

## **Qena Governorate for ENID's Integrated Approach to Capacity Building and Job Creation**

The Governorate of Qena is typical of all Upper Egypt governorates, as evidenced by the predominantly rural farming activities, low income, lack of diversification, and low access to infrastructure and social services, as well as the migration of a significant proportion of young men to the Delta and abroad. A culture of social conservatism restrains the activities of young women. The implications are that ENID's success in developing income-generating activities in Qena can be replicated in other Upper Egypt governorates. The focus on Qena is thus important for demonstration purposes and the opportunities for developing Qena have been identified by ENID's exercise in preparing the [Qena Investment Map](#)

Qena lies on 165 km stretch of the Nile Valley, between Luxor and Sohag governorates, with a population of 2.5 million. It is home to 152 villages of which 59 are among Egypt's 1000 poorest villages identified by Egypt's Poverty Map. Qena is distributed across nine *marakez* (districts) with 41 central villages and 111 smaller villages. Other than agriculture, resources are few and underexploited. The imposing Temple of Dandera, several Coptic Christian monasteries, and close proximity to both Luxor Airport and archeological sites, together suggest a new tourism potential. Additionally, Qena's agricultural base provides significant room for vertical and horizontal expansion, going up the value chain towards food processing and exporting high value crops, as well as exploiting the desert fringe (*zaheersahraw*). The entrepreneurial and employment potential of local MSMEs is vastly underutilized and has the possibility to become a real engine of growth.

### **Indicators of Deprivation Across Regions of Egypt**

	Public sewage network	Indoor toilets with flush	Floor material natural	Poor + near poor	Consumption per capita (LE)	Food share in income
Qena Governorate	5%	10%	40%	78%	3256	49%
Rural Upper Egypt	14%	15%	33%	75%	3285	48%
Rural Lower Egypt	33%	32%	5%	49%	4488	44%
Urban Upper Egypt	74%	59%	6%	50%	4699	38%
Urban lower Egypt	88%	72%	1%	30%	5557	37%

Source: Household Income, Expenditure and Consumption Survey (HIECS) 2010-2011, CAPMAS

As shown in the Table above, Qena governorate suffers most severely from among all Upper Egypt. Only 5% of all households have access to a public sewage network and 10% enjoy an indoor toilet with flush. As much as 40% of houses have no tiling of the floor when compared to 33% for all rural Upper Egypt and 5% for Lower Egypt. The proportion of poor and near poor households is as high as 78% for Qena which is above the average for rural Upper Egypt and consistent with other indicators such as consumption per capita and the large weight of food share in income.