

## INTRODUCTION

A country's most valuable asset is its people. Investing in people's **health, education, and social protection** has always been the right thing to do. There is now compelling evidence that it is a smart thing too. Economies that build human capital are much more powerfully equipped to grow and compete.

Healthy, educated, and skilled citizens are more productive and innovative. They are the cornerstone of sustainable development.



Egypt—a country of over **100 million** citizens—has several developmental challenges and opportunities. The **COVID-19 pandemic** brought additional challenges and threats of reversing recently achieved economic and human capital gains.

**100+ MILLION**



To overcome these challenges and realize its full potential, Egypt has stepped up its efforts to strengthen human capital, so its citizens lead healthy, productive and prosperous lives while also becoming the driving power of the country's development.

The World Bank is supporting Egypt's Human Capital development efforts through operations in the following areas:

## 1 SOCIAL PROTECTION

The World Bank's support for social protection programs includes the **US\$ 400 million Strengthening Social Safety Net project** and **US\$ 500 million** in additional financing to support Egypt's **Takaful and Karama** (Solidarity and Dignity) cash transfer program. Launched in **2015**, the program benefits Egyptians through:

Providing poor families with conditional cash transfers, given that they comply with the program's health and education requirements.



Providing poor elderly, disabled, widows and orphans with unconditional cash transfers.



Graduating beneficiaries and providing them with livelihood pathways through wage and self-employment, under the Forsa—Opportunity—program piloted in 8 governorates.



To date, Takaful and Karama has:

Benefited over **12 million** Egyptians, of which



**75%**  
are women



**67%** of the cash is  
directed to Upper Egypt

Reduced by **12 percentage points**



the likelihood that Takaful households—in particular those headed by women—would fall below the poverty line

Increased the value of household consumption



for Takaful beneficiaries by **8.4%** compared to non-beneficiary households

Increased food spending



for Takaful beneficiary households by **8.9%** compared to non-beneficiary households

## 2 HEALTH

The **US\$ 530 million Transforming Egypt's Healthcare System project** aims to improve the country's healthcare system. Launched in **2018**, the project benefits Egyptians through:

Improving services at primary healthcare facilities and hospitals.



Supporting Egypt's family planning efforts.



Scaling up the community health workers program to promote better health and nutrition.



Conducting the largest Hepatitis C and Non-Communicable Diseases screening campaign.



Screening **1 million** units of blood annually to ensure that blood units are infection free and ready to use in the national blood repository.



To date, the project has supported:

The screening of nearly **52 million** Egyptians for Hepatitis C and precursors of Non-Communicable diseases (High blood pressure, Diabetes and Body Mass Index).



The treatment of **1.5 million** Hepatitis C patients with novel anti-retroviral medicines.



PCR testing of **200,000** COVID-19 suspected patients through the emergency activation of the Contingency Emergency Response component.



The expansion of the family planning program in deprived areas through multiple support mechanisms, namely:

Expanding the hiring and training of additional **1000** Community Health Workers.



Introduction of novel user-friendly family planning methods.



Expanding the culturally sensitive availability of female providers for family planning nation-wide.



## 2 HEALTH

The **US\$ 400 million Supporting Egypt's Universal Health Insurance System project** aims to strengthen the country's health system and enable it to provide Egyptians with inclusive, equitable and higher quality healthcare. Launched in **2020**, the project supports Egyptians in phase one governorates of the Universal Health Insurance System through:

Placing the building blocks of the **Universal Healthcare System** (e.g. establishment of the needed financial, operational and insurance systems and supporting the **4** newly established organizations under the new system).



Rolling out the system in phase one governorates (Port Said, Ismailia, Suez, South Sinai, Luxor and Aswan).



Offering temporary financial protection to the most vulnerable across the country to protect them from high out-of-pocket health expenditures resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak. The whole country is expected to be covered by the healthcare system through the roll-out of the system's subsequent phases over the next decade.



## 3 EDUCATION

The **US\$ 500 million Supporting Egypt Education Reform project**, approved in **2018**, supports the home-grown education reform with a focus on public schools to equip students to learn for life, not just for examinations. The project supports:

Increasing access to quality early childhood education.



Enhancing the capacity of teachers, school leaders and supervisors.



Catalyzing the use of digital resources for teaching and learning.



Over the last two years, the Ministry of Education and Technical Education, with World Bank support, achieved the following:

Designing and administering a nationwide computer-based test, for over **1 million** students in grades 10 and 11.



Preparing the ground for a new school leaving examination starting in **2020/2021**.



Developing and expanding digital learning resources to students in grades 4-12.

