

Map of the New Feminist Movement in Egypt

The Feminist Map is a study conducted within the framework of the "Promoting and Protecting Women's Rights Project (Stars for Change)," with the aim of mapping the new feminist movement in Egypt and assessing its achievements, successes, and challenges. The project is implemented by the Communication Techniques for Development (ACT) and funded by the European Union.



Purpose of the Map

To document the reality of the feminist movement, its areas of work, achievements, challenges, and geographic presence, with the aim of creating opportunities for growth, learning, experience exchange, and networking among feminist activists in Egypt.

Research Methodology

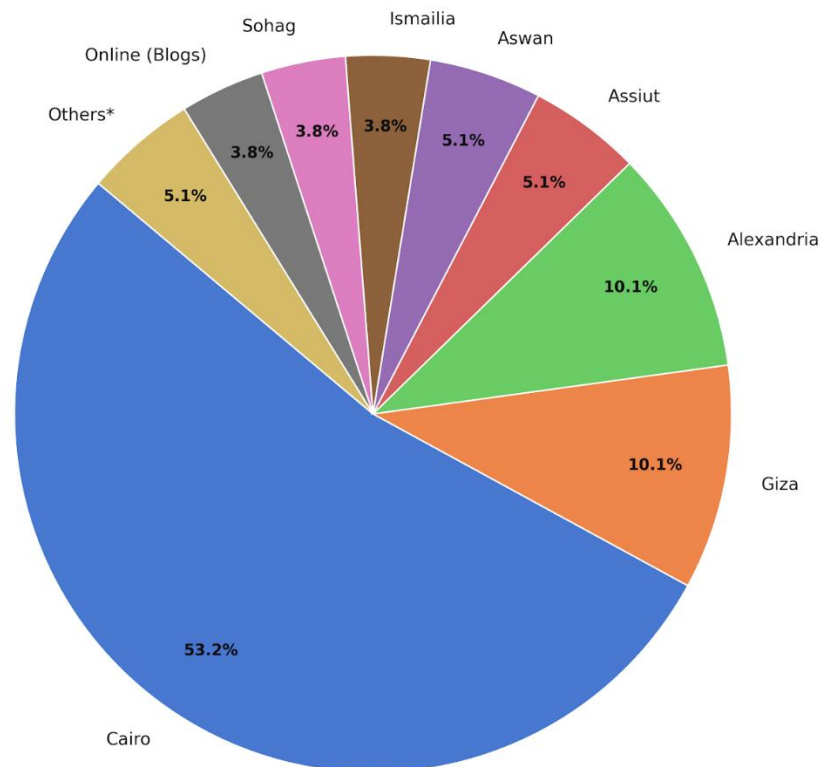
The study applied data triangulation through:

- Survey templates emailed to organizations and initiatives.
- Phone interviews, desk review, and online research.
- A two-day workshop bringing together activists from various initiatives.

Key Figures & Statistics

Total organizations & initiatives mapped	79 entities
Formally registered institutions	35 institutions
Youth-led initiatives	44 initiatives
Governorates covered	12 governorates

**Geographical Distribution of Feminist Organizations & Initiatives
(Total n = 79)**



Four Waves of the Egyptian Feminist Movement

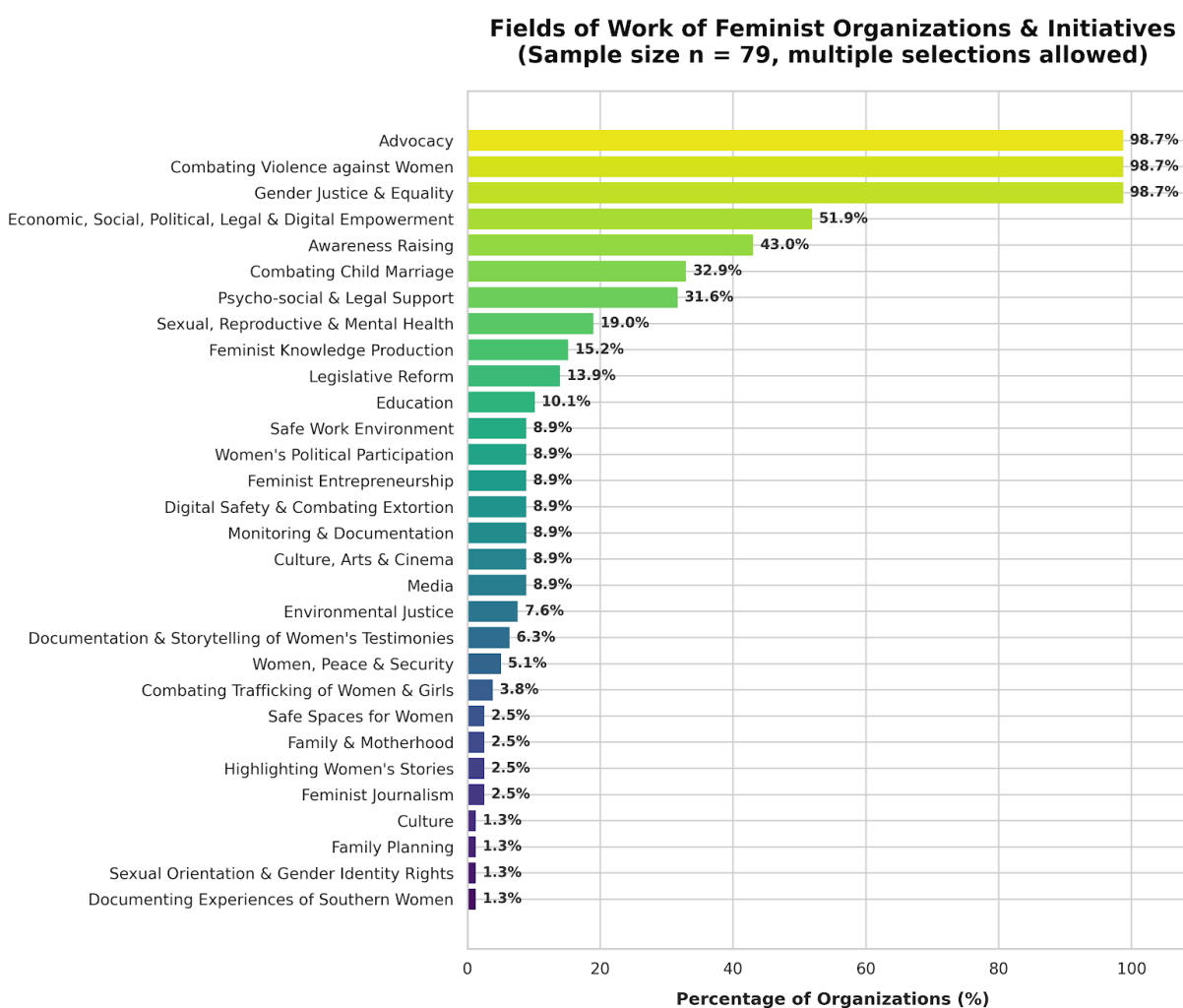
1st Wave (19th century–1950): Demand for women's right to public education and political representation. The Egyptian Feminist Union was founded in 1923 by Hoda Shaarawi.

2nd Wave (1950s–early 1970s): Achievement of constitutional and legal rights, including the right to vote and run for election in 1956.

3rd Wave (1980s–2011): Feminist activism through civil society organizations, countering rising religious fundamentalism.

4th Wave (2011–present): Focus on bodily autonomy, sexuality, and digital activism as the main arena for feminist organizing.

Areas of Work of Feminist Organizations and Initiatives Across Egypt's Governorates



The mapping findings reveal that feminist organizations and initiatives across Egypt's governorates are engaged in a broad range of human rights and development fields, reflecting the evolution of the Egyptian feminist movement and its responsiveness to social, political, and technological transformations, as well as the diverse needs of women and girls within different local contexts.

The work of these organizations and initiatives focuses on advancing the rights of

women and girls and combating all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence through awareness-raising, advocacy, capacity building, service provision, knowledge production, and policy engagement.

Protection from Violence

Combating all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual harassment, female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage, and economic and psychological violence.

- Addressing digital violence and online blackmail through digital safety awareness, legal and psychosocial support for survivors, the development of digital protection mechanisms, and monitoring violations targeting women and girls in online spaces.
- Protecting and supporting women human rights defenders by documenting violations, providing legal and psychosocial assistance, strengthening solidarity networks, and promoting safer environments for women defenders and activists.
- Providing psychosocial support services and referrals to health and legal services, particularly for survivors of violence.

Empowerment

- Promoting women's legal empowerment by raising legal awareness, providing legal counseling and assistance, and improving women's access to justice.
- Advancing women's economic empowerment through skills development, support for entrepreneurship and small businesses, and expanding opportunities for women's economic participation and financial independence.
- Strengthening women's political and public participation by supporting women leaders and encouraging their engagement in decision-making processes at both local and national levels.

Knowledge Production and Feminist Education

- Producing feminist knowledge through research, studies, data collection, knowledge mapping, and monitoring the status of women and girls to support evidence-based policies and programs.
- Developing feminist education initiatives, including the establishment of Feminist Schools, which serve as spaces for learning, dialogue, and knowledge production while fostering critical gender awareness and preparing a new generation of feminist leaders and activists.
- Using arts and culture as tools for awareness-raising and advocacy through theatre, cinema, visual arts, literature, music, storytelling, and street art to stimulate public dialogue on women's rights, challenge gender stereotypes, and promote the values of equality and justice.

Advocacy and Coalition Building

- Engaging young people, men, and boys in promoting gender equality, challenging discriminatory norms, and fostering a culture based on respect for human rights.
- Building feminist alliances and networks while strengthening collaboration among civil society organizations, grassroots initiatives, universities, media institutions, and

governmental bodies to enhance the sustainability and impact of feminist action at both the local and national levels.

The research findings indicate that feminist organizations and initiatives are no longer limited to providing services or carrying out awareness-raising activities. Rather, they have become key actors in producing feminist knowledge, shaping rights-based discourse, defending women human rights defenders, and developing innovative advocacy tools, including the use of technology and the arts as catalysts for social change. They have also contributed to creating safe spaces for dialogue, learning, and solidarity, while strengthening women's participation in public life and advancing equality, social justice, and sustainable development across Egypt's governorates.

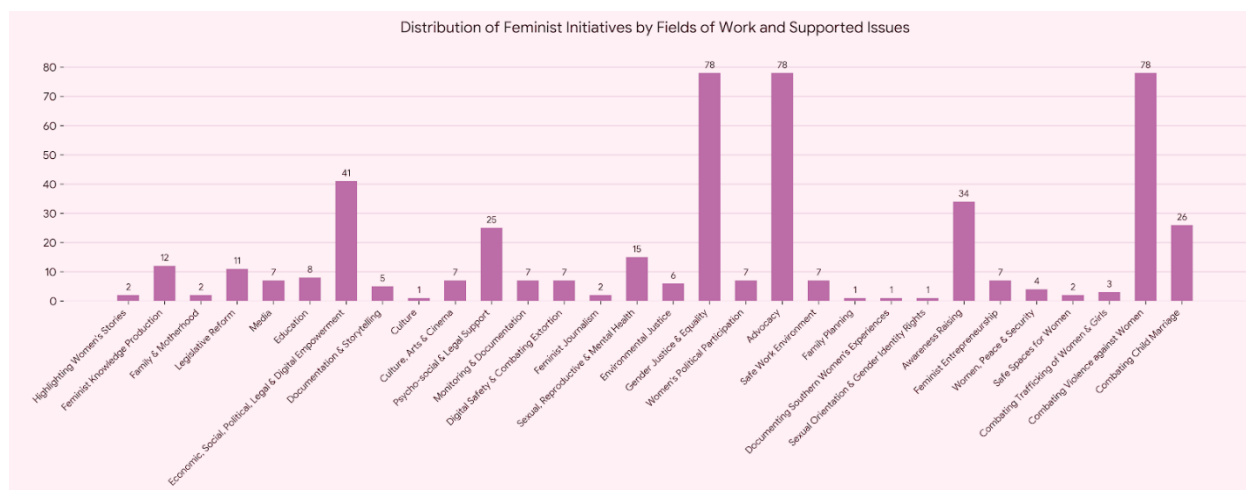
Fields of Work of Feminist Organizations and Initiatives in the Sample (n = 79)

Field of Work	Number of Organizations & Initiatives	Percentage of the Sample (%)
Highlighting Women's Stories	2	2.53%
Feminist Knowledge Production	12	15.19%
Family & Motherhood	2	2.53%
Legislative Reform	11	13.92%
Media	7	8.86%
Education	8	10.13%
Economic, Social, Political, Legal & Digital Empowerment	41	51.90%
Documentation & Storytelling of Women's Testimonies	5	6.33%
Culture	1	1.27%

Culture, Arts & Cinema	7	8.86%
Psycho-social & Legal Support	25	31.65%
Monitoring & Documentation	7	8.86%
Digital Safety & Combating Extortion	7	8.86%
Feminist Journalism	2	2.53%
Sexual, Reproductive & Mental Health	15	18.99%
Environmental Justice	6	7.59%
Gender Justice & Equality	78	98.73%
Women's Political Participation	7	8.86%
Advocacy	78	98.73%
Safe Work Environment	7	8.86%
Family Planning	1	1.27%
Documenting Experiences of Southern Women	1	1.27%
Sexual Orientation, Identity & Gender Expression Rights	1	1.27%
Awareness Raising	34	43.04%
Feminist Entrepreneurship	7	8.86%

Women, Peace & Security	4	5.06%
Safe Spaces for Women	2	2.53%
Combating Trafficking of Women & Girls	3	3.80%
Combating Violence against Women	78	98.73%
Combating Child Marriage	26	32.91%

Methodological Note: Percentages were calculated based on the total sample size of 79 organizations and initiatives. Because a single organization or initiative may operate in more than one field, the sum of the percentages exceeds 100%.



Key Achievements of Feminist Organizations and Initiatives

- Providing legal services to more than 800,000 beneficiaries in the area of official document processing.
- Educating 70,000 women and girls, and supporting 30,000 female students with full scholarships.
- Reaching more than 350,000 women through a participatory micro-credit lending model.
- Establishing the first shelter for abused women and their children in Egypt (Beit Hawaa).
- Amending more than 20 articles in favor of women in the 2013 draft constitution.
- Founding the first Arabic feminist publishing house "Elles" in Egypt.

- Obtaining consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for several organizations.
- Launching several gender-based violence observatories to document incidents in real time.

Key Challenges

Institutions	Initiatives
1. Administrative and legal obstacles (NGO law) 2. Limited and unsustainable funding 3. Cultural and social barriers within communities 4. Discriminatory laws Absence of a unified law to combat violence against women and girls.	1. Financial challenges (fully self-funded) 2. Limited technical capacity and human resources 3. Difficulty obtaining official legal status for some initiatives.

This map is an interactive map available on ACT's website: www.acteg.org