



DP WORLD

THE DP WORLD EFFECT

DRIVING GROWTH FOR SOKHNA'S ECONOMY AND ITS COMMUNITIES:
THE DP WORLD EFFECT

THE SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT OF DP WORLD'S SOKHNA PORT



\$1.0 BILLION

increase in Egypt's goods
exports by 2035 – Boost
attributable to Sokhna Port



\$318M

GDP supported
in Egypt by
Sokhna Port



0.2%

increase to Egypt's worker
productivity by 2035 – Boost
attributable to Sokhna Port



9,520

Jobs supported
in Egypt by
Sokhna Port



1,150

Female jobs
supported by
Sokhna Port



3,030

Jobs supported in
Suez region by
Sokhna Port

In the Suez region, home to Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZONE), job opportunities and industrial growth thrive against a backdrop of macroeconomic challenges and regional development priorities. Within this context, SCZONE plays a critical role in sustaining economic activity and employment in one of Egypt’s most strategically valuable regions.

DP World’s Sokhna Port supported an estimated \$318 million contribution to Egypt’s GDP in 2024, \$239 million of which accrued in Suez, equivalent to 6.9% of the local economy. This activity supported 9,520 jobs nationwide, 3,030 of which were in the Suez, and stimulated \$12.3 million in tax revenues for Egyptian authorities. Together, these figures demonstrate how one terminal contributes to both national economic activity and local livelihoods.

The Suez Canal has long been a cornerstone of Egypt’s economy and global supply chains, handling around 12% of all trade and roughly 30% of container traffic worldwide.¹ However, its strategic importance also leaves it exposed to geopolitical risk. In 2024, escalating tensions in the Red Sea significantly disrupted maritime traffic, with vessel transits through the Canal falling sharply compared to the previous year.² Nevertheless, the Canal remains a critical node in global shipping networks, supporting international trade and supply chains far beyond Egypt.

Sokhna Port is one of six ports within SCZONE with an area of 22km², serving as Egypt’s main gateway to East Africa, Asia and the GCC. Amid regional instability, SCZONE’s strategy is to diversify into sectors such as data centres, solar PV and green H₂.³ This industrialisation supports an overwhelmingly national workforce, with 99.9% of employees being Egyptian.

This report explores these dynamics by first outlining the socioeconomic realities facing communities in Suez, before assessing Sokhna Port’s economic, employment and connectivity contributions through independent analysis by Oxford Economics. It demonstrates how trade infrastructure, when aligned with local priorities, can support more inclusive and resilient growth, an idea at the core of what we describe as the DP World effect.

**EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY**



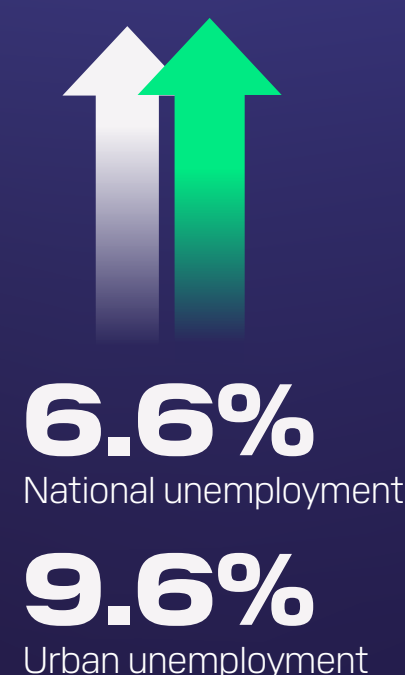
OVERVIEW OF SUEZ

GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY

As the Suez region seeks to establish itself as a leading hub for trade, industry and logistics, it continues to pursue growth while navigating significant macroeconomic pressures along the way.⁴ Within this context, local socioeconomic conditions in the Suez Governorate are central to assessing how growth under the SCZONE translates into inclusive outcomes.

By regional standards, Suez performs relatively well in terms of human development indicators, with estimates placing the territory at around 0.781 in 2022, above the national average; broadly comparable to several upper-middle-income emerging economies such as Mexico and Brazil.⁵ Suez's relative strength is promising, yet there remain areas for growth. While national poverty rates have declined, there is a need for ongoing development efforts for continued progress.⁶

National labour market indicators offer valuable insights into inclusion trends.



Unemployment rates have improved, but in 2024 they still measured at 6.6%, with urban unemployment at 9.6%, particularly relevant for Suez given its predominantly urban workforce.⁷ While structural gaps remain, ongoing progress is evident: female workforce participation reached 16.9%, and youth unemployment stood at 14.9%, highlighting opportunities for further improvement in broadening access to formal employment across all groups.

A key question for the Suez growth story is how far industrial expansion is translating into broad-based opportunity for people living in the governorate and surrounding communities. Job creation alone does not automatically equate to inclusive development. The long-term socioeconomic trajectory depends on job quality, access to vocational education and apprenticeships, and the availability of clear pathways into stable, higher-value work.

Tracking participation in formal employment and skills programmes, particularly among local residents, youth and women, helps indicate whether growth is widening access to income, capability building and longer-term employability. Later sections explore the part Sokhna Port plays within this wider ecosystem, using data to illustrate the knock-on effects associated with investment and operational activity in and around the port.

SOKHNA

A GATEWAY PORT

Sokhna's location provides the ideal sea and land gateway for cargo handling between the Far East, Gulf region and East Africa.

Based on operational data provided by DP World as part of Oxford Economics' independent study, Sokhna offers:

12

Direct shipping routes
to foreign ports.

29

Shipping lines with 215 services
operating from the port.

350M

Access channel allowing for
double-lane navigation.

A harbour basin of 17m depth
sufficient for vessels exceeding
8,000 TEU

Multiple facilities including separate container, bulk, and livestock terminals.



For importers and exporters, this combination of deep-sea access, connectivity and facilities translates into more frequent sailings, shorter lead times and more cargo routing options. For Suez and neighbouring regions, it has created an everyday ecosystem of port work, trucking, rail services, maintenance, administration and support services, with new goods and people constantly moving through the landscape.

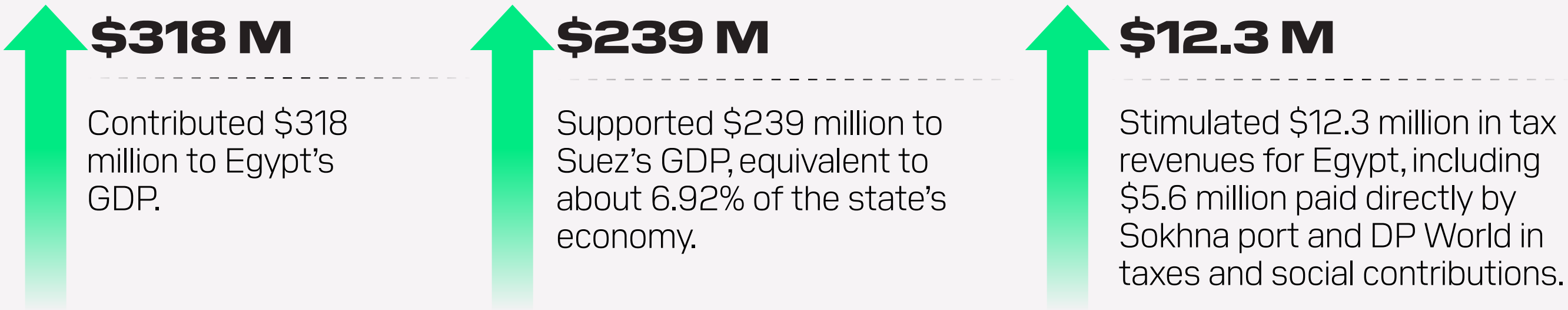
ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

GDP AND TAX

In Suez alone, Sokhna's gross value-added contribution to GDP of \$239 million supports 3,030 jobs. On a per-worker basis, each Sokhna employee is associated with around \$230,000 in gross value added, compared to roughly \$37,000 per worker in the region's broader transport and storage sector.

Higher-productivity jobs and sustained tax contributions strengthen resources for both government and households.¹⁴

GDP AND TAX Oxford Economics estimates that in 2024, Sokhna's operations:



This contribution is composed of:



JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS

In total, Sokhna supported approximately 9,520 jobs across Egypt in 2024:

 **910**
Direct jobs at the terminal.

 Around **4,410**
Jobs in its supply chain (indirect).

 Around **4,200**
Jobs supported by wage spending (induced).

Of these, 3,030 jobs were in Suez. These roles span:

 Professional and administrative services.

 Manufacture of machinery and equipment.

 Construction.

For Sokhna and its surroundings, this translates into more households with at least one income tied to port-related activity, on the quayside as well as in offices, workshops, depots and small businesses.

PEOPLE & SKILLS

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

The Internal Labour Organisation estimates youth (people aged below 25) unemployment has improved from highs of around 34% in 2015, sitting at 18.7% in 2024.⁸ This means that almost one in five youths are not in education or work.

DP World, however, provides high levels of employment and training opportunities to this demographic, with over 1 in 10 jobs being held by individuals aged 25 and below.

Of these 1,140 youth jobs, 106 are directly employed by DP World at the Sokhna port where they can upskill and start their careers with a globally recognised name.



WOMEN IN AND AROUND THE PORT

As with many countries, Egypt's transport and storage sector is male dominated. Indeed, in Egypt, women account for only 1.3% of employees in the transport and storage sector, making it Egypt's third most male-dominated sector after mining and construction.

Oxford Economics estimates that 12% of jobs supported by DP World are held by women. This amounts to some 1,150 women across the country, including 470 in Suez.

Progression in this area is vital as female employment in Egypt has declined since 2017, despite falling general unemployment.^{9,10}



Female employment in Egypt
From **24.6% IN 2017** To **17.6% IN 2024**

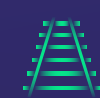
For young people in the area, this means one concrete pathway into skills-based employment in a modern, technology-enabled sector. Entry level roles at Sokhna expose workers to:



Digital terminal operating systems.



Safe handling of cranes, straddle carriers and other equipment.



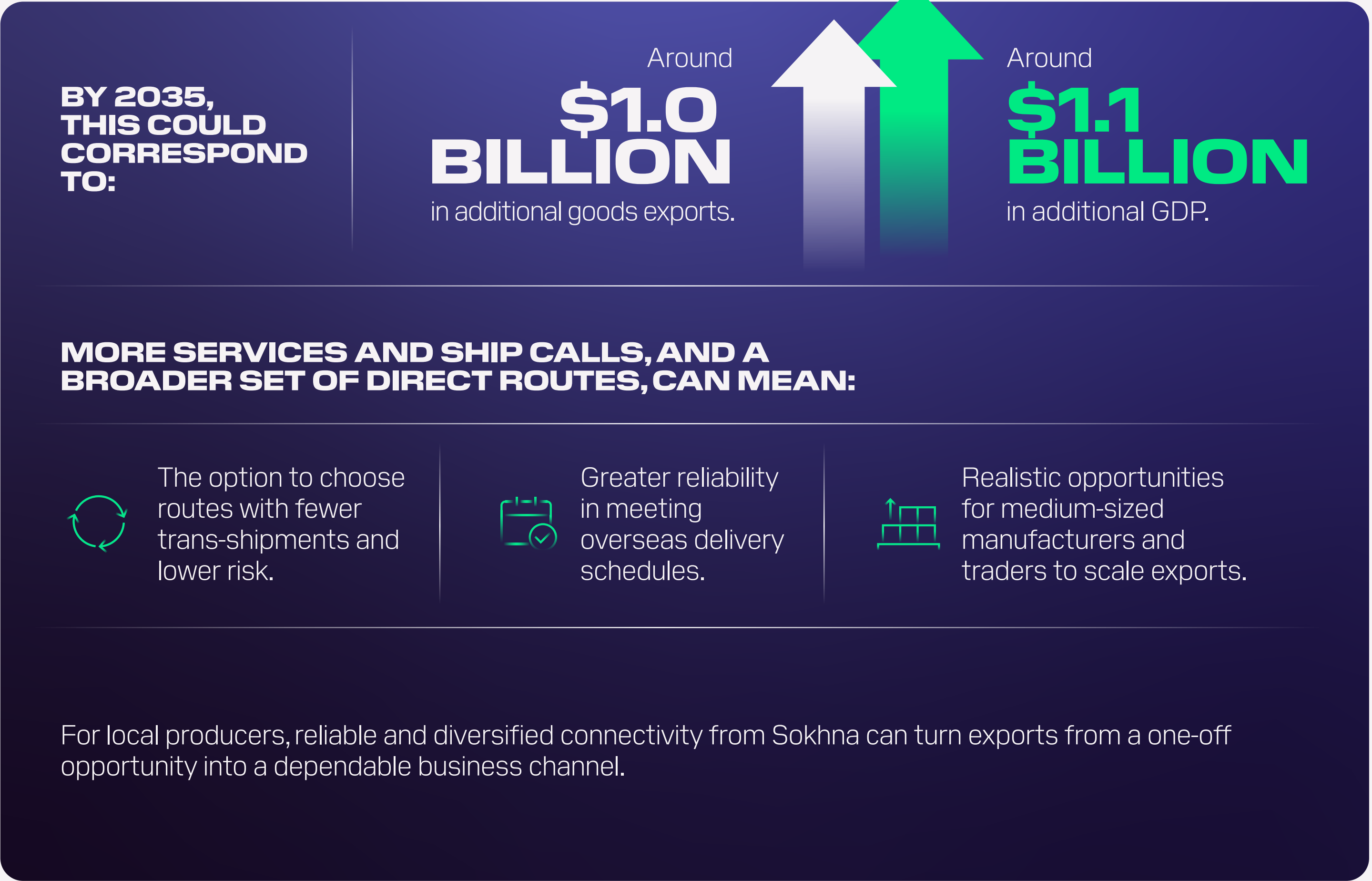
Coordination with shipping lines, rail operators and trucking firms.

Over time, these skills can carry young workers into supervisory roles, specialist technical positions or careers with other firms in logistics, manufacturing or infrastructure in Suez or elsewhere in Egypt.

OPENING ROUTES FOR BUSINESS

Sokhna’s function is not just to move containers but to connect Suez to domestic and overseas markets.

Using UNCTAD’s Liner Shipping Connectivity Index (LSCI) as a proxy for maritime integration, Oxford Economics modelled how DP World’s presence at Sokhna affects Egypt’s export capacity and productivity. Their analysis suggests that DP World’s operations at Sokhna are associated with:



EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES

EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY: INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

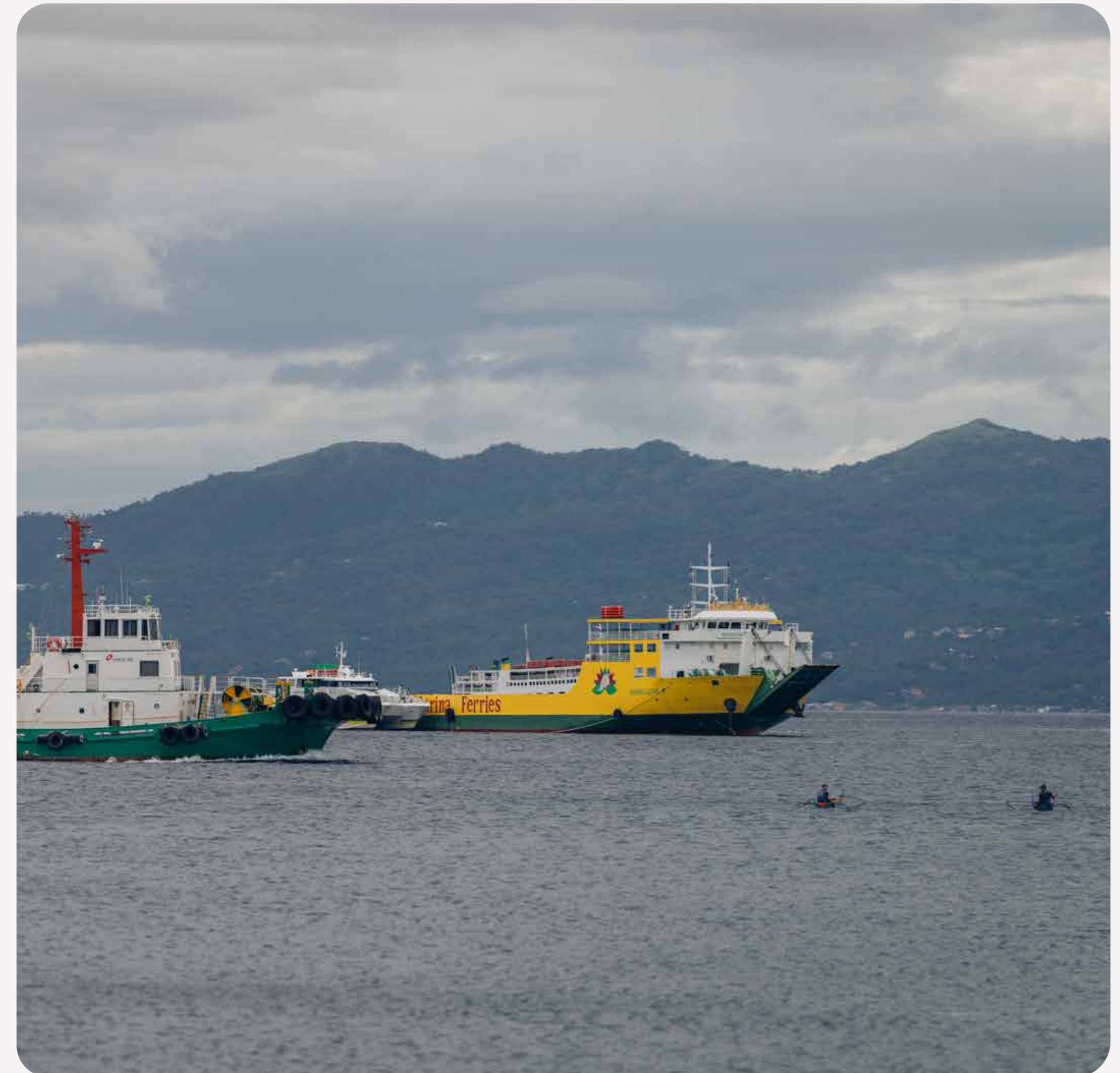
Economic activity at ports can create jobs, but sustained investment is needed to ensure local communities can benefit from these opportunities. In Egypt, such investment is particularly important for creating employment and supporting long-term prosperity, especially given the country's high youth unemployment rates.

SOKHNA LOGISTICS PARK



DP World has officially inaugurated the Sokhna Logistics Park, a major milestone in solidifying Egypt's position as a leading regional and global trade hub. The park will create over 150 jobs in phase one, growing to 300+ upon full completion.

Located only 15 minutes from Sokhna Port, 30 minutes from Suez, and 45 minutes from the New Administrative Capital, the logistics park is designed to enhance integration across port operations, logistics services and global shipping networks. This supports more seamless end-to-end trade flows and strengthens Egypt's roles as a strategic link in global supply chains.



EDUCATION

Creating accessible education ensures that more people are able to pursue secure careers and other opportunity that trade brings to their communities. Investing in education and job training for people living near ports is key to help those who need it most get better chances and improve their lives.

GROW GRADUATE PROGRAMME

DP World offers the GROW graduate programme at its Sokhna port, which focuses on developing and enhancing the skills of young Egyptian graduates. Students receive extensive on-the-job training over a full year, during which they rotate through several departments at DP World Sokhna, such as trade, engineering, operations, information technology, and other specialisations. This allows them to develop functional work skills and gain experience in the main logistics services sector.

From 2018 to 2023, more than 30 graduates have participated in the GROW programme and are now contributing to the logistics sector in Egypt. DP World Sokhna also offers university students opportunities for vocational training for young talents.

ELSEWEDY TECHNICAL ACADEMY

In 2023, a cooperation agreement was signed between DP World and Elsewedy Technical Academy (STA) to sponsor 16 students studying within the technology sector. This investment and collaboration with STA helps local youths pursue successful careers in the rapidly evolving technology sector through practical, hands-on experience.



80%

of the curriculum



CONCLUSION

LOOKING AHEAD: TRADE'S EFFECT IN SOKHNA

At the heart of the Suez Canal Economic Zone, DP World's Sokhna Port acts as more than a conduit for global trade but as an engine of local value. Its operations support a meaningful share of Suez's economy, creating high-productivity jobs and opening pathways into work for young people and women in a region where opportunity matters.

By strengthening connectivity, Sokhna links Egyptian producers to global markets in ways that are projected to lift exports and productivity over time. By investing in skills, logistics infrastructure and adjacent development, it ensures that the benefits of trade extend beyond the quayside and into surrounding communities.

THIS IS THE DP WORLD EFFECT IN ACTION:

Global trade translated into local livelihoods, capabilities and long-term economic resilience, rooted in one of Egypt's most strategic regions, and shaped by the people who live and work there.



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