



STATE INFORMATION SERVICE

The Human Rights Bulletin

January 2023

Chairman
Diaa Rashwan

Editorial Team Mohamed Osman
Mohamed
Mahmoud Ali
Abed Mohamed
Salma El Sayed

Layout Ashraf Madany

Address: 3, Estad El Bahary Str. – Cairo – Egypt **Tel.:** 022604329
Email: Hrusis@sis.gov/eg **Website:** www.sis.gov.eg

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Introduction

The State Information Service issues the first edition of its quarter annual periodical (October – December 2022) that documents the national measures undertaken by State institutions to uphold and protect human rights in its totality be it political, civil, economic, social or cultural rights. The periodical monitors, documents and evaluates Egypt's human rights achievements primarily within the context of the target results of National Human Rights Strategy. The Strategy was launched by his excellency President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi on the 11th of September 2021 as one of the corner stones of the New Republic. A New Republic that enhances the quality of life of all Egyptian citizens and develops their awareness and ability to enjoy their constitutionally guaranteed rights and freedoms.

The methodology of this periodical classifies each of the national efforts and measures taken according to the designated rights coined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the National Human Rights Strategy in its capacity as the national action plan that seeks to promote the rights and basic freedoms of all citizens.

1) The Rights to Social Security



A) The “Solidarity and Dignity” resumes its pioneering role in reinforcing social protection

- In line with national efforts to promote the right to social security, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development announced that the beneficiaries of the cash support program for the poorest families "Takaful and Karama" have reached around 3.8 million families as the beginning of October 2022. The ministry added that in compliance with presidential directives the government seeks to increase the number of beneficiary families to 4.1 million. According to official statistics, the government has allocated about 121 billion EGP for the program throughout the past eight years. These important national measures to expand the Takaful and Karama Program contribute to efforts to achieve one of the targeted results of the right to social security in the National Human Rights Strategy, which stipulates the need to expand support for the

Takaful and Karama program with the aim of targeting families suffering from multidimensional poverty.

B) The government allocates an additional social protection package to mitigate the impact of the current global wave of inflation on its citizens

- In an effort to implement the directives of H.E. the President Al Sisi issued at the conclusion of the economic conference, the Ministry of Finance announced on the 27th of October the allocation of 67.3 EGP for the disbursement of an additional social protection package, as of November 2022, in order to mitigate the effects of the inflationary wave that the world has been experiencing since the outbreak of the Ukrainian crisis.
- The package includes a permanent 300 EGP raise to all public sector employees, whose number amounts to 4,600,000 people. This permanent raise increases the minimum wage in the public sector from 2700 EGP to 3000 EGP. The package includes a 300 EGP exceptional monthly grant for those entitled to regular pensions, at an annual cost of 32 EGP.
- These measures reinforce the government's efforts to alleviate the impact of global economic conditions on its citizen, and also contribute to strengthening the right to social security guaranteed by the Constitution and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

2) The Right to Health



A) Haya Karima Medical Convoys

- The Ministry of Health and Population sent 305 medical convoys to various governorates throughout the last quarter of 2022 as part of the Presidential initiative Haya Karima. The convoys were tasked with the detection and free treatment of diseases and conditions among citizens in the towns and villages they reached.

B) The Presidential Initiative for the support of Women's health

- On October 9th, 2022, the Ministry of Health and Population announced that thanks to the initiative of the President of the Republic to support women's health, it has documented a decrease in the rate of detecting breast tumors in its late stages, from 58.5% of cases to 29.5%, as a result of early examination and diagnosis, The Ministry also announced an increase in the rate of detection tumors in the early stages to

70.5%. It is worth noting that this initiative was launched under the auspices of H.E. the President in 2019 and has contributed positively to enhancing the ability of Egyptian women to enjoy the right to health guaranteed to them under the provisions of the Constitution.

C) The Presidential Initiative to end waiting lists

- Within the context of implementing the President's initiative to end waiting lists for surgical interventions, the Ministry of health has announced the undertaking of 1.4 Million surgical procedures in the period from June 2018 to October 2022. The presidential initiative encompasses medical procedures such as heart surgeries, neurosurgery, kidney and liver transplants and many other surgical procedures.
- The state's relentless endeavors to eliminate waiting lists and alleviate the suffering of people with illnesses and diseases that require surgical intervention enhances the ability of every citizen to enjoy their inherent right to health guaranteed by the Constitution and international human rights law.

D) Efforts to provide health care for children as part of the presidential initiative 100 million healthy lives

- On October 15, 2022, the Ministry of Health announced the launch of the presidential initiative to detect Hepatitis C for school students for the 2022 academic year, as part of the 100 Million Healthy Lives Initiatives, for the fifth year in a row. The

initiative aims to examine 2 million and 200 thousand middle school students, and provide treatment for the detected cases. Until October 27, the campaign succeeded in examining 363 thousand students. These campaigns come within the framework of the government's keenness to implement the targeted outcomes related to the right to health in the National Human Rights Strategy, one of which stipulates the need to complete the 100 Million Healthy Lives Initiative.

- The Ministry of Health announced that it has conducted hearing tests for about 4 million children, as part of the President's initiative for early detection and treatment of hearing loss in newborns. The Ministry also increases the number of hearing centers for newborns, to 3,500 health units in all governorates.
- On a similar note, the Ministry of Health announced on October 29th that 192,000 newborns have been examined, as part of the President's initiative for the early detection of genetic diseases in newborns, since the launch of the initiative in July 2021.
- Such initiatives promote the right to health in general and contribute to the implementation of one of the targeted results of the third focus area of the National Human Rights Strategy in particular, which stipulates the need to strengthen the mechanisms for children's access to complete health care.

3) The Right to Work

A) The government raises the minimum wage of private sector employees

- The National Wages Council announced the implementation of the minimum wage for the private sector at 2,700 EGP as of January 2023. This measure supports the national efforts undertaken to promote the right to work and to implement the targeted results related to it in the National Human Rights Strategy that call for the promotion of decent work standards and ensuring the provision of fair wages.

B) The government continues efforts to adequately prepare the youth to join the labor force

- The Ministry of Housing has completed the implementation of the first phase of training courses for qualifying Egyptian youth for the labor market. These training sessions come within the framework of a cooperation protocol between the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Immigration.
- The first phase of the aforementioned training courses, took place between July and September 2022, in Asyut, Minya, Kafr El-Sheikh and Beni Suef; the courses targeted teaching 675 young people the crafts of “carpentry, plumbing, electricity and building works”. The second phase of these courses will target training 675 young people from the governorates of Dakahlia, Fayoum, Behaira and Gharbia.
- These courses enhance the ability of young people to acquire vocational skills that enhance their ability to engage in the labor market, which in turn contributes to reduction of unemployment and promotes the right to work.

4) The Right to Adequate Housing



A) Progress of the Presidential Initiative “Housing for All Egyptians”

- As part of government’s efforts to promote the right to adequate housing, the Ministry of Housing announced, at the beginning of the final quarter of 2022, that it has begun constructing 1,632 new housing units for middle-income citizens in the Tenth of Ramadan City, and the constructions the construction of another 11,160 housing units in May 15th City for the same category. These construction works come as part of the implementation of the President's initiative "Housing for All Egyptians".
- On October 13, the Ministry of Housing announced the delivery of about 2,500 housing units in the city of Hadayek al-Asimah to beneficiaries belonging to the low-income category.
- On October 15, 2022, the Ministry of Housing announced the completion of 8,136 housing units in New October City dedicated for low income families

- On December 27, 2022, the Ministry announced the completion of 1,236 housing units in the city of New Qena, designated for low-income people.
- The Housing for All Egyptians initiative supplements efforts aimed at achieving the targeted results of the right to adequate housing in the National Human Rights Strategy, which called for increasing the number of housing units for all social segments.

5) Children's Rights



A) The government launches awareness raising activities on the dangers of child labor in Alexandria

- The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) implemented a two-day camp in Alexandria in November, targeting 60 children from all parts of the governorate. The camp aimed to raise children's awareness of the dangers of working at an early age and the damages they may suffer as a result of dropping out of education, and to increase their knowledge of the risks of doing so.
- This comes within the framework of the national plan to combat the worst forms of child labor, drafted by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Ministry of Manpower. The plan aims to contribute effectively to the elimination of child labor in all its forms, and to provide comprehensive social protection for the targeted children and their families.

B) NCCM held a workshop on how to protect children from the dangers of Human Trafficking

- On October 11th, the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood organized a workshop dedicated for members of the Public Protection Units for Childhood in the governorates of Ismailia, Suez, Port Said, North Sinai, South Sinai and Sharkia, on how to identify victims of human trafficking and means through which those victims can be provided with the necessary protection and assistance.
- The workshop aimed to build the capacities and skills of workers in government agencies concerned with providing protection to victims of human trafficking and their reintegration into society. The workshop also emphasized the importance of supporting segments most vulnerable to exploitation, and the need of further strengthen the protection services for victims.
- • The workshop was conducted by experts from the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Immigration and Human Trafficking, prosecutors as well as experts from NCCM, and the UN International Organization for Migration, within the framework of the comprehensive national program to build the capacities of the national authorities concerned with combating the crime of human trafficking.

C) National efforts to combat FGM

- Within the framework of the efforts of the National Committee to Eliminate Female Genital Mutilation,

co-chaired by the National Council for Women (NCW) and the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCC), the NCW organized a number of training activities for female pioneers under the title “Protect Her from Circumcision”, during the month of October 2022 in the governorates of Asyut and Alexandria. The courses aimed to educate female pioneers on issues of violence against women, especially the crime of female genital mutilation (FGM), and provide them with the necessary training expertise to deal with this crime and confront it effectively.

D) The Ministry of Social Solidarity holds workshops to raise the efficiency of members of its social monitoring offices, in cooperation with UNICEF

- The Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS) held a number of workshops dedicated to build the capacities of members of its social monitoring offices nationwide, in cooperation with the UNICEF’s mission in Egypt. The 9 workshops witnessed the training of 245 members of social monitoring offices from across the 27 governorates of Egypt.
- The workshops focused on acquainting trainees with mechanisms for implementing the case management system, how to prepare reports for the competent authorities like the Public Prosecution or Child Courts and make recommendations in light of the study of the child and the environment surrounding him in order to propose appropriate measures according to the

circumstances and nature of each case separately in an effort to propose alternative measures for incarceration in accordance with article 101 of the Child Law. MOSS announced that these workshops come within the framework of efforts to develop a child-friendly criminal justice system in Egypt, in line with Egypt's Vision 2030 and the National Human Rights Strategy.

6) Women's Rights



A) Economic empowerment of Women through the national project for the development of the Egyptian Family

- The National Council for Women (NCW) has organized a number of training events over the last quarter of 2022 within the framework of implementing the National Project for the Development of the Egyptian Family. These events aimed at empowering women in a number of governorates economically through financial education and vocational training. These training events were held in a number of governorates, including Alexandria, Giza and Behaira. Such activities constitute a positive contribution to national efforts aimed at achieving the target results on the economic empowerment of women in the national human rights strategy. The strategy stresses the need to support small, medium and micro enterprises led by women.

B) The Government launched the "16 Days" campaign to combat violence against women

- Last November the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS) launched the “16 days” campaign to combat violence against women and girls, which was held in 2022 under the slogan "Hold the tip of the string...participate in the decision." The campaign began on November 25, coinciding with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and continued until December 10th coinciding with the International Human Rights Day.
- The campaign targeted different sectors of society, including citizens who frequently use social media, and the most vulnerable groups by introducing them to the system of services provided by the government to women and reviewing the stories of women who succeeded in overcoming social and economic challenges, especially since the campaign included presenting documented information about the trends and practices of violence against women in Egypt and abroad.
- The campaign was held under the slogan "Hold the tip of the string...Participate in the decision" to confirm that any girl or woman can face violence in all forms. The messages behind the slogan stresses that if a woman is aware of her rights and knows how to overcome the obstacles she faces, and then she can begin to tackle the solution and help others women and girls to escape violence and participate in making decisions that concern them, which in turn equips them to participate in all aspects of life.

7) Rights of persons with disabilities



1) The government reduces public transportation fees for persons with disabilities

- On the 2nd of October the Ministry of Transport announced that it will provide persons with disabilities with a 50% discount of their public railway transportation fees. This step serves to alleviate the financial and social burdens of persons with disabilities and further enable them to exercise basic rights such as the right to work and the right to education among others.

2) The government facilitates the issuance of identification papers for persons with visual impairments

- The Ministry of Interior, in coordination with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), has taken a set of measures to enable people with visual impairments to obtain identification papers, travel documents and work

permits, free of charge, across all the governorates of the Republic, between Saturday the 15th and the 22nd of October 2022.

- This step comes within the framework of the government's keenness to facilitate services for persons with disabilities, and to overcome any obstacles or difficulties that negatively affect their ability to enjoy them.

3) NCPWD holds a training course for members of the Administrative Prosecution Authority on the rights of persons with disabilities

- On the 16th of November the NCPWD organized a training course for members of the Administrative Prosecution Authority on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice.
- The training course discussed the rights of persons with disabilities at the international and national levels, as well as the proper terminology to be used when addressing them. The course also focused on criminal and disciplinary protection for persons with disabilities and the role of the Ministry of Justice in protecting their rights.

8) Right to Food



1) Hayat Karima distributes 40 thousand cartons of foodstuffs to the neediest social groups

- Hayat Karima launched the “Wasl Al Khair 3” initiative at the beginning of October 2022. The initiative entailed the directing of several foodstuff convoys to a number of governorates for the purpose of reducing living burdens of the poorest citizens. The initiative lasted from the 6th to the 13th of October, and it succeeded in distributing around 40,000 cartons of foodstuffs to thousands of poor families in the villages and towns of the governorates of Sharkia, South Sinai, Suez, Ismailia, Port Said, Giza, Kafr Al Shaikh and several governorates in Upper Egypt. “Wasl Al Khair 3” was preceded by “Wasl Al Khair” 1 &2, which distributed more than 200 thousand cartons of food stuffs to poor families across Egypt during the first, second and third quarter of 2022.

- Such initiatives enhance poor citizens' ability to enjoy the right to food as one of the basic rights that must be guaranteed in order to uphold the right to life.

9) Rights of Elderly Persons



1) The government takes new measures to promote the rights of the elderly on the occasion of the International Day for Older Persons

- On October 1st, 2022, the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS) announced that it had taken a number of measures to promote the rights of elderly citizens on the occasion of their International Day. Chief among these measures:
 - A raise worth 100 EGP for all beneficiaries of the Karama program for a period of one month, and free home delivery of pensions for elderly persons unable to move or suffering from chronic diseases.
 - The opening of a private nursing home for elderly women with visual impairment, in partnership between MOSS and the Association of Light and Hope. Such measures serve to enhance the rights of elderly people with disabilities, as well as the right to health for the elderly.

- Providing free subscriptions for elderly persons above 65 years of age at the Diyarana exhibitions to display their handicraft products, which enhances their ability to enjoy their right to work.

10) The Right to Association

1) The government launches an integrated electronic system for civil society organizations

- In light of the launch of the National Human Rights Strategy and the President's declaration of 2022 as the year of civil society, the Ministry of Social Solidarity launched in mid-December 2022 the integrated electronic system to regulate the affairs of the work of civil society. This system provides 36 services for NGOs.
- The system aims to facilitate dealings and interaction between civil society organizations and MOSS, in its capacity as the government agency entrusted with regulating their affairs.
- The launch of the new system comes as a part of concerted efforts by the government to support civil society over the past 3 years. These efforts began with the issuance of civil society law No.149 of the year 2019; the law was a product of a wide ranging societal dialogue. Then came the launch of the National Human Rights Strategy in 2021 which gave special attention to upholding the right to association. Afterwards in 2022 the Civil Society law was amended so that the deadline for the registration of NGOs under its executive regulation can be extended and it was; and finally the launch of this system came to complement the aforementioned national efforts as it facilitates services to thousands of NGOs nationwide, which in turn facilitates their work and upholds the right to association.

11) Capacity Building and Human Rights Awareness



1) SIS holds training sessions on the principles of citizenship and human rights in partnership with AOHR and MOSS

- As part of wider national efforts aimed at spreading human rights awareness among all segments of society, the Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR) one the Arab world's oldest human rights NGOs, in cooperation with the State Information Service (SIS) and under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS), held a number of training activities and lectures in the governorates of Munofiya and Sharkia, within the framework of the project to enhance the values of citizenship and social participation among the young generations in the Delta governorates. This project comes as a part of the presidential initiative Hayat Karima.
- The sessions were held at SIS's media centers in the cities of Zagazig and Shebin al-Koum. They targeted acquainting around 150 female public servants and female public service volunteers with the concept of citizenship, Human Rights principles, the national

strategy for human rights, the concept of sustainable development and its association with human rights, as well as the dangers of illegal immigration.

- Such events are a concrete example of the concerted efforts of civil society and government institutions to propagate human rights culture and values through the establishment of sustainable partnerships. Such partnerships come in implementation of one of the target results of the National Human Rights Strategy, which stipulates the necessity of establishing partnerships between the government, civil society and the private sector to enhance societal awareness of human rights principles and values.

12) SSCHR's progress report on the National Human Rights Strategy

- The Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights, chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, published a report entitled "The National Strategy for Human Rights... A Year of Implementation". Through this report SSCHR sheds light on national efforts to implement the National Human Rights Strategy, during its first year, which covers the time period between its launch in September 2021 and August 2022.
- The report sheds light on the role of the Presidential initiatives and decisions in promoting and protecting human rights at various levels. The report also referred to the involvement of the House of Representatives and the specialized national councils in an integrated national work system to implement the strategy, which was reinforced by the permanent consultation between the SSCHR's Technical Secretariat and civil society organizations on best practices for implementing the national human rights strategy on the ground.
- The report reviewed the implementation of the strategy in terms of the steps that have been taken to achieve the target results of the national human rights strategy stipulated in its four focus areas, and the measures that are being prepared to continue its implementation over the next four years.
- The report issued by SSCHR's Technical Secretariat reflects a sincere political will to achieve the objectives of the national human rights strategy.