapted to reflect this, and included signs of impact or intentions to achieve impact as indications of potential future impact.

Research methods and data collection approach

The thematic impact studies are central to our contribution analysis approach and involved an intensive period of in-country research by members of the evaluation team and local experts in science and innovation. Preparation for the in-country research included a country-specific document review on Egypt's research and development context. Documents reviewed include the evaluation Egypt Baseline Report, Country Situation Note, and findings from the Process Evaluation. We also conducted a literature review of additional documentation on Egypt's science and innovation landscape, and existing UK-Egypt collaboration activities. Project-specific documentation, such as application forms, mid-term and final reports, were reviewed for each action included in the study, where provided by the delivery partner, local partners or researchers.

The document review was accompanied by one week of intensive data collection in country in February 2018, as well as data collection in the UK prior to and following the fieldwork. During the week long in-country visit, three main categories of stakeholders were interviewed:

i) In-country delivery partners (and Newton in-country team)
ii) Funders
iii) Participating researchers (additional University staff, such as University leadership or management teams, were also interviewed).

Our data collection both in-country and in the UK was complemented with an analysis of the pathway to impact for each action. Here, we analysed each project's trajectory to impact by placing it within the Newton Fund Theory of Change. This allowed us to visually represent the pathway to outputs, outcomes and impact of each action, and highlight its (potential) contribution to broader Newton Fund goals.

Limitations of the research approach

The timeframe for in-country research meant that we were only able to include three projects within our study. These are not representative of all Newton Fund activities as a whole. Research findings have been triangulated across different stakeholder groups and across various sources of documentation (project documents and online resources such as the RCUK Gateway to Research portal). However, the research team was not able to independently verify statements by all the different contributing stakeholders or to verify what was reported in documentation. Where findings could not be verified we have made this clear in the text.

All of the projects included were still on-going at the time of data collection. Therefore, the report focuses on emerging signs of impact.
2 The Newton Fund in Egypt

2.1 Context and evolution of the Fund in Egypt

**Egypt – current situation**

Politically, Egypt is emerging from a period of instability following the 2011 revolution. The Arab Spring led to the country toppling its leader of 30 years which led to political and economic uncertainty. Some level of stability was recovered around mid-2014 when the country elected a new leader.

The impact of this period pushed the country into economic crisis, with a persistent budget deficit (projected at 8.4% for the 2018/19 fiscal year). In 2016, approval for a three-year, $12 billion bailout from the IMF was approved in an effort to reduce public debt and control inflation. Meanwhile, the difficult economic situation combined with serious internal security issues in the form of terrorist attacks led to a depressed economy.

While at the time of writing (May 2018) the economy remains fragile, there are some encouraging signs. In the 2016/2017 fiscal year, the economy grew by 4.1% driven mainly by investment and private and public consumption, as well as by net exports, which contributed positively for the first time in two years. The liberalisation of the exchange rate in November 2016 eased shortages in foreign currency and led to an improvement in Egypt’s external accounts. Growth is expected to gain momentum in 2017/18, driven by a recovery in consumption and private investment and a continued positive contribution from exports.

In 2015, the government adopted a long-term development strategy to the year 2030, placing knowledge, innovation and scientific research at the core alongside 11 other pillars including restoring macroeconomic stability; improving public sector delivery; and fostering social justice and inclusion.

**Egypt – UK scientific cooperation**

UK-Egypt scientific cooperation is long-standing dating back to a 1975 Economic, Industrial and Technological Cooperation Agreement. Most recently, Egypt’s Vision 2030 development strategy places S&I as a key driver of growth and therefore offers an opportunity for the UK to contribute to Egypt’s development strategy. S&I funding has tripled since 2014 and higher education cooperation is considered crucial for Egypt.

Cooperation in higher education has been a driver behind the most recent development in S&I cooperation and has been an effective means of bilateral engagement. Egypt is turning to the UK as an inspiration to reform its higher education system. The UK has a relatively large number of channels through which it promotes this cooperation. The Newton Mosharafa Fund, established in 2014, is reported to be the largest bilateral science research programme. The Chevening Fund is one of the oldest flagship programmes running since 1983. It promotes postgraduate mobility to the UK for a period of one year. These initiatives build on the 80 year in-country presence of the British Council in Egypt, which has a large presence in Cairo but also a network of strong relationships with Egyptian stakeholders.

The UK also has many bilateral links through its universities such as the British University in Egypt (which is a partnership between Loughborough University and a local educational foundation) and the October University for Modern Sciences and Arts (MSA). There are also several joint degree or programme initiatives between a number of UK and Egyptian universities, including the University of Sunderland, the University of Wales, Edinburgh Business School and the University of Manchester (Sunderland). Some have been running for many years, including the joint degree or programme initiatives between a number of UK and Egyptian universities, including the University of Sunderland, the University of Wales, Edinburgh Business School and the University of Manchester.

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1 The Economist, August 2016.
2 The World Bank, Egypt’s Economic Outlook, October 2017.
3 The World Bank, Egypt’s Economic Outlook, October 2017.
8 http://www.chevening.org/about-chevening
School and Queen Mary University on the UK side and Alexandria University, Ain Shams University and Mansoura University on the Egyptian side.

UK-Egypt S&I cooperation has been recently strengthened with the signature, in 2015, of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) promoting bilateral cooperation across research, innovation, health training, cultural collaboration, and higher education. This led to the 2016 British-Egyptian Year of Research, Innovation and Education.

The UK also has many windows through which it provides assistance to Egypt in these different areas such as the UK Arab Partnership and the Arab Partnership Participation Fund, which provides support and expertise for reform, economic growth and tackling conflict in the Middle East and North Africa. The UK also engages Egypt through the Prosperity Fund, which is a cross-government Fund that aims to reduce poverty in developing countries through inclusive economic growth as well as the Conflict Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) which facilitates development through ODA funding to support countries stabilise.

Science and innovation landscape / infrastructure in Egypt

Egypt’s science and innovation landscape shows a mixed picture. On the one hand, the number of publications the country is producing is above the average of Newton Fund countries and its share of world publications has increased significantly since 2000, indicating a dynamic research community. The areas of agriculture, engineering, computer science, medicine and biochemistry, genetics, and molecular biology in particular have seen a rise in publications, which points at greater national expertise in these fields. Egypt also relies more heavily on international collaboration to produce them, pointing to a greater use of international research networks.

On the other hand, some of the metrics for Egypt’s science and innovation potential are performing less well. There are some structural issues relating mainly to the macroeconomic environment, domestic competition and to the labour market. Metrics such as patent applications, competitiveness or company investment in R&D are quite low. Egypt’s Vision 2030 strategy is aiming to address some of these issues and use the science and innovation sector as a driver for the country’s development.

International relations / research

Even though Egypt is doing well in international collaborations, the mobility of Egyptian students abroad is fairly low (even compared to the rest of the Middle East region). The UK is the fifth preferred destination for students behind United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, the United States and France.

The Newton Fund is part of a range of bilateral cooperation Egypt has established with European, American and Asian countries. While the Newton Fund spans disciplines, both the EU–Egypt Innovation Fund set up in 2007 and the German–Egyptian Research Fund (GERF) launched in 2008 have a focus on cooperation in areas of natural science. The former supports the country’s Research Development & Innovation (RDI) programme in the fields of energy, ICT, materials and nanotechnology and latter includes biosciences, health and medical research, and environmental research.

In 2017, the EU and Egypt signed an agreement for scientific and technological cooperation setting out the terms and conditions for Egypt’s participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA). Egypt also cooperates with the US in scientific research through US-Egypt Science and Technology (S&T) Joint Fund which was established to strengthen scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries. Egypt and Japan have established the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST)

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11 Scimago Journal & Rank; Elsevier; BEIS; RSM PACEC
12 Newton Fund Evaluation, Egypt Baseline report
13 Newton Fund Evaluation, Egypt Baseline report
14 World Economic Forum; UIS UNESCO; RSM PACEC
15 World Economic Forum; UIS UNESCO; RSM PACEC
16 Newton Fund Evaluation, Egypt Baseline report
17 Newton Fund Evaluation, Egypt Baseline report
18 Newton Fund Evaluation, Egypt Baseline report
20 See [http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/egypt/index.htm](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/egypt/index.htm)
which is the first Japanese university to be constructed outside of Japan and prioritizes links with Japanese science and industry\textsuperscript{19}. Egypt also cooperates with South Africa, Russia, China, Spain, France and Italy through joint funding strategies.

The Newton Mosharafa Fund

Egypt was the Newton Fund’s first partner country in the Middle East before Jordan was added in 2017. It operates under the title of the Newton-Mosharafa Fund, in acknowledgment of the partnership approach between the two countries. It is in fact the first science cooperation agreement between Egypt and the UK government. Activities initially were allocated £2 million per annum for UK-Egypt collaboration, growing to £4 million in 2018 and a planned £5 million in 2021 (equally matched by Egypt despite the devaluation of the Egyptian pound). Joint priorities for cooperation have been identified and revolve around sustainable water management, sustainable food production, renewable energy, affordable and inclusive healthcare, and cultural heritage and archaeology.

Matching Egypt’s needs in terms of S&I, the proposed Newton activities tend to focus on capacity-building (people and equipment). Reflecting the focus on capacity-building, the Fund was originally funding many smaller activities and programmes such as PhD scholarships, training for researchers or for building institutional cooperation. Some of the programmes funded include British Council travel grants, PhD scholarships, Researcher Links or Institutional Links, British Academy Advanced Fellowships, AHRC small cultural heritage preservation grants and Royal Academy of Engineering Leaders in Innovation Programmes.

Only a small number of UK delivery partners developed cooperation in Egypt through the Newton Fund. These include the AHRC, British Academy, British Council, Innovate UK and the Royal Academy of Engineering. On the Egyptian side, the Fund works with the Science Technology and Development Fund (STDF) which is main funding arm of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR) as well as the Cultural Affairs and Missions Section.

Emerging findings on the Newton Mosharafa Fund

A range of interviews with stakeholders with a more general or political view on the Newton Fund’s impact in Egypt showed that the Fund has positively influenced UK-Egypt relations in the S&I cooperation field.

Findings

- **Strong commitment to cooperate with UK through the Newton Fund.** One strong indication is the high level of matched funding achieved, even after the 48% devaluation of the Egyptian currency in 2016 (which was a key demand by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to stabilise the country’s economy\textsuperscript{20}). This effectively meant Egypt had to almost double its contribution.

- **The Newton Mosharafa Fund represents a new S&I cooperation opportunity between the UK and Egypt.** It is in fact the first fund to support UK-Egypt cooperation in the S&I field. While it is not the only fund in the UK’s portfolio, it occupies a niche position as the only Fund that offers the opportunity to create S&I-focused UK-Egypt partnerships.

- **The Fund’s broad scope was an opportunity to engage more in social sciences and humanities.** The limited funding opportunities in Egypt for social science and humanities projects means the Newton Fund was perceived as a real opportunity for social science and humanities projects. Funding mechanisms between the UK and Egypt for cultural heritage cooperation did not exist before and Newton opened the door for the AHRC to cooperate with Egypt in this field for the first time.

- **Small grants allowed projects to be developed and collaborations established, and created opportunities for leadership.** The Fund’s strategy of offering a large number of smaller grants appeared to fulfill the need for first establishing greater institutional and researcher connections, which was lacking between the UK and Egypt at the outset. The smaller size of the grants was compensated for by the possibility of

\textsuperscript{19} https://ejust.edu.eg/
aggregating various small grants to suit the need of each project and gradually expand the scope of projects. In addition, grants are empowering partner country researchers to lead on research partnerships (which support their capacity).

- **The Newton Fund appears to be heading towards larger scale and more research-oriented cooperation with Egypt.** In line with Egypt's strong S&I emphasis for its future development plan, plans are underway to offer fewer but bigger and more targeted programmes and move to three to five larger programmes instead of around 100 smaller initiatives. This streamlining approach should also be an opportunity to review the Newton Fund’s priorities and better match Egypt’s revised priorities addressed in its Vision 2030 programme. The STDF for example has expressed interest in moving away from a heavy capacity-building focus towards having more research-heavy or translation pillar projects.

**Challenges and Limits**

- **Small Newton Fund portfolio and limited delivery partner presence in Egypt.** There is an appetite from delivery partners to work in Egypt, but there are currently only five out of fifteen UK delivery partners active in Egypt. Structural barriers to international collaboration act as a deterrent to delivery partner involvement, and there were fewer DPs interested in the initial focus on smaller-scale people-pillar projects. This has been acknowledged by BEIS and there are plans to change the Fund’s approach in Egypt.

- **In Egypt, the Newton Fund has to rely on one main funding partner only.** This restricts the scope of projects funded to mostly natural science projects – except for cultural heritage - due to the STDF’s focus on these fields. It does not match the Newton Fund’s broad scope and limits opportunities for projects in Egypt. However, the Newton in-country team mentioned plans to develop cooperation with another funding partner in Egypt, which could help bring more opportunities for social science cooperation and other areas.

- **In the future, the Fund will need to balance the need for greater visible impact and broader delivery DP engagement.** This evaluation showed that people pillar projects are particularly valuable in the context of little pre-existing cooperation with a partner country and with strong higher education capacity building needs. The plan to move the Fund away from this almost exclusive emphasis on capacity-building to diversifying into research and translation projects reflects a number of legitimate concerns: Egyptian interest in research and translation; pressure on both UK and Egyptian sides to show impact; and the desire wish to attract a broader base of delivery partners.
3 AHRC - Sustainable Green markets, regenerating the urban historic core to sustain Socio-Cultural heritage and economic activities (SuS-MAR)

3.1 Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action title</th>
<th>Sustainable Green markets, regenerating the urban historic core to sustain Socio-Cultural heritage and economic activities (SuS-MAR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short description</td>
<td>The SuS-MAR project aims to develop a holistic approach to the refurbishment of Cairo’s modern architectural heritage taking the AlAttaba wholesale market building as a case study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective(s)</td>
<td>In order to develop this new approach to urban regeneration, the project will look at the tangible dimension of the AlAttaba (architectural, structural, environmental and economic contribution) but also the social role it performs as well as its role in perpetuating Cairo’s intangible heritage such as through culinary and cultural traditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pillar</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action value (total budget allocated in country, in GBP)</td>
<td>£76,338.91 (UK) £26,950 (Egypt)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start / end date (Status: on-going or complete)</td>
<td>February 2016 - March 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DP UK and overseas</td>
<td>AHRC STDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award holders / grantee</td>
<td>Newcastle University Cairo University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2 Description of the action

Sustainable Green markets, regenerating the urban historic core to sustain Socio-Cultural heritage and economic activities

The ‘Sustainable Green markets, regenerating the urban historic core to sustain Socio-Cultural heritage and economic activities’ project, hereafter ‘SuS-MAR’, aims to deliver a sustainable conservation framework for the AlAttaba vegetable market in the centre of Cairo.

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21 Amount originally agreed before the devaluation of the Egyptian currency.
The AlAttaba Market dates to the late 19th century and is currently suffering from architectural decay as well as a loss of its primary function as vegetable market (with many electronics shops and squatters having replaced traditional stalls). As a result, both its economic and social function are at risk of being lost.

The approach taken by Newcastle and Cairo University addresses both the tangible and intangible cultural heritage function of markets. Thereby it offers an innovative approach to market regeneration in Egypt whereby markets do not only have the obvious economic function of buying and selling, but in fact constitute a space for social interaction, which also justifies including environmental and sustainability enhancement to the build. Ultimately, such an approach supports a market’s role in strengthening community ties, attracting visitors and offering a space for people of different social groups and backgrounds to mix.

The project is currently collecting data to propose an inclusive renovation approach which would involve government officials, market stakeholders and local communities.

**Pathway to impact**

SuS-MAR is a Research Pillar project under the Newton Fund’s Theory of change, which is presented in Annex 3 Figure 1.

The project’s main inputs focus on providing collaborative research activities between Newcastle University and Cairo University to develop a sustainable regeneration model for the Cairo AlAttaba vegetable market. This includes various surveys of the building, a field visit in the UK and the production of joint publications. It also involves the cooperation of practitioners with Newcastle City Council and relevant government authorities in Egypt.

**Outputs** expected were new scientific results that would support refurbishment of the AlAttaba market building on joint surveys and studies of the market as well as questionnaires focused around the market stakeholders’ needs. These outputs would lead to the empowerment of the market community (shopkeepers, customers etc.) and be directly relevant to them, as well as support the city’s economic situation. Results are planned to be disseminated through the organisation and attendance of workshops both in Egypt and the UK and conferences. This will lead to publications in international journals.

At outcome level, collaboration would create increased knowledge of Cairo’s development challenges around cultural heritage as well as increased capacity to deal with them. Plans to engage relevant authorities in charge of cultural heritage on inclusive and sustainable development would lead to enhanced relevance of research for decision-making, paving the way for greater evidenced-based decision making in the future.

The impact targeted by SuS-MAR is the promotion of a people-centric development through the sustainable refurbishment of a busy city centre market. In that sense, it promotes the achievement of inclusive economic development that also sustains communities and the country’s heritage.

### 3.3 Answers to the evaluation questions

#### 3.3.1 Relevance

**Activity targeting and contribution to ODA**

Cultural heritage is at the heart of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with its ability to support safe and sustainable cities, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities, the environment, promoting gender equality and peaceful and inclusive societies. The SuS-MAR project targets Egyptian needs in line with these development goals due to its holistic and people-oriented approach to the regeneration of modern Egyptian cultural heritage. As a project that seeks to build cultural capacities in Egypt it is eligible for ODA support.

The AlAttaba market building is part of the city’s 19th-century British colonial architecture and like many of the buildings from this period, it is currently derelict and occupied by squatters. However, the architectural relevance of the building and its central location in the centre of Cairo makes it a valuable asset which is currently underutilised.

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25 Ibid

26 The UNESCO Courier April-June 2017, see [https://en.unesco.org/courier/2017-april-june/culture-heart-sdgs](https://en.unesco.org/courier/2017-april-june/culture-heart-sdgs)
renewed, the building could bring increased revenues for local merchants. It would also bring in tax revenue to the city by legalising the merchants’ situation in the market. The renovated market aims to become a cultural attraction and attract tourism in a country that relies on tourists for around 13% of its GDP\textsuperscript{25} (but which has been negatively impacted by political instability and security threats).

The SuS-MAR project aims to regenerate the modern heritage of Cairo in a holistic way that takes into account the economic function of a market but goes beyond it to also reclaim its social and community-building role. It is aiming to recreate the social fabric that markets support and is therefore aimed at the economic, but also social and environmental development.

The scope of this project is potentially to have this more holistic and social approach change the mind-set of relevant authorities and achieve a change for the AlAttaba market but also to be applied to Egypt’s modern cultural heritage at large. While this approach to market regeneration is in-line with the likes of Barcelona, Newcastle or Florence, which have all undergone similar market refurbishments it is innovative in Egypt, where the value of modern cultural heritage is not necessarily seen by local authorities and where economic benefits tends to trump local needs.

**Additionality**

The Newton Fund’s additionality for the SuS-MAR’s project has been expressed very clearly by project stakeholders on both the UK and Egyptian sides, with respondents in both countries saying they did not think the project would have happened without the Newton Fund. In Egypt, funding for social sciences and humanities is very limited. Cultural heritage is an exception and is the only social science and humanities discipline funded by the STDF (though modern cultural heritage has not been a priority area so far). The Newton Mosharafa Fund was the only opportunity to fund this project.

While Egyptian researchers on this project had already developed the main ideas for the SuS-MAR project, the collaboration aspect of the project could only materialise with the funding from Newton-Mosharafa (which also provided the connection with Newcastle University). The UK research team did not think they would have been able to identify the relevant Egyptian academics had they not had this funding. It allowed Newcastle University to connect with some of Egypt’s best experts in modern cultural heritage, bringing that expertise to the project and its delivery. This happened in a succession of steps and built upon several Newton Fund grants. The first step was a workshop organised by Cairo University and the future UK PI of SuS-Mar in Newcastle as part of a different Newton Fund project on the sustainability of historical parts of Cairo. This linked the UK and Egyptian PIs and prompted them to connect and established their mutual interest in the AlAttaba market building as a project. This was then followed by a travel grant for the UK PI to go to Cairo and to flesh out the SuS-Mar project proposal, which was later submitted to the AHRC. In that sense, the availability of various smaller Newton Fund grants was useful to connect UK and Egyptian researchers, then to support them in the development of their project.

**3.3.2 Effectiveness**

Evidence of a local needs-based approach is reflected in the commitment to a bottom-up approach throughout the project’s activities. The project surveyed the opinions of the vendors and shop owners of the market to include them in the refurbishment plans and the project team has been committed to delivering an approach that respects the merchants’ views and avoids gentrification that may be undesirable to existing residents. In terms of delivery, the project matches the holistic approach of the market space with an interdisciplinary team of experts and practitioners to cover sustainable building technologies but also cultural heritage and collaborative community process as well as urban agriculture, food and museology\textsuperscript{26}. Other activities are aimed at increasing the team’s knowledge of the market; including collection of all available documents on the market; and conducting an architectural survey of the building leading to a 3-D model of the market being made.

**Research collaborations**

At the researcher level, the relationship between Cairo University and Newcastle University was strengthened by the Newton-Mosharafa Fund bringing together two teams who had never worked together before (from the Department


\textsuperscript{26} SuS-MAR Gateway to Research website - [http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=AH%2FN009169%2F1](http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=AH%2FN009169%2F1)
of Engineering and the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape). The Newton-Mosharafa funding allowed Newcastle University to identify the relevant Egyptian PIs and initiate collaboration with them.

It also enabled the building of a strong interdisciplinary team of academics, practitioners and local authorities, which brings in knowledge and the skills needed to address the multiple dimensions and complexity of market refurbishment. One of the key strengths of this project was to involve practitioners from both the UK and Egypt. On the UK side the conservation department of Newcastle City Council, the Tyne and Wear Preservation Trust, public transport experts and 3D scanning experts from the school of Engineering in Newcastle University all participated. On the Egyptian side the Governor of Cairo, the Conservation Department and the Endowment Authority (owners of the AlAttaba building) were involved in the project. This multi-stakeholder collaboration was important to develop the holistic approach to cultural heritage renovation.

The research teams took a joint approach to some activities in the project delivery. That included producing jointly the questionnaire for the survey of AlAttaba vendors and shop owners as well as the Egyptian team’s study visit to the Grainger market in Newcastle and other historic markets in the UK (Durham and several markets in London). The project team also met with representatives of the Mayor of London. Several joint events were organised, including one in Newcastle in 2017 as well as a workshop hosted by the Cairo Governorate in February 2018.

Together the project team also jointly published one paper in the International Journal of Architectural Research and presented their findings in several conferences27.

The collaboration faced some challenges, particularly related to the security clearance requirements every Egyptian research project must go through at national level before it can begin. This delayed the start of work on the Egyptian side.

Due to the matched-funded aspect of the Newton Fund, Egyptian partners are subject to issues specific to Egyptian funding system. Procedures of fund disbursement to projects within the STDF are lengthy and time-consuming to prepare. Ultimately the continuity of the collaboration was ensured by the team members’ dedication to the project but led to frustration from the Egyptian team, one even saying the system is punishing. The STDF showed awareness of this issue and is considering rationalising the procedure but this nevertheless constitutes an impediment to maximising the benefits of international collaboration.

Capacity-building

The UK PI directs the Master for Sustainable Buildings and Environments, the Egyptian PI directs the Master programme for ‘Revitalisation of Historic Cities and Districts’ and the latter plans to involve students in project activities, expecting students to produce more innovative academic and practice research which uses a range of methods not normally considered28. Within the project team, senior researchers leading this project included their more junior colleagues as much as possible through the project’s various activities and kept pushing for this when challenged by funding rules (such as taking them on a study trip to the UK when the funds did not allow for anyone but the senior member to travel).

New international partnerships

The collaboration between Cairo and Newcastle University had already been established through the first Newton project on sustainable regeneration of Cairo’s historic buildings. It is this original project that connected the UK and Egyptian SuS-MAR PIs who did not previously know each other. SuS-MAR in that sense formalised the cooperation between two different teams.

SuS-MAR was successful in engaging a wider team of both UK and Egyptian practitioners including Newcastle City Council, the Tyne and Wear Preservation Trust, the Cairo Governorate, the Egyptian Endowment Authority and the Conservation Department. It appears that it is the first time this constellation of stakeholders are cooperating together. While the involvement of UK practitioners was beneficial for the project itself (Newcastle’s Grainger market was used as a case study to inform the AlAttaba market refurbishment plans), there was no evidence of a strong direct partnership between UK and Egyptian practitioners. However, UK practitioners did

28 SuS-MAR Gateway to Research website - http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=AH%2FN009169%2F1
attend the SuS-MAR workshop hosted by the Cairo Governorate and had the occasion to meet other relevant Egyptian institutions, which signifies there is at least a willingness to engage UK practitioners.

The SuS-MAR project team showed dedication to continuing this project with further funding sources once the AHRC Research Grant ends. The team applied for further funding from the AHRC for a 3 year and £210,000 extension of the project with the whole team, including this time a much wider team of experts (such as economic, laser scanning and human psychology experts from Egypt). This would also include the expansion of the model developed based on the AlAttaba market to the Bab al-Louq market in central Cairo.

Benefits to UK researchers and science

For Newcastle University, the collaboration brought the team closer to Egyptian experts in modern cultural heritage conservation expanding the knowledge and expertise of the UK team members through working with the Cairo University team. UK academics increased their knowledge as individuals but also with the potential to advance UK science by bringing knowledge to UK practice.

For the AHRC as a delivery partner, the Newton-Mosharafa Fund enabled it to open a door to engaging Egypt on cultural heritage issues, which are not covered by any other UK funding opportunities. As confirmed by the UK Embassy Deputy Ambassador, the Newton Fund is the first opportunity to include cultural heritage in bilateral S&I cooperation. Egypt being one of the world’s richest countries for cultural heritage, the Newton Fund created an opportunity to advance UK science by accessing this rich heritage and expertise. This project – as part of the AHRC’s pool of projects on cultural heritage with the Newton Fund – responded to its desire to cooperate with Egypt and led to further cooperation. The AHRC is keen to build on this first phase of activity to bid for further funding within the Newton Fund to launch a call for larger research projects.

3.3.3 Impact

Demonstrable link to development improvements

Compared to its relatively small grant size, the project managed to capture high-level attention from the relevant local authorities. The project is still far from being able to move to implementation stage and no decision as to the market's renovation has been taken yet. However, the project has attracted the interest of the Cairo Governor himself – the equivalent of city mayor - the Endowment Authority and the National Organisation of Urban Harmony and prompted the formation of a coalition of relevant local authorities to deal with the AlAttaba market refurbishment plans. Together they are planning to engage merchants by supporting them to form a contact group and provide training in tourism services. These are encouraging steps to ensure city stakeholders are aware of the value of the holistic approach promoted by SuS-MAR.

One of the challenges to achieve the kind of inclusive development envisioned by the project team will be to ensure this high-level political involvement does not take over the steering of the project thereby risking the project’s integrity. Some stakeholders have already shown their prioritisation of economic benefits over social considerations. The project team are not just aware of the risk of seeing political players impose their views on the implementation of the renovation but actively lobby them to achieve consensus around their vision. There were signs at the joint workshop in Cairo that the Governor of Cairo was keen to adopt the stakeholder-centric approach suggested by the project team.

Change of perception of the UK

The Newton Fund built bridges between the AHRC and the STDF. This project was the first time both institutions worked together and was the catalyst to explore further collaborations on cultural heritage issues.

3.3.4 Complementarity and coordination

Catalytic effect

According to the AHRC, the collaboration led the Egyptian funder to prioritise more strongly cultural heritage matters, since cultural heritage is not the STDF’s traditional remit and is much more focused on natural sciences. According to the AHRC, the cooperation was able to raise awareness on the importance of cultural heritage.
The project linked Newcastle City Council with Cairo city authorities and enabled the Council to gain insights into Cairo’s approach to modern cultural heritage. The city of Cairo has a lot of expertise in the field as do the researchers involved. Newcastle City Council’s involvement enables the two cities to share their respective expertise.

As a next possible step, once the AlAttaba market renovation is implemented, the SuS-MAR’s project plans to use the new approach on another central Cairo historic market (Bab al-Louq) – using the AlAttaba project as a pilot model.

Beyond the specific collaboration between Newcastle and Cairo, the teams also brought together representatives from the wider Egyptian and British academic community in a joint workshop on the “sustaining historic markets of Cairo” in February 2017, thereby contributing to creating a pool of expertise in Egypt around cultural heritage regeneration, which previously only existed in atomised form according to team members. This is seen as a stepping stone to increasing the capacity of local researchers by sharing best practice as well as disseminating the project’s holistic and needs-oriented approach to modern cultural heritage in Egypt.

Leadership effects

The three main local authorities responsible for cultural heritage renovation announced the institutionalisation of the cooperation with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Egyptian Endowment Authority and the Cairo Governorate. The National Organisation for Urban Harmony comes in as a consultant when called by the governorate to check the classification of the buildings and the choice of approach to be followed for renovation and conservation works. This represents the first collaboration of this kind between the two institutions and is a strong evidence of potential for the sustainability of some aspects of the project.

3.4 Conclusions

Main findings

- **Clear ODA relevance and additionality** – the project tackles the renovation of modern Egyptian cultural heritage, which has the potential to directly impact people’s daily lives. The holistic approach developed by the project team, that considers the market’s social function as well as its contribution to preserving Egypt’s heritage, contributes to the country’s development. The cooperation with Newcastle University was only made possible through Newton funded events, and the opportunities offered by introductory events and travel grants that sowed the seeds of collaboration

- **Matched-funding challenged the project delivery** – The project was halted on the Egyptian side by the security clearance system every Egyptian research project must go through. That created a lag between the UK and Egyptian teams, thereby reducing synergies.

- **High-level political involvement for greater implementation potential** – The project team members managed to capture interest from the relevant local authorities to form a coalition institutionalised with a MoU. While this does not guarantee the project outcomes will be taken on board (especially the stakeholder-centric and inclusive approach) or even that the market will effectively get refurbished, it is a necessary first step to for this to happen.

- **Good sustainability prospects** – The project team members have already applied for further funding from the AHRC to continue working on the project and have the support of the Cairo Governorate to help fund Cairo University’s work on the project. The involvement of local authorities, even though the project has not yet moved past the study stage, is a promising step on the way to seeing the project results implemented and potentially applied for the refurbishment of the market.

- **Strengthened UK-Egypt partnership on cultural heritage** – The project initiated cooperation between the AHRC and the STDF on cultural heritage. This increased the AHRC’s profile with the STDF but also increased the profile of cultural heritage as a source of development for Egypt in the STDF’s eyes. This rests on the AHRC’s views as it was not addressed by the Egyptian funders.
Lessons learned

- The Newton Fund acted as a catalyst for this project. The idea for this project had been in the making prior to the Newton Fund but the funding was needed to activate the project and to create the connection with a UK University.

- The Fund offered opportunities for the team to gradually grow the scope of their project through a string of grant applications from an initial travel grant for a networking workshop, to a fully-fledged AHRC research grant.

- Reaching concrete impact on the ground for this project meant being able to translate research results into implementing the market refurbishment. The coalition of local authorities formed around the research team is both an essential enabler as well as a risk of seeing its focus on inclusive development be overridden by vested interests. Managing this is likely to be challenging and it is difficult to predict whether the team will be able to keep the focus on inclusive developmental impact as opposed to economic benefits only.
4 British Academy – Advanced Fellowship

4.1 Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action title</th>
<th>Award type - Newton Fund advanced fellowship scheme supporting Overcoming Deficiencies through Trustworthy Networks: A Comparative Study between the UK and Egypt Experiences in the Healthcare Sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short description</td>
<td>The Fellow’s project focuses on understanding how networks can help overcome various contextual and institutional deficiencies of the Egyptian healthcare system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective(s)</td>
<td>Understand the different institutional deficiencies and challenges facing the Egyptian public health sector, map the different initiatives on the grounds, their activities, networks and actors to provide insights for Egyptian health policy makers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pillar</td>
<td>People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action value (total budget allocated in country, in GBP)</td>
<td>£29,000 (UK) £25,331 (Egypt)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start / end date (Status: on-going or complete)</td>
<td>Planned March 2017, actual funding received from November 2017 – February 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DP UK and overseas</td>
<td>British Academy STDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award holders / grantee</td>
<td>Coventry University replaced end of 2017 by Glasgow University Cairo University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2 Description of the action

The aim of British Academy Advanced Fellowships is to provide early to mid-career international researchers with an opportunity to develop their research strengths and capabilities, and those of their group or network, through training, collaboration and visits with a partner in the UK. As initially conceived, this £55,000 project was a collaboration between Coventry University (PI: Dr. Ann-Marie Nienaber and co-PI: Dr. Rose Narooz) and Cairo University (PI: Prof Ehab Abu Abouaish and Co-PI: Dr. Nora Ramadan), focussed on understanding health networks.

One specificity of the Egyptian healthcare sector is that it is composed of not just a single public health care provider but of a network of institutions – public and private – that work together as social alliances or partnerships. The aim of the ‘Overcoming Deficiencies through Trustworthy Networks: A Comparative Study between the UK and Egypt Experiences in the Healthcare Sector’ is to provide research-based insights to understand if and how these networks help overcome Egyptian healthcare’s deficiencies (using the example of the UK NHS for insights and lessons learned). The project’s three main objectives are: to understand the difference in the institutional health landscapes in Egypt and the UK; establish how healthcare networks are developed, sustained and governed; and offer recommendations to the Egyptian Health Ministry on how to best build sustainable healthcare networks based on the UK’s situation and successful examples in Egypt.

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30 Amount originally agreed.

31 Newton Advanced Fellowships application, p.15.
Due to delays on the Egyptian side project progress has been slower than planned. It was nevertheless selected for review to represent a wider selection of UK delivery partners in Egypt from a very limited pool, and to showcase a broader variety of project experiences.

**Pathway to impact**

The aim of the Newton Advanced Fellowships is to:

- Support the development of a well-trained research community who can contribute to advancing economic development and social welfare of the partner country by transferring new skills and creating new knowledge.

- Strengthen research excellence in partner countries by supporting promising independent, early to mid-career researchers and their research groups and networks to develop their research through training, collaboration, reciprocal visits and the transfer of knowledge and skills from the UK.

- Establish long-term links between the best research groups and networks in partner countries and the UK to ensure that improvements in research capacity are sustainable in the longer term.

The potential impact pathway for the Overcoming Deficiencies through Trustworthy Networks is demonstrated in Annex 3 Figure 2, encompassing both its research component and the capacity building goals of the Fellowship.

**Inputs** include collaborative research activities such as desk research; data collection (through several rounds of interviews and focus group discussions with UK and Egyptian healthcare stakeholders); and specific capacity-building opportunities such as training on social network analysis and comparative qualitative analysis. The training is for both the UK and Egyptian PIs who are both early career researchers and will involve the Egyptian PI travelling to the UK.

In terms of **outputs**, it is expected the PIs will have increased capacity to produce high quality research results and to engage with international research. Students should also benefit from the PIs expanded research skills as these will be taught to them in courses. In terms of research, the project plans to publish in international journals and to disseminate results through social media, a podcast and infographics. Research efforts are targeted to Egypt’s healthcare needs by engaging health practitioners and policymakers and should lead to recommendations for improving the health care system.

The **outcomes** expected are an improved capacity to deliver high quality science but also increased collaborative research outputs and an increased capacity to develop practical and policy-oriented solutions to Egypt’s healthcare deficiencies.

The project’s **impact** is targeted at Egypt’s health system and at reaching possible improvement by studying the current contribution of the non-governmental health providers and sharing these results with policy-makers. Ultimately this would lead to improvements such as better support for these health actors who are overcoming some of the deficiencies of the national health system; and a better healthcare system for Egypt’s population.
4.3 Answers to the evaluation questions

4.3.1 Relevance

Activity targeting and ODA relevance

The project targets Egypt’s public healthcare deficiencies by specifically focusing on better understanding its fragmented health care provision. In particular it is looking at the role of private or community-led initiatives in complementing public sector services. The project intends to fill a knowledge gap in this field by mapping out the various actors, their networks and their initiatives to identify what the achievements or difficulties of each social entrepreneurship model are. It is a solution-driven project tailored to Egypt’s particular needs in the healthcare sector. The project aims to inform Egyptian policymakers on how to best support these initiatives but it also wants to provide the various social initiatives studied with tools to increase their impact. Comparison with the social health care initiatives in the UK aims to deliver best practice examples and material for recommendations for Egyptian social enterprise. Overall the project thereby seeks to improve Egypt’s lacking health system and the welfare of the Egyptian people.

It is relevant to the Egyptian contexts and needs. The Egyptian health system suffers from limited resources, yet has to cope with multiple challenges such as poverty (as 27.8% of Egypt’s population lives under the poverty line), a need to upgrade the quality of undergraduate medical education for physicians and nurses, and a growing population. One of the system’s main challenges is that it is institutionally ill-equipped to deal with these challenges. The Egyptian state spends about 3.7% of GDP on health, which is low by regional standards.

Additionality

The additionality of the project was in terms of funding and formalising a previously informal connection. While the existing personal relationships were important, these were turned into an institutional relationship; the long-existing personal connections between the UK PI – who is Egyptian – and the Egyptian PI/researcher were made in the UK during academic studies. Shared interest was the driver in setting up the project but it is the Newton Fund funding that enabled institutionalising this relationship formally involving Cairo and Coventry (and subsequently, Glasgow University). No alternative funding for such a project was available in Egypt.

4.3.2 Effectiveness

Research collaborations

The funding enabled collaboration through travel for the respective PIs to meet and deliver project activities together. However delays in receiving funding on the Egyptian side delayed the start of research activities, which could not be carried out in tandem with the UK side of the project. The British Academy provided a three-month extension on the UK side, but PIs found it difficult to say at this stage whether this will be sufficient to ensure effective collaboration throughout the remainder of the project.

When the UK PI changed university affiliation during the project, she was able to take the project with her to Glasgow University. While this was very important to ensure the continuity of the project itself, it questions the potential for translation of individual benefits into institutional benefits.

Capacity-building for individuals

The project is still at its initial stages however it has already implemented capacity building activities intended to benefit the research team. A series of trainings has been carried to provide the team with the necessary tools - software and methodological – to be able to carry out social network analysis as well as data analysis. These are reported to have increased the researchers’ skills and their capacity to carry out rigorous analysis.

There are also wider benefits to the student community. Having been trained themselves on advanced methods for social network analysis, PIs aim to translate this gained knowledge and share it with Cairo University students and increase in turn their capacity in an MBA in healthcare management (to be created in 2019). The project also currently

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32 UNDP data. See http://www.eg.undp.org/content/egypt/en/home/countryinfo.html
involves a research assistant from Cairo University who works closely with the Egyptian PI on most aspects of the project and is gaining exposure and experience with international collaborative research projects.

However, PIs believe that the funding does not fully support all their capacity-building needs. For this project, capacity-building takes place through joint project delivery as well as knowledge transfer, which requires time to work together in the same geographical location. The PIs consider the limit on travel to the UK – including training days – to be limiting the actual work time both teams can spend together on joint research and project delivery.

**Capacity-building for institutions**

Institutionally, the Newton Mosharafa funding received was the first government funding the faculty received. In Egypt, there are few funding opportunities for social sciences and humanities, and as a result, simply receiving the grant was an opportunity to establish institutional relationships with a UK university and contribute to the University's internationalisation strategy. Beyond this, and in more practical terms, based on the data collected, there is little evidence of the project focusing on creating institutional capacity-building opportunities at this stage (nor is that the primary goal of Fellowship projects). The UK PI having changed university affiliation during the life of the project has also rendered institutional capacity-building more complicated but might open new avenues of cooperation between Glasgow and Cairo universities.

**New international partnerships**

The Newton Mosharafa institutionalised a personal relationship that had been built in the UK when both PIs where studying for their PhD theses. The UK PI is Egyptian and previously worked at Cairo University. The Fund provided the opportunity to bolster the relationship around a common research project.

Given the early stage of the project, no further cooperation opportunities have yet been considered. At this stage, the focus is on looking for opportunities to sustain the current collaboration, so project PIs intend to look for further funding for the Egyptian PI to visit the UK partner to write the first academic paper. In the longer run, the project might expand and apply for further funding. There are also signs of interest on both sides – Cairo and Glasgow universities - to build on the initial relationships through the Newton Advanced Fellowship to strengthen the relationship with a potential institutional links grant application at a later stage.

**Benefits for UK researchers**

For the UK PI, the participation in this project offered career development opportunities. Academically it enabled to validate her own research interest in social entrepreneurship and expand her research expertise. Winning a grant is also considered an asset in the very competitive academic field. It acted as a career enhancement since the PI was in fact recruited by Glasgow University partially because she held this Newton Fund grant.

4.3.3 **Impact**

Overall, the project’s impact is for the most part still unidentifiable as is to be expected from a relatively small project with a delayed start. This section therefore addresses the activities conducted and how they link to planned and potential impact as well as limitations to achieving it.

**Demonstrable link to development improvements**

The project plans to maximise impact by using the research to provide policymakers and health practitioners with recommendations based on their research. The project is mapping stakeholders involved in the sector, holding focus groups and interviews with health policymakers and practitioners. Results will be fed back to these groups in the project report, along with recommendations and best practice cases. Dissemination activities will be held in both Egypt and the UK to facilitate knowledge transfer.

Part of the project’s design is to identify best practices in both the Egyptian and UK healthcare sector. Individual project best practice will be shared between the UK and Egypt when possible, making some environment-specific adjustments while more policy-oriented lessons learned from the UK – such as how to adapt UK charity status to Egypt for example - will be shared with Egyptian policymakers. These will be shared with practitioners in a feedback workshop in the UK. The project PIs have started building these links contacting and interviewing health stakeholders on the Egyptian side. Recently some government hospital stakeholders showed interest to have the project team...
develop a measure for quantifying the social value of social initiatives in the health sector. This could be used by healthcare initiatives to understand, improve or maximise on their impact for society.

4.4 Conclusions

Main findings

- **ODA relevance** – The project targets the improvement of the Egyptian healthcare sector by identifying and transferring best practice in social initiatives both in Egypt and the UK. Health is an Egyptian policy priority as the country’s system is not coping with the population’s needs, which means that social enterprises have filled this gap, but little research has been carried out to understand their contribution.

- **Clear additionality** - Considering the lack of social science funding available in Egypt, the Newton Mosharafa funding was essential to enable the project to take place, and to formalise the UK-Egyptian researcher collaboration.

- **Institutionalised research collaborations with capacity-building benefits** – Institutionally, the grant initiated relations between department/faculties who had never worked with each other before. The Fund increased the Faculty’s institutional profile and raised awareness of UK funding streams for other academics. For the UK researcher, the grant proved to be an asset for career development.

- **Matched funding cooperation hurdles** – Matched funding was perceived an important asset in receiving security clearance without which no project can start, and is usually harder to secure for social science projects in Egypt. However it exposed the project to the structural limitations of the Egyptian system as it delayed the start of the project on the Egyptian side and brought the cooperation between the UK and Egyptian PIs out of alignment. That potentially reduced the project’s capacity-building benefits limiting opportunities for joint project delivery.

- **Potential for future impact based on solution-oriented activities** – The project is solution-driven and its intended results would help maximise the impact of social initiatives in the health sector, and thereby improving healthcare provision. The comparison with social enterprises in the UK aims to raise Egyptian social enterprises’ awareness of best practices. This could pave the way for the dissemination of best practices uncovered. The project also aims to develop tools to help social enterprises in the health sector assess their impact and possibly improve on it.

Lessons learned

- Pre-existing personal contacts and connections to a Newton partner country were fundamental to the establishment of the collaboration.

- Matched funding is a strength of the Fund where Egyptian requirements caused delays this potentially limits opportunities for collaboration and capacity-building based on the sharing of knowledge and experience between researchers. Capacity-building focussed on providing the Egyptian team with training in the UK or knowledge transfer from working directly with their UK counterpart, which proved challenging due to limited funds for travel to the UK.
5 British Council - Long Term Incarcerated Patients in Forensic Settings: Role of Research in Socioeconomic Enhancement (LIFE)

5.1 Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action title</th>
<th>Long Term Incarcerated Patients in Forensic Settings: Role of Research in Socioeconomic Enhancement (LIFE) British Council Institutional Links grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short description</td>
<td>LIFE aims to improve forensic psychiatric health care services in Egypt by introducing evidenced-based and best-practice tools for patients in Egypt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective(s)</td>
<td>This project seeks to build the capabilities of practitioners and professionals within the forensic psychiatric settings in Egypt by developing and disseminating in cooperation with Nottingham University standardised guidelines and protocols for assessing and potentially releasing forensic psychiatric care patients and establishing a Centre of Excellence of Forensic Psychiatric Research.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pillar</td>
<td>People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action value (total budget allocated in country, in GBP)</td>
<td>£70,500 (UK) £91,955 (Egypt)^34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start / end date (Status: on-going or complete)</td>
<td>March 2016 – September 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DP UK and overseas</td>
<td>British Council STDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award holders / grantee</td>
<td>University of Nottingham Ain Shams University, Cairo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.2 Description of the action

Long Term Incarcerated Patients in Forensic Settings: Role of Research in Socioeconomic Enhancement (LIFE)

LIFE is a two year project that aims to introduce evidenced-based best-practice tools for patients in forensic psychiatric services in Egypt. According to the project’s research, the country counts as many as 500 patients in high security wards who have a mental disorder and have committed a serious offence^35. The lack of evidence-based approaches means these patients are incarcerated for long periods of time and only around 10% of these patients

^34 Amount originally agreed.
^35 Nottingham University project website. See [https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/forensicmentalhealth/news/uk-egypt-research-collaboration.aspx](https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/forensicmentalhealth/news/uk-egypt-research-collaboration.aspx)
are discharged safely back into society. This project aims to develop evidenced-based recommendations for improved services and cost-effective management of patients in forensic psychiatric care in Egypt.

The project is funded by the British Council and the STDF. It is part of the British Council’s Newton Fund Institutional Links grants which supports the development of research and innovation collaborations between the UK and partner countries across the world.

Pathway to impact

The LIFE project’s main topic is the improvement of the Egyptian forensic psychiatric care and fits under the People pillar of the Newton Fund’s Theory of Change (see Annex 3 Figure 3).

The main project input is the development of capacity in forensic psychiatric research through fostering institutional links between Ain Shams and Nottingham University. Joint activities include research (data collection, pilot research) and networking events.

LIFE is aiming to achieve three outputs:

1. Develop standardised guidelines and protocols to improve the health and quality of life of detained patients
2. Introduce evidence based treatments for forensic care patients
3. Establish a Centre of Excellence of Forensic Psychiatric Research.

The project also aims to produce academic papers based on the joint research conducted as well as possibly creating a degree for forensic psychiatry in Egypt.

Together this should lead to upskilled PIs and increased capacity to produce high quality research outputs. Since the project is addressing the deficiencies of the Egyptian forensic health system, it is creating new knowledge, which combined with the intention to use it to reach policymakers should enable the team to improve their capacity to translate research results into policy solutions.

The planned outcomes of the LIFE project are the improvement of capacity to deliver high quality science and the establishment of long-term linkages between Ain Shams and Nottingham University (in turn increasing the number of international collaborative research outputs). Engaging policy makers and Egyptian officials in charge of forensic psychiatric care is a way to pave the way for greater evidence-based decision-making.

At impact level, the project aims to contribute to increasing the country’s preparedness for its health care issues and also improve its economic situation (since better tools for managing forensic psychiatric patients would also lead to reduced costs for the state).

5.3 Answers to the evaluation questions

5.3.1 Relevance

Activity targeting and ODA relevance

Healthcare is an ODA policy priority jointly identified by the UK and Egypt for the Newton-Mosharafa Fund. The LIFE project aims to address a gap in the Egyptian system, whereby patients in forensic psychiatric are not offered appropriate treatment or release assessments. This is due to a lack of recognised training in forensic psychiatry and guidance on the assessment and treatment of such patients in Egypt. This affects the welfare of incarcerated patients and their chances of release but also has an economic cost. Only around 10% of patients are discharged with unreleased patients costing the state up to £4 million a year. The institutional link with Nottingham University and in particular with the UK PI who specialises in Forensic Psychiatry, is aimed at helping overcome shortcoming and jointly develop adequate tools for Egyptian practitioners to improve service provision for patients.

36 Ibid.
37 LIFE project brief
38 LIFE project website. See http://www.lifeprojectegypt.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=517&Itemid=1599
39 LIFE project update Project Update – February 2018, Newton Mosharafa Fund document
The project is tailored to Egypt's needs evidenced by the fact that the whole process was essentially carried by the Egyptian project team based on their own expertise and assessment of the Egyptian system's needs. The Egyptian PI identified, long before the Newton Fund opportunity arose, the main shortcomings of forensic psychiatry care in Egypt and explored ways for improving these conditions Egypt. She then initiated targeted contact with Nottingham University and identified the UK PI as being best placed to provide the expertise needed to contribute to improving the Egyptian forensic care system and meeting the needs of its patients.

The intended contribution of the LIFE project to Egyptian society and socioeconomic development is therefore threefold: to reduce the economic burden associated with the lack of mechanisms to safely decide on discharging patients back to society; to improve the welfare of patients by offering a chance to resettle back into society; and to do so in a manner that would guarantee greater safety for society when that happens.

**Additionality**

The project is the brainchild of the Egyptian PI Dr. Samar who nurtured the idea prior to the Newton Fund. The Newton Mosharafa Fund however really activated the project, which could not have begun without the funding provided. The project needed the financial support to start, but it is the matched funding aspect that was crucial for the project to be granted the necessary security clearance. In Egypt, every research project must receive a security clearance from the state. The LIFE project deals with a very sensitive topic, which would most likely, according to the Egyptian PI, not have been approved for international collaboration. The fact that LIFE was supported by an Egyptian funding body – the STDF – was therefore critical. It was thought that another grant would not have been awarded.

Having the support of the Newton Fund also enabled formal engagement with the Ministry of Health and access to patients’ information, without which the project would have struggled to collect data.

**5.3.2 Effectiveness**

**Research collaborations**

The Egyptian side believe that the Newton Fund enabled partnership with their preferred university, provided them with the best health care system and provided the required funding. Nottingham University (and the UK PI based there) had been identified before applying for the Newton Mosharafa Fund. The Fund provided the opportunity to formally realise the cooperation and engage Nottingham University. This was the only funding opportunity available to them to formally engage a UK university. The UK side confirmed that the Newton Fund generated a collaboration that would not have happened otherwise and that they would not otherwise have thought to initiate.

The collaboration has produced a number of outputs. Together, the team organised workshops, conducted data collection in Egypt, and produced three academic papers. They also translated the internationally recognised risk assessment tool HCR20 into Arabic, and set up the Centre of Excellence in Forensic Psychiatric Research which will train health practitioners in the use of such evidenced-based tools.

Whilst the LIFE project is not considered primarily as a research project under the Newton Fund pillar system, it is based on the research collaboration model and therefore experienced some of the difficulties associated with that. Funding approval and contracting was delayed by about seven months on the Egyptian side. As a result, the UK side of the project stopped months before the Egyptian one, challenging the joint delivery of the remaining activities, such as UK PI ability to travel for the closing LIFE project conference and networking events. The British Council's limited financial flexibility could not help adapt to the Egyptian funding lag. To prevent the funding issue from delaying the start of activities on the Egyptian side and a lag between UK and Egyptian project sides, other funding sources had to be found. The Egyptian LIFE team for example applied for Daniel Turnberg scholarships, to be able to attend the LIFE kick-off event in the UK.

**Capacity-building for individuals**

The project specifically aimed to build the capacity of younger team members. One of the main objectives for carrying out this project was to build a team around the LIFE project in the Forensic Medicine Department. The LIFE project enabled the Egyptian PI to build a large team composed mainly of students and early career researchers around the project and her own expertise. Project activities such as training and research placements in Nottingham University were aimed at creating learning and capacity-building opportunities. However, beyond the initial institutional links
grant followed by two researcher connect grants, a lot of the capacity-building activities were be funded through non-Newton grants such as Daniel Turnberg grant to fund such a study trips to the UK for some of the more junior members of the team. When interviewed, junior researchers recognised the benefits of their involvement in the LIFE project as an opportunity. They mentioned that being involved in an international collaboration developed their interpersonal skills as well professional intercultural communication. While this felt challenging at times, the participation in the project provided them with good exposure to working with an international research team.

Capacity-building for institutions
At an institutional level, the Newton Fund created the first research collaboration between the Ain Shams University and Nottingham University. It is in fact the first UK-Egypt cooperation in the field of forensic psychology according to PIs. The Fund helped create bridges between these two institutions, which otherwise were not collaborating. The Egyptian side had not even considered Nottingham University as a potential partner. The prestige associated in the Department with winning a Newton Mosharafa grant is recognised up to the top level of the university with a senior member of the faculty saying “the Newton Fund is looked upon as the most prestigious, all faculties compete to get it”.

The commitment to using the LIFE project as a vehicle for capacity-building led PIs to apply for further funding together to ensure continued institutional but also personal collaboration. Cementing this institutional collaboration through more funding avenues is seen by the PIs as a way to guarantee continued benefits for the PhD students and early career researchers once the Newton funding ends.

New international partnerships
To ensure the sustainability of the collaboration, the LIFE project team has planned to have a number of individual initiatives such as joint PhD project supervision and fellowships for Egyptian team members in Nottingham University. The UK and Egyptian PIs have also applied for an Erasmus Plus grant together with Nottingham University and an Italian and a Dutch partner for which the expertise gained in LIFE around treatment of trauma victims will be used. This would not only expand the partnerships to two new universities but would also include ministerial stakeholders as well as practitioners.

According to the Egyptian team, the collaboration with Nottingham University and the UK PI in particular was a crucial doorway for gaining access to European networks and expanding cooperation. This leveraged Nottingham University’s role as one of Europe’s biggest institutes of mental health and existing ties to other universities in Europe.

Benefits for UK researchers
For the UK side of the project, working on LIFE opened access to the Egyptian forensic psychiatry field. This not only allows expansion of the scope of expertise to another case study country, but it is a chance to gain original data for future publications. In particular, working in Egypt allowed for a much quicker data collection process than would have been possible in the UK due to the much lighter administrative and ethical procedures in place.

5.3.3 Impact
The LIFE project was designed to create practical change on an issue that responds to Egyptian needs – introducing an evidenced-based mechanism that would allow practitioners to safely discharge patients back into society. The project managed to introduce to Egypt this interdisciplinary approach to the issue, which combines medicine and law, creating a new field at the interface between the two disciplines. This was done through research and fieldwork to assess the situation in Egypt. It then introduced a state of the art evidenced-based set of tools – the HCR20 – in Egypt, cooperating directly with the Canadian owner of this risk assessment procedure to translate it into Arabic.
To ensure the application of the research the team engaged with Egyptian stakeholders to systematise the uptake of this new approach to forensic psychiatric patients. They engaged relevant ministries in Egypt – the Ministry of Health and later the Ministry of Justice – to firstly raise awareness around the lack of an adequate approach to forensic psychiatric patients to gather support for the project and increase prospects of systemic change. They offered the Ministry Health inclusion in all travel and capacity-building activities Ain Shams was holding. Both institutions have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) institutionalising their cooperation together on the issue.

A Centre of Excellence was set-up in October 2016 to act as dedicated unit that also acts as a ‘train-the-trainer’ hub. LIFE project members and ministry officials were at the time of writing (March 2018) in the process of undergoing training themselves before then being able to train other practitioners. This initiative should increase Egyptian officials’ awareness of forensic psychiatry issues in the country which paves the way for possible future policy changes.

Change in perception of the UK in Egypt

Having spoken to the Ain Shams University President and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, which hosts the project, there is a sense that more generally, opportunities like the Newton Fund have raised the UK’s profile as a science and innovation collaboration partner. The UK used to be well positioned a few decades ago but was superseded by the USA, Germany and France. Both the Dean and LIFE project people explained that receiving a Newton Mosharafa grant is seen as a sign of prestige and gives the project instant credibility. Faculties are in competition with one another to apply for and win Newton Fund grants and students flock to the funded project to work, sometimes for free.

5.3.4 Complementarity and coordination

Catalytic effect

The LIFE project has changed the way the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Justice approach forensic psychiatry and they have started collaborating together within the project. They then independently signed a MoU to formalise that cooperation. It is the first time these two institutions have cooperated together on this issue. This shows signs of successful awareness raising on the part of the LIFE project team and also of commitment on the side of ministries to sustain the cooperation.

The team is planning to develop an online training to further expand the reach of the use of the risk assessment tool to Ministry of Health physicians. Efforts by the LIFE project team to work on the acceptability of the diagnostic tool also aim to involve the police and law enforcement institutions who also deal with forensic psychiatric patients. The aim is to familiarise them with the procedures and tools to discharge patients.

Leadership effects

By establishing a Centre of Excellence on forensic psychiatry, the LIFE project showed leadership in forensic psychiatry research. The Centre has only been established recently and team members (who are also LIFE project members) are still being trained themselves on the HCR20 protocol but once set up, the Centre’s training could potentially reach the whole Arab-speaking region, with interest already expressed in Iraq, Jordan and Oman.

There are signs the LIFE project is involved with policy-making. The Cabinet has on its agenda an amendment of the law on psychological services, which would weaken the contribution of forensic experts. The project is involved with policymakers through its board, which includes the Ministry of Health and Justice. The board will have the opportunity to share their experience of the LIFE project to influence the outcome of this legal revision with the Cabinet.

5.4 Conclusions

Main findings

- Clear ODA relevance – The project was born out of the experienced PI’s assessment of Egypt’s forensic psychiatry needs. The benefits of introducing a state of the art risk assessment tool are both of an
economic nature and for the welfare of its citizens – the patient should gain a chance to reintegrate into society and the population should be kept safer.

- **A commitment to capacity-building** – The project has shown a continuous commitment to benefit the entire team involved with the LIFE project, which is mainly composed of PhD students and junior researchers. Through further funding application they gained access to further training.

- **Sustainable links created with the UK University** – the LIFE project followed a trajectory through the Newton Fund British Council small grants, which enabled it to build on the experience gained from the one grant to apply for another (including other non-Newton funds). That was helpful to scale the project up and expand its scope. But it was also crucial to strengthen and provide sustainability through continuous project involvement between Ain Shams and Nottingham University beyond the limited lifetime of each small grant.

- **Wider impact potential** – LIFE not only introduced a new approach to forensic psychiatry but has also engaged policymakers in the work which may lead to systemic change in the Egyptian system in the future. They have also been strategic about sustainability and scope expansion beyond the limits of the project through the establishment of a Centre of Excellence, which could have a national or even regional role.

- **Matched funding issues challenged the joint project delivery** – as with all other projects studied in this report, the project experienced long delays before receiving the security clearance from the Egyptian state and the funds. As a result, other grants had to be sought in order to guarantee the continuity of the project.

**Lessons learned**

- **Maximising the benefits of the grant is highly dependent on the project PI’s ability to be strategic** – Their role is essential in making the most of every opportunity, maximising them and troubleshooting issues. An experienced PI – as in the case of the Ain Shams team - who has the technical expertise, career experience, vision and motivation drives the project, understands the grants landscape and is able to make the most of every grant opportunity – often of relatively small amounts - to build the capacity of their team and the scope of their project. Only an experienced PI is also able to understand the political landscape and connect with officials to gain their support and involvement, which is a prerequisite to transforming research outcomes into developmental impact for the country.

- **The Newton Fund provides credibility and visibility to projects** – Winning a Newton grant increased the project’s profile, which was well exploited by the project putting in place a media strategy to maximise exposure. The project successfully attracted the attention of officials and senior University staff and increased its profile. This also contributed to attracting high level attention on cooperation with the UK within the University.

- **Newton Fund small grants were well adapted to project needs** – Small grants that are complementary to each other and can be applied for successively was an opportunity to incrementally scale up projects. With the PI’s commitment, they also served to promote the team’s capacity-building – by receiving the training they offered, learning to apply for them, and contributing to developing their international cooperation skills.
6 Conclusions

Egypt has identified Science and Innovation (S&I) as one of its growth levers and is very keen to engage UK partners. However, some of the repercussions of the 2011 Revolution have been political and socioeconomic reforms to stabilise the country, which have made for a challenging context in which to develop international cooperation. This is reflected in the limited number of UK delivery partners active in the country.

Notwithstanding these issues, all three projects studied showed diverse but solution-oriented approaches to some of Egypt’s most pressing developmental needs. They address Egypt’s healthcare sector deficiencies and cultural heritage in a way that targets improvements in economic development and welfare, as well as improvements in research capacity and capability.

Main findings

- **All three projects were designed to offer practical solutions to some of Egypt’s pressing challenges** – The projects were designed specifically around some of Egypt’s developmental challenges in health and cultural heritage. Projects had identified a developmental issue in line with their field of expertise. They set out to develop, through their research and collaboration activities, new approaches or introduce new thinking in order to contribute to solving these issues.

- **Projects showed a willingness to achieve transformational change in Egypt** – The projects were research-based, but their goal is to leverage this research and the team’s expertise and introduce Egyptian authorities and stakeholders to new ways of addressing problems. All of the projects have attempted to be strategic in their engagement with policy-makers or Egyptian officials to raise their awareness and to ensure that they are impact oriented.

- **The Fund acted as a catalyst that contributed to expanding S&I potential** - The Fund fills a gap in S&I cooperation with the UK, but its contribution is mostly to have activated projects that were already in the making and required a financial push and a means to formally establish links with a UK researcher or institution. As such, Newton Mosharafa grants were perceived as a real opportunity by respondents.

- **Newton Fund grants served to create new institutional partnerships** – The grants helped build new connections between UK and Egyptian PIs or institutions. The grants also transformed personal connections into formal cooperation. Grants were used in different ways, either a project team used a Newton Fund grant to start a new project and a new collaboration (LIFE); to develop a new project out of existing personal connections (Overcoming Deficiencies through Trustworthy Networks); or to build on a previous Newton grant and develop a larger project (SuS-MAR).

- **Combinable grants allowed project flexibility** - The cumulative nature of smaller grants – including non-Newton Fund grants - meant they could be used to gradually grow the scope of the cooperation or else to fund other capacity-building activities not covered by the initial grant.

- **Enhanced project profile** – The Fund provided projects with greater credibility and visibility as it is perceived as a prestigious endorsement of the project. This played a role in securing high-level engagement from Egyptian policymakers and government officials, but also greater visibility within a project team’s own institutions. It also prompted greater visibility of the Newton Fund in Egypt since it encouraged other researchers within awardees’ organisations to apply for Newton funds.

- **Matched funding led to disjointed project delivery between UK and Egyptian project teams** – All three projects on the Egyptian side experienced security clearance and funding delays which brought the two sides of the project out of sync. While matched funding creates greater buy-in from authorities, practically it exposes projects to systemic security and bureaucratic problems which can reduce projects’ collaborative and capacity-building benefits. The two main issues:
  - The opaque nature of the Egyptian security clearance process each project must go through. These are no visibility on timelines for potential clearance which creates a lag in project delivery
between the UK and the Egyptian sides. This undermines the benefits of cooperating with a partner organisation as activities cannot always be conducted as a joint team. When delays did occur, UK delivery partners showed flexibility in providing extensions. This however could not fully shield projects whose teams had to resort to creative but sub-optimal solutions – such as working on their own time or funds – in order not to undermine joint project delivery.

- Equally, heavily bureaucratic and lengthy procedures for project expense reimbursement led Egyptian teams, in some cases, to delay activities or to fund project delivery activities themselves to avoid undermining the project. The STDF is aware of the issue and is looking into ways of accelerating the process.

- Good capacity-building achievements despite matched-funding-related limitations – Project PIs were strongly committed to using the funded projects as a means to deliver capacity-building for the benefit of their entire team. This multiplied the capacity-building reach to early career researchers and PhD students exposing more team members to training activities.

- The Fund raised the UK’s profile in Egypt’s higher education sector - Interviews with Egyptian higher education stakeholders confirmed that the Newton Fund contributed to positioning the UK as a partner of choice in S&I cooperation. In particular, it has helped distinguish the UK from other funders such as the USA, France and Germany. This was in marked contrast to the situation five – ten years ago, when the UK was not commonly approached for funding.

Lessons learned

- Matched funding issues can reduce the collaborative and capacity-building benefits of the Fund – Issues with security clearance and funding delays are not simply an impediment on the Egyptian side. Because they misalign collaboration between the UK and Egyptian side of the teams, they can reduce the benefits of collaboration. Capacity-building in particular depends on the joint project delivery as well as training in the UK. Reducing the opportunities to work jointly decreases capacity-building opportunities.

- Main grant holders (or PIs) are crucial in maximising results and ensuring a project’s sustainability - Funding from the Newton Fund act as a catalyst for projects. However considering the relatively small funding received, achieving broader influence depends on a PIs’ capacity to grow their projects as well as to navigate their project through the complexities of Egypt's funding landscape.

- The downside is that when a project does not have such PIs there is a risk this lack of experience and of strategic thinking would limit a project’s potential impact. This can mean that projects impact is somewhat influenced by personality, dedication and experience of researchers.

Areas for improvement

- Maximise the Fund’s impact by introducing networking opportunities between projects - Currently a project’s capacity to reach outcomes and Fund-level impact depends on the level of experience, drive and ability to make connections with policy-makers of each project PI. Introducing networking opportunities to share experience would introduce another capacity-building opportunity for other projects. A lack of metrics and M&E systems within the Fund feels like an impediment to a consistent assessment of impact and therefore of understanding the Fund’s strengths and weaknesses better.

- Build-in flexibility to compensate for matched funding issues – Matched funding issues are not simply a problem on the partner country side. They risk undermining the impact of the funds invested in the cooperation. The Egyptian in-country team as well as UK delivery partners have used approaches within the boundaries of what the Fund allows (e.g. fund extension on the UK project team side and posting calls much earlier than usually to pre-empt Egyptian delays). These have been useful but of limited effectiveness so far.
Annex 1 – References

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Annex 2 – Egyptian Funding structure

**Role of major science agencies in Egypt**

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR), Egyptian governmental ministry to develop, implement and monitor all the country's policies relating to Higher Education and scientific research.

Higher Council of Scientific Research and Technology (HCST), created in 2007, chaired by PM and is charged with strategic planning for the utilisation of scientific research for economic and societal development.

Academy of Scientific research and Technology (ASRT), is the national authority responsible for science & technology in Egypt and integrates S&T support with relevant ministries and research institutions. ASRT play an advisory role on STI policies and evaluation.

Science Technology and Development Fund (STDF), main funding arm for the MoHESR that provides funds for scientific research and technology development.

Cultural Affairs and Missions Sector, the General Administration entrusted with all affairs of scholars related to Academic supervision, scholarships, and cultural representations.

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41 Provided by the Newton Mosharafa Fund In-country team.
Annex 3 – Theories of Change per Action

Figure 1. Theory of Change, Sustainable Green markets, regenerating the urban historic core to sustain Socio-Cultural heritage and economic activities (SuS-MAR)
Figure 2 – Theory of Change, Overcoming Deficiencies through Trustworthy Networks
Figure 3. Theory of Change, Long Term Incarcerated Patients in Forensic Settings: Role of Research in Socioeconomic Enhancement (LIFE)