



## *Health in Egypt 2019 Report*

### *The Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue*

#### *Reports Series “Sustainable Development 2030”*

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#### **Introduction**

*This is the second report issued by the Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue within the state strategy of comprehensive sustainable development 2030. The report highlights the efforts and achievements accomplished by the state in the health field. The Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue has issued its first report related to comprehensive sustainable development about “Climate Changes Impact on Human Rights System in Egypt”.*

*In the health sector and in accordance with article no. 18 of Egypt Constitution 2014<sup>1</sup>, related to the goals set by the state within the context of Egypt’s vision 2030 in the health field regarding paying attention to the health of all citizens within framework of justice in addition to paying attention to the reasons which affect citizens’ health including social determinants, infrastructure, public awareness, simulating healthy lifestyle, taking quality of services into consideration, providing all health and preventive services for all able and unable citizens and improving all sectors resources in way that guarantee transparency and accountability, in 2019 (which was a year of challenge in the health field when it was the start of the experimental and actual application of Comprehensive Health Insurance Law in Port Said), Egypt put citizens’ health on the top of the state’s priorities. Egypt has launched many initiatives in the health field such as the campaign of 100 million health to eliminate C virus, supporting and enhancing women’s health, early detection of obesity and stunting for primary schools pupils, treatment of hearing impairment for newborns in addition to other initiatives such as Nour El Hayah initiative which focused on treating visual*

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<sup>1</sup> Every citizen is entitled to health and to comprehensive health care with quality criteria. The state guarantees to maintain and support public health facilities that provide health services to the people, and work on enhancing their efficiency and their fair geographical distribution. The state commits to allocate a percentage of government expenditure that is no less than 3% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to health. The percentage will gradually increase to reach global rates. The state commits to the establishment of a comprehensive health care system for all Egyptians covering all diseases. The contribution of citizens to its subscriptions or their exemption therefrom is based on their income rates. Denying any form of medical treatment to any human in emergency or life-threatening situations is a crime. The state commits to improving the conditions of physicians, nursing staff, and health sector workers, and achieving equity for them. All health facilities and health related products, materials, and health-related means of advertisement are subject to state oversight. The state encourages the participation of the private and public sectors in providing health care services as per the law.



impairment, initiative of reducing and eliminating waiting lists in hospitals and the system of comprehensive health insurance which started in Port Said as 13512 operations were done in hospitals of comprehensive health insurance in Port Said. The comprehensive health insurance initiative aims at protecting unable citizens against diseases by providing health care for free. Moreover, 131 central and public hospitals were opened in 2019 with cost of 8 billion EGP to apply the system of comprehensive health insurance. Also in 2019, the number of university hospitals has risen to be about 105 hospitals in addition to establishing 376 public hospitals.

**The most prominent achievements in the health field are as following:**

**Firstly: Campaigns & Initiatives**

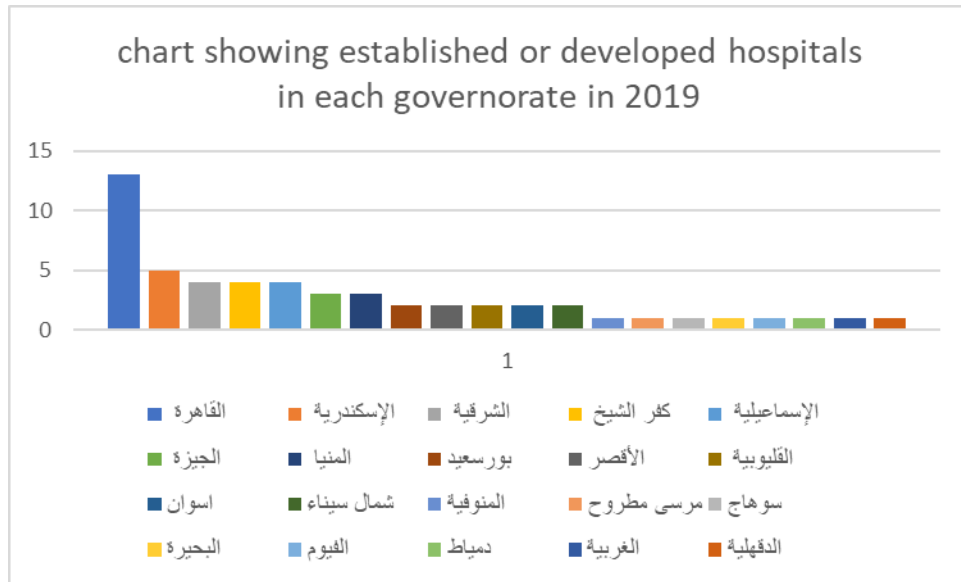
- 1- The campaign of “100 million Saha” (100 million health) to combat C virus with a cost of 200 million EGP.
- 2- The initiative of health of women “Sahat El Mar’aa” (Egyptian women are the health of Egypt).
- 3- The initiative of detecting anemia, stunting and obesity targeting school students.
- 4- The new system of health insurance of comprehensive health care for all Egyptians.
- 5- The initiative of eliminating waiting lists in critical and urgent surgeries.
- 6- The initiative of Haya Karima (dignity life).
- 7- The initiative of Nour Al Haya.

**Secondly: the most prominent established or developed hospitals**

The following table demonstrates the number of hospitals which have been established or developed in 2019 in each governorate.

<b>Serial</b>	<b>Governorate</b>	<b>#</b>
1	Cairo	13
2	Alexandria	5
3	Al Sharkaya	4
4	Kafr El Sheikh	4
5	Ismailia	4
6	Giza	3
7	Al Minia	3
8	Port Said	2
9	Luxor	2
10	Al Qalubia	2

11	Aswan	2
12	North Sinai	2
13	Monofia	1
14	Marsa Matroh	1
15	Sohag	1
16	Al Bihara	1
17	Al Fayoum	1
18	Damietta	1
19	Al Gharbia	1
20	Al Daqahlia	1



### **Thirdly: Problems in Health sector**

**Introduction:** in 2019, the health sector witnessed the launch of many important initiatives which mainly aimed at improving citizens' health. Although the state has put a plan (which was discussed and approved by the parliament) to develop the health sector in place represented in various axes with the aim of implementing comprehensive health system, increasing the ratio of beneficiaries from hospitals in faraway areas, increasing the number of beds in hospitals and increasing the number of doctors and nurses, yet the great problem lies in the implementation by the Ministry of Health so a 'few' is what is expected from these initiatives.



- 1- Severe lack of governmental/public hospital number as compared to the number of population which is over 100 million people.
- 2- Governmental hospitals suffer from severe lack of doctors as a result of the migration of a great number of them abroad because of low salaries as Egypt suffers from lack of physicians with 33% and nursing with 43%. It is worthy to mention that the universal average of physicians number as per population number is one physician for 350 citizens while in Egypt it is very low as it is one physician for 1330 citizens.
- 3- Physicians are not provided with legal protection against any attacks or infections so it is necessary to take actual procedures and steps to secure hospitals, physicians and nurses in addition to approving an insurance for physicians in case of any attack against them.
- 4- During 2019, the Ministry of Health announces the amendment of physicians' assignment which was made without any coordination with doctors' syndicate while on the other hand doctors assured that it had negative impacts as it does not really include actual trainings for doctors and only certificates from the ministry. Also it is not allowed to record all doctors in the fellowship system to be specialized and there is lack of hospitals which can provide training for about 8,000 doctors annually as hospitals only could include about 2000 doctors for the fellowship.
- 5- The decision of the Ministry of Health in regard to prohibiting the assignment of patients or their relatives to buy any medical supplies during their treatment period in governmental hospitals put them in embarrassing situation regarding the problems they face because of the ministry's realization of the lack of medical supplies and medicines.
- 6- Infrastructures and internal structures of governmental hospitals are very poor in regard to buildings, sanitation, walls and paintings. In addition, toilets are non-human and are not suitable for usage. These hospitals also suffer from lack of medicines and medical equipment.
- 7- According to official reports by the Central Agency for Statistics, the number of health unit in Egypt declined with ratio of 20% and also doctors are not committed to the times of attendance and leaving of outpatient clinics, in addition, doctors' rests do not match the required level.
- 8- The Central Agency for Statistics revealed that the number of private sector hospital has reduced with 29% during one year.
- 9- Also reports of the Central Agency for Statistics said that the number of beds in hospitals have declined with 5%.
- 10- Despite the increase of health budget for the fiscal year 2018/2019 by about 7 billion EGP over the previous one, yet the citizen did not feel the result of that.



- 11- According to studies conducted in this regard, the international average of each 1.000 people is 2.7 beds while in Egypt there are 1.5 beds for each 1.000 people.
- 12- Poor services in governmental hospitals because of few numbers of beds in each hospital compared to number of patients.
- 13- Few numbers of health units which provide services for citizens.
- 14- Few numbers of specialized doctors in measuring population number.
- 15- Lack of nursing team and assistant teams for doctors because of migration of high qualified doctors in most specializations.
- 16- The increasing problems between the ministry of health and other sectors such as the crisis between the ministry and pharmacists in Port Said as this is what was said by the minister of health during her visit to Port Said while the pilot operation of the health insurance system when the minister said that the absence of a pharmacist does not represent a crisis like is the case with a nurse and the absence of a nurse is more affecting than the absence of 100 pharmacists.
- 17- Also one of the problems of the ministry of health is that they do not answer the parliamentarian, the committee of health or any other inquiries.
- 18- There are problems with nursing sector because of the ministry of health declarations in regard to the overweight of nurses and not to wear long veil or 'niqab' (face veil/cover) while nurses considered these issues to be personal matters and freedom.