

ANNUAL REPORT

The Forum for
Development and
Human Rights Dialogue



Published by FDHRD
Building 4, 75 Damscus Street
Maadi, Cairo, Egypt

E-mail: info@fdhrd.org

Website: www.fdhrd.org

© The Forum for Development
and Human Rights Dialogue

Information presented in this report are drawn from data
and reports prepared by FDHRD.
Editorial Designer: Reem ElBorolossy

For further information, please visit our website
www.fdhrd.org

Contents

05	Letter from Founder and Chairman
06	Forward
07	2021 in Numbers
08	2021 Activities
09	Highlight of the Year
10	Executive Summary
12	Abbreviations, Acronyms and Initialisms
13	COVID-19 Risks
23	Violations against Women
33	Violations against Children
39	Livelihood Challenges
49	Egyptians Abroad

Letter from Founder & Chairman



Years pass, and here we are witnessing the sixteenth year since the establishment of the Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue at the end of 2005.

We cannot say that we have achieved all the goals that we have set for ourselves since then, but we certainly still have the same passion for the pursuit of free expression of the concerns and aspirations of the Egyptian citizen.

Throughout the previous years, we experienced both successes and failures. Moreover, we were witnesses to landmark events in our country's history. We also were part of the various political, economic and social changes that mark Egyptian lives today.

We have never compromised or made concessions. Our enemies were and still are human rights violators.

We are proud that we are a part of this state and working within the framework of its Law Governing the Pursuit of Civil Work, even if we disagree with some of its texts.

We hope that we will never abandon our legal and objective methodology and that our goal remains the wellbeing of the Egyptian citizen.

Finally, I thank the Forum's team and employees for their effort, activity and sincerity. Without them, the journey would not have continued.



Saeed AbdelHafez Darwish

Forward

The Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue (FDHRD) is an Egyptian non-governmental organisation (NGO) founded in 2005 to promote human rights, raise citizens' awareness of their rights and responsibilities and combat human trafficking on a national and international level.

FDHRD believes that only a strong movement guided by human rights principles, values, and respect to international law can make a difference in pursuing human rights principles and values.

On a national level, FDHRD works on educating and developing broader understandings about human rights, civil rights and social cohesion for people of different backgrounds.

On an international level, FDHRD reports on gross violations of human rights, condemns illegal actions and calls the international community to action.

FDHRD works to ensure that development is community-led and that it respects, protects, and fulfils human rights principles, by providing communities and individuals with the necessary information and resources.

FDHRD focuses on various issues and works on several programmes.

Integrity and Transparency

FDHRD promotes the principles of integrity, transparency and responsibility in order to achieve the organisation's objectives and policies to combat corruption.

Counter-terrorism Watch

FDHRD monitors and counters international extremist ideas and ideologies. FDHRD works on a national level to raise NGOs' awareness to contain the phenomenon of terrorism, solidify and spread a culture of peace and tolerance.

Counter Human Trafficking

FDHRD conducts seminars for journalists to enhance their skills in monitoring and presenting trafficking cases. Periodical workshops for NGOs in different governorates across Egypt take place to increase citizen's awareness about the phenomenon and its legal framework.

Egyptians Abroad

FDHRD documents all violations and challenges faced by Egyptians in Arab countries, Europe and the United States of America. FDHRD seeks to provide victims with legal assistance and support their families.

Freedom of Speech and Expression

FDHRD offers citizens with opportunities to communicate with policy makers by creating a link between the two parties. FDHRD also monitors freedom of expression status on an international level.

2021

in numbers



2021 Activities



Despite the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in Egypt during 2021 in addition to the government's restrictive measures, The Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue has successfully conducted four workshops in 2021. The workshops aimed at educating individuals and non-governmental organisations on international law and combating human trafficking. The workshops took place across four governorates in Egypt; Cairo, Alexandria, Minya and El Beheira.



The Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue becomes the first Arab organisation to Join the Global Learning Community and the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women.

Global Learning Community (GLC) is based in Cambodia and encompasses 170 members from 39 countries. The Community aims to combat human trafficking and end all forms of abuse and modern slavery globally by building a movement to empower communities, strengthen systems, and restore justice and the wellbeing of survivors.

The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) works to increase public's awareness and advocate for legislation to combat human trafficking in general and trafficking in women in particular. In addition to defending the rights of all migrants and their families against the threat of an increasingly globalized labour market in formal and informal work sectors, such as garment and food processing, agriculture and farming, domestic work, sex work - where slavery-like conditions and practices exist. The GAATW International Secretariat is based in Bangkok, Thailand. The alliance is formed of more than 80 non-governmental organisations from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean and North America.

Through membership in the GLC and GAATW, FDHRD will be able to enhance and foster its international participation with the rest of the community members, exchange knowledge and expertise, participate in monthly calls with community members, have access to tools and research dealing with human trafficking issues used by the various members and work collectively to promote best practices and support measures in order to build a stronger and more connected community to combat human trafficking.

Executive Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic suspended work, closed borders, negatively affected public health and social life and impacted other civil and economic rights, resulting in an explicit derogation of individual rights.

The United Kingdom, France, and Spain are on the top list of the hardest-hit countries in Europe. The economic repercussions caused by the pandemic were worse than the recession of the great depression of the 1930s. Key sectors of the economy are at risk, unemployment and poverty rates increased and the social security system cannot provide the support needed. Governments adopted measures to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the economy and the society, with a special focus on the measures to counter the losses in the job market and schemes to aid firms, companies and small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) most affected by the pandemic. Egypt also took a special focus on the tourism sector for its importance to the Egyptian economy.

The pandemic did not only give rise to a health and economic crisis, but it also led to a significant increase in racism and discrimination. This was aimed mostly at Chinese, and Southeast Asians as they were being dubbed as the cause of the pandemic. Moreover, discrimination against people who were infected by the virus was also spotted, leading to some hiding and lying about their illness, thus, worsening the crisis.

The world also faced various human rights crises due to the pandemic, as well as the various ongoing armed conflicts. The rights to life and human security were threatened, especially for women and children as they are among the most vulnerable groups. Women are subject to various violations especially during armed conflicts such as femicide, gender-based violence, sexual abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking, forced marriage, ...etc. The pandemic also made it even harder for them to receive humanitarian assistance or escape the dangerous situation they are in, hindered by mobility restrictions.

Children's right to education is also affected by the ongoing armed conflicts. Schools are a common target of armed groups. Some take control of education and force children to learn their hateful agenda instead. Others close the schools and recruit the children into their army. Female students also face the danger of being kidnapped and abused as in what happens in Nigeria.

Children also suffer from the pains of malnutrition and forced displacement. The right to food is threatened in countries suffering from poverty, climate change and armed conflicts such as in Niger and Ethiopia. Food security is also threatened in countries with big populations. Thus, Egypt is working on various projects to increase its food security and self-sufficiency. In its endeavour, it also put forward various measures to protect the right to land (especially agricultural lands) and the agricultural industry.

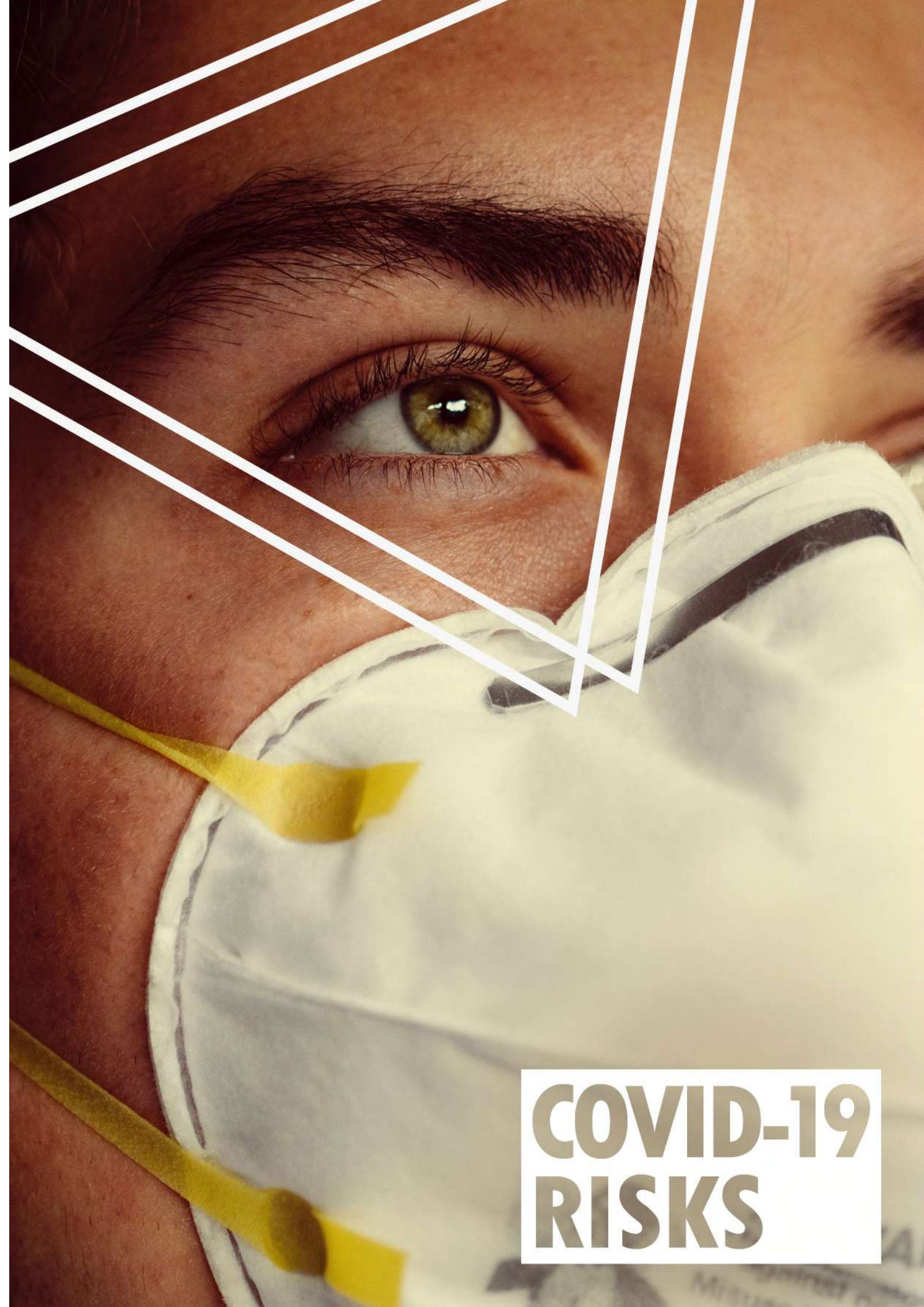
The pandemic also put the spotlight on the importance of the right to medicine. Countries already suffer from various violations in the pharmaceutical industries due to monopoly. This monopoly was one of the main reasons developing countries lacked adequate access to COVID-19 vaccines. The vaccine was produced by companies in developed countries. Thus, the main objective of those companies was to make the most profit out of the vaccine, and for the developed countries is to vaccinate all their citizens first before allowing the companies to export, leaving the other states to suffer.

On the other hand, a water crisis is threatening to erupt especially in the Arab world, threatening Arabs' right to clean water. Arab countries share their water sources with non-Arab states. Conflicts are already ongoing between Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia, and Iraq, Syria, and Turkey over the construction of dams.

The Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue also puts a special focus on migration and Egyptians abroad. Egypt is considered a source and a transit point for illegal immigration. However, this has significantly decreased due to the Egyptian government's efforts to raise awareness, decrease all push factors, and increase security measures. Moreover, it has established the Ministry of Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates' Affairs to provide means for legal migration and support Egyptians abroad.

Abbreviations, Acronyms and Initialisms

ACSAD	Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands
AU	African Union
CAE	Economic Analysis Council
CAPMAS	Central Authority for Public Mobilization and Statistics
CEDAW	The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CESCR	Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights
CJRS	Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CVF	Climate Vulnerable Forum
DARA	Development Assistance Research Associates
DFIs	Development Finance Institutions
ERTEs	Expedientes de Regulación Temporal de Empleo
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDHRD	The Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue
GA	General Assembly
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HDI	Human Development Index
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
ICC	International Criminal Court
IDD	Intellectual or Developmental Disability
IDPs	Internally displaced persons
IFOP	French Institute for Public Opinion
IFS	Institute for Fiscal Studies
ILO	International Labour Organization
INE	National Statistics Institute
INSEE	National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies office
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NCW	National Council for Women
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OHCHR	The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
ONS	United Kingdom Office for National Statistics
Oxfam	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
PBDAC	Principal Bank for Development & Agricultural Credit
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEISS	Self-Employment Income Support Scheme
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SOHR	Syrian Observatory for Human Rights
SWAC	Sahel and West Africa
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UN	United Nations
UN WWDR	United Nations World Water Development
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNOSAPG	United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect
WHO	World Health Organization
WRI	World Resources Institute



**COVID-19
RISKS**

The Socio-economic Impact of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic caused major economic repercussions that led to an increase in unemployment rates, poverty, and lack of social security worldwide. These repercussions were worse than of the 1930s great depression due to the higher number of recorded cases as well as the sharp decline in the economy. The United Kingdom, France, and Spain are on the top list of the hardest-hit countries in Europe.

The United Kingdom

Economic Decline

According to the ONS, Britain's GDP has declined by 9.9% in 2020. Also, lockdown measures in December 2020 led to a decline in retail sales by 4.2%, and in 2021 an 8.2% monthly fall in retail sales. The economic recession in 2020 was more than twice the largest fall of 4.0% in 2009. However, in December 2020, the scientific research and development sector demonstrated growth of 5.7%. Despite the third lockdown being less severe, in January 2021 the GDP fell by 9%, and retail sales fell by 8.2%. A greater number of businesses have also halted trading in 2021 than in the second lockdown.

Labour Market and Household Consumption

The pandemic led to the increase of the unemployment rate from 4% to 5.1%. It also reduced employee payrolls of around 674,000 as of March 2020, based on experimental HMRC data. In addition, the number of job vacancies in 2021 is 27% lower than a year ago. The number of laid off workers has also increased, between April and May, whereby over 8 million people were furloughed, with a peak of 8.9 million in May.

Consumers' spending fell by 10.6% in 2020, while household savings increased by £125 billion between March and November 2020 as estimated by The Bank of England.

Living Conditions

According to the Legatum Institute, the pandemic increased the total number of people living in poverty to more than 15 million, constituting 23% of the population.

A survey conducted by Child Poverty Action Group shows that 8 out of 10 families are financially worse because of COVID. More than three-quarters of the respondents were unable to pay for food, utilities, and 47% were unable to pay for housing. Governmental reports also reveal the pandemics' negative impact on people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, women, young and older people with issues accessing healthcare, medications and other essentials. 35% of disabled people indicated the negative impact of COVID-19 on their lives, in comparison with 12% of non-disabled people. Further, The IFS indicates that 71% of the employment of disabled people was affected by the pandemic through the loss of income, being furloughed or being made redundant. It also outlines that 15% of workers in the closed sectors are from minority ethnic groups. Moreover, employees aged under 30 and above 65 had greater chances of being furloughed or out of work.

Government Measures

The UK has introduced a set of policies to mitigate the negative economic impacts caused by COVID-19. The bank of England cut interest rates to 0.1%, introduced four backed financial loan schemes to aid businesses affected by the pandemic, and introduced measures to support banks' lending capacity. In 2021 the government announced over £340 billion of direct tax, welfare, and spending measures to support households, businesses, and public services.

In regards to the labour market and employees, the government introduced the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS), as well as changes to social security benefits to support households during the coronavirus pandemic.



France

Economic Decline

The recession that France experienced because of the coronavirus was historical. In March 2021, the INSEE office announced that the deficit in 2020 accounted for €211.5 billion, standing for 9.2% of the GDP. Revenues have also decreased by 63.1 billion.

France had the highest public debt in the Eurozone in 2020, soaring from 98.1% of the GDP in 2019, to 117.6%, and is expected to reach 118.7% in 2021. In the first half of 2020, companies' activity fell by 17% on average, decreasing more than or equal to 30% a quarter. The second lockdown in October 2020, had resulted in a decrease of 11.6% of GDP in November, contrary to 31% in April. This is a result of the less strict measures implemented by the government.

Labour Market and Household Consumption

In the first half of 2020, 715,000 jobs were destroyed, and the working time for those who remained in their employment was reduced by 34%. 81% of executives worked from home. Partial unemployment concerned mainly 54% of manual workers and 36% employees.

In regards to household consumption and spending, household consumption has rebounded in October to +3.7% after a -5.1% decline in September. The second lockdown led to a sharp decline in household consumption, with a loss of consumption at -15% in November compared with pre-crisis level. Moreover, household savings rate has increased sharply, reaching 27% in the second

quarter of 2020, nearly triple the amount saved in 2019. However, according to the CAE, most savings were among the higher-income households, while the poorest households have not managed to save more than usual.

Living Conditions

The health crisis has resulted in a huge decline in household gross income. Almost one million French people fell into poverty, adding to the 9.3 million people already living below the monetary poverty line. Migrants, poor communities and people with disabilities were more vulnerable to coronavirus in comparison to the rest of the population due to their poor living conditions. INSEE reveals that between March and April 2020, the death rate of immigrants has doubled compared to people born in France. The IFOP also noted that a third of people with disabilities experienced deterioration in their physical and mental health since the outbreak of the pandemic. There are 12 million people in France, which is 1 in 6 people, who suffer from a disability that the government has excluded from the confinement measures.

Government Measures

The French authorities have responded to the pandemic by implementing lock-down measures, amending the budget several times to adapt to the crisis, and introducing an emergency support package. The French departments and municipalities are also working to monitor and address the special needs of the most vulnerable, including the migrants' communities.

Spain

Economic Decline

The INE specifies that Spain's economy has fallen 11% in 2020, the biggest drop in its economy since the 1936 civil war, resulting in the increased debt in 2020 to €112,438 million. In spring 2020, the government started to ease lockdown measures to resume economic activity, resulting in the rebound of the GDP in the third quarter of 2020. However, with the virus outbreak at the end of the year, strict containment measures have been implemented again, leading to the reduction of economic activity to less than 9.1%, below the percentage of a year earlier.

Labour Market and Household Consumption

The containment measures and lockdown have resulted in the job loss of one million people between April and June 2020, according to INE.

Also, in the second quarter of 2020, in the mid of the pandemic, the household saving increased in Spain to 31.17%. On the contrary, Spain had the largest household consumption decrease, reaching 23.9%.

Living Conditions

Unemployment caused by the pandemic is the main factor behind the inequality and poverty of the people. According to Oxfam, 790,000 people have fallen under the poverty line in Spain due to the fall in income of migrants, elderly people, women, and more vulnerable groups. The poverty rate among migrants reached 57% the contrary to an average of 22.9% for the rest of the population. Among young people, the income inequality increased by 1.6 times above the average, while the unemployment rate reached 55% among people under 20 years of age. Furthermore, women constituted 57% of all underemployed people and 73% of those who work part-time.

Moreover, it is estimated that more than 30,000 people with IDD are exposed to a greater risk of infections. Despite the state implementing measures to support IDD people and to facilitate the lockdown for them, by scheduling therapeutic outings and developing technology-based support, still many essential services remain inaccessible.

Government Measures

The government has introduced legislation and measures to address the COVID-19 crisis. The measures addressed health and economy, with emphasis on firms, SMEs, tourism industry and self-employed.

The government placed employment and households' incomes as a priority in its agenda. Thus, it put in place temporary lay-off schemes (ERTEs), which is a furloughing scheme that has been adopted in 2020 and extended until May 2021.

The scheme aims to save thousands of jobs, endangered as a consequence of the pandemic, benefiting around 800,000 workers. The state has announced flexible mechanisms for temporary adjustments on suspending contracts and reduction of working hours.

Furthermore, in the government's efforts to support firms, it has set up public guarantees for bank loans given to firms. In addition, it announced an €11 billion direct aid package to help and support small and medium enterprises, companies, as well as self-employed workers. In regards to taxes, it relied on suspending tax periods, adjusting deadlines for tax procedures, deferral of tax and custom debts and suspending administrative deadlines.



The COVID-19 health crisis has caused an economic crisis of unprecedented magnitude. It has a severe impact on health, economy, and society. With all the presented information, it remains early to assess the full impact and the magnitude of COVID-19 on the United Kingdom, France and Spain, as statistics and data will fluctuate as long as the health crisis remains present.

Discrimination and Racism

The onset of the pandemic in 2019 has halted and suspended work, closed borders, negatively affected public health, social life, and other civil and economic rights, resulting in an explicit degradation of individual rights. Among the repercussions of the pandemic is the escalation of racism and discrimination against migrants and people of colour. In addition, developing and less developed countries have faced financial issues in receiving vaccines, as a result of western pharmaceutical bias toward developed and rich countries.

Manifestations of Racism and Discriminations of Corona and Chinese Virus

With the widespread of COVID-19, racial discrimination thrived among different communities. Anti-Semitism incidents have increased, and different forms of discrimination and bullying escalated. It is particularly against various Chinese-speaking populations, blaming them for the outbreak of the virus. Hate speech and racism against China and East and Southeast Asian countries is being incited and supported by former US President, Donald Trump, who held China responsible for creating the virus and spreading it.

Under US pressure, WHO proposed the implementation of the second round of investigations on the virus in Chinese laboratories. Moreover, in 2021, President Biden requested another investigation to clarify whether the virus originated from Wuhan Virology Laboratory or not. However, on June 16, 2021, investigations indicated the presence of the coronavirus in the US since at least December 2019, the same period in which the virus appeared in China.

Labelling Virus' Strains

Other countries also faced discrimination after discovering different COVID-19 variants and strains, resulting in it being labelled after them, such as "British strain", "South African strain", "Brazilian strain" and "Indian strain." To refrain from using "Chinese virus", the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses named the virus as "COVID-19".

WHO has also instructed that COVID-19 mutants not be named based on a geographical location or a specific culture or industry. They will only be titled and classified according to their degree of severity.



Racism and Discrimination toward Individuals

In 2020, the OHCHR report on racial discrimination in the context of COVID-19 addressed multiple issues concerning COVID-19 impact on health rights, food security, education, racial discrimination, and marginalized communities. Among the most important implications of the pandemic are the increasing forms of racism and online bullying against Chinese and Asian people, which is aggravated by hate speech by politicians, media presenters, and individuals.

In China, as well, non-citizens and people of colour were discriminated against. Interacting with an infected person or being infected has created a "social stigma" that pushed people towards isolation to avoid discrimination. In October 2020, Pew Research Centre revealed that Americans of Asian descent and people of colour were more likely to report negative experiences related to their race during the pandemic more than other groups, while 58% of Asian Americans and 45% of Americans experienced racial comments since the pandemic started.

Global Efforts to Combat Implications of COVID-19 Racism

International Human Rights Law prohibits and eliminates racial discrimination in all its forms and guarantees the right of every individual, without discrimination based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin. On an individual level, people used social media platforms to spread awareness and stop hate speech.

On a national level, some countries adopted firm values and principles. For instance, Spain, in cooperation with national councils created platforms to combat the spread of fake news related to the coronavirus and hate speech about Italian society on social media. In Switzerland, an information point has been set to respond to the needs of migrants on a variety of issues related to the pandemic including racism. In New York, the City Commission on Human Rights organised free educational workshops on human rights, especially for communities facing high levels of discrimination, bullying, and harassment.

International organizations were also actively involved in confronting racial discrimination. For example, IOM has launched a social media campaign in Mexico on hate speech and xenophobia. Also, the UNOSAPG has issued a comprehensive guidance note to states and its civil society organisations to address COVID-19 and combat hate speech.

Despite being in the 21st century, racism and discrimination are still prevalent. Gaps remain existent in states' application of international human rights law. Much remains to be done to preserve the integrity of the principles of equality and non-discrimination and to combat social stigma, hate speech, xenophobia, racism, and discrimination.



Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence is a widespread phenomenon in our world. A lot of women are being abused by their partners and exposed to domestic violence which is the most common type of gender-based violence. Some believe that domestic violence needs more attention as it happens in relationships between people who know or knew each other, therefore it is very different from violent incidents that occur among strangers.

With the outbreak of COVID-19, a lot of women lost their jobs and had to stay at home. Thus, victims of domestic violence were forced to spend more time with their abuser due to the COVID-19 precautions. Vulnerable groups like women with disabilities were at an even greater risk of domestic violence. The pandemic's disruptions also reduced access to services. The necessity to stay at home, along with many women's low socioeconomic level, negatively impacted women and children who are most prone to domestic violence.

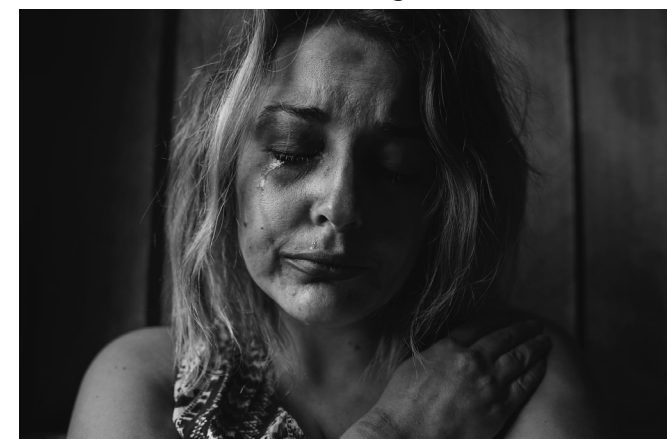
According to the United Nations, during the coronavirus outbreak, calls to helplines from victims of domestic violence increased by five times their usual rate in some countries. As a result, domestic violence was called "the shadow pandemic" by many.

In Egypt, the NCW announced that around eight million Egyptian women are at risk of domestic violence each year, and up to 86% of wives may face spousal abuse. In fact, four out of every five married men have directed a form of psychological violence against their wives. Additionally, almost half of young women have reported physical violence against them by either their brothers or fathers.

According to the data, there was a 13% increase in the number of patients in domestic violence treatment centres. 2,704 women have received individual care, and 9,278 have received family care.

To raise awareness on how to fight or deal with domestic violence or gender-based violence in general, the United Nations General Assembly recognizes the 25th of November

as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This is in addition to The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence which is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day. The global theme for 2021 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence was "Orange the world: End violence against women now!"



Modern Slavery

Today, there are approximately 40.3 million people under the name of slaves. This number is more than that at any time in human history and greater than the population of some countries. One in four is enslaved as a child.

The term "modern slavery" has recently spread and was addressed by some agreements, given that it is a current problem facing the international community, especially in Asian countries, in light of the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

Modern slavery often occurs in hard-to-reach areas. It has many forms and names, but the most well-known are: human trafficking, forced and bonded labor, child labor, forced marriage, involuntary servitude, slavery-like practices, debt bondage and commercial sexual acts through force, fraud, or coercion. Debt bondage is widespread in developing Asian countries such as India and Pakistan. The concepts of human trafficking and modern slavery overlap, as some view human trafficking as a form of Modern slavery, and some define it as the 'modern slave trade.'

The pandemic has led to an increase in the threat faced by immigrant workers, and workers in the informal economy. It has led to increasing

social and economic inequality between the different social classes. The pandemic also increased the danger to the groups most vulnerable to modern slavery due to the loss of their jobs, as various factories are resorting to reducing employment or dispensing with many of them, following the methods of combating the Coronavirus.

Workers in various trades or factories are among the groups most affected by the pandemic, especially migrants and daily wage workers. Pre-coronavirus, migrant workers were already at increased risk of modern slavery due to their dependence on daily wages, the illegal status of some in the destination country and exclusion from government economic and social support services. Rapid changes in labour supply and demand may also have tempted some outfits to use it as an excuse to exploit vulnerable workers or force them to work during the pandemic, putting them at risk of contracting the virus.

Health Justice and COVID-19 Vaccine Companies

The Coronavirus has led to many implications for all humanity. One of which is the differences that have emerged in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines among developed and developing countries. This is despite international efforts to address this problem and achieve the WHO goal of vaccinating 40% of the population in low- and lower-middle-income countries by the end of 2021. The leading reason for blocking access to the desired goal is that vaccine-producing companies are only concerned with financial profit without regard to economic conditions between countries or global human rights. This distinction in vaccine distribution is contrary to the right to life and health.

The pandemic led to a race between pharmaceutical companies to produce a vaccine against COVID-19. The result of this race was the birth of a monopoly on the vaccine and priority placed on profits rather than equal distribution. Few companies produce vaccines and there is a relatively small number of vaccine buyers. For example, four companies accounted for 90% of global vaccine revenues in 2019. Vaccines have become a commercial commodity as a result of the monopoly as companies do not disclose how they are manufactured or information related to that process. More than 50 countries failed to achieve the goal set by WHO to fully vaccinate 10% of their population against the Coronavirus by the end of last September.

In Africa, only 15 out of 54 countries achieved the desired goal, and half of the countries of the continent have vaccinated less than 2% of their population, as the percentage of those who received the full vaccine reached only 4.4% in Africa. Out of 5.76 billion doses given globally, only 0.3% went to low-income countries and more than 79% to middle income – upper and high-income countries. The pharmaceutical companies; AstraZeneca, BioNTech, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Novavax and Pfizer, have refused to participate in initiatives to increase global volumes of vaccines.

Few voices and limited initiatives are calling for the suspension of intellectual property rights agreements related to the production of the vaccine, and demanding the exchange of manufacturing of the COVID-19 vaccine. On the other hand, there have been calls calling for preventing the export of vaccines outside the EU before its countries complete their vaccination process. Since the announcement of the availability of vaccines, rich countries have acquired large quantities of them (more than their actual needs), leaving poor and developing countries to face severe scarcity and high costs of obtaining vaccines, which is known as the “vaccine nationalism” phenomenon.

The monopoly of these pharmaceutical companies affects the access rate of these vaccines to middle- and low-income countries. African countries were the most affected followed by Asians. As of December 11, 2021, in South Africa, the most affected country on the continent, the vaccination rate reached 31% of the population. According to WHO, just five African countries, less than 10% of Africa's 54 nations, are predicted to hit the year-end target of fully vaccinating 40% of their people. Africa has fully vaccinated 77 million people, just 6% of its population. In comparison, over 70% of high-income countries have already vaccinated more than 40% of their people

To mitigate disparities in access to vaccines between rich, developing, and less developed countries, the United Nations General Assembly established the “COVAX Mechanism” as an initiative to accelerate the equitable availability of COVID-19 tools to all countries. Furthermore, about 190 countries

have joined the “Co-Vax Facility”, a leading global framework for cooperation aimed at accelerating the development and production of COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, and making them equally available to all countries. The inequity in the distribution of vaccines would jeopardize the economic progress achieved over decades for all countries. In contrast, the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines leads to economic benefits of no less than 153 billion US dollars in the period 2020-2021 and about 466 billion dollars by 2025 in 10 of the major economies in the world.

With most countries classified as poor and many facing problems in obtaining vaccines and suffering from fragile health systems, conflicts and instability as well as devastation from natural disasters, implementing vaccination programs remains a difficult aim hindering the global goal of facing the pandemic. The monopoly on vaccine manufacturing and adherence to intellectual property rights to manufacture also affects vaccination rates in low- and middle-income countries. Health is a right, not a commodity. Thus, such monopoly must be halted as these companies can influence the decision-making process because of the weak role of government bodies and the economic diplomacy that requires leaving space for those companies to make profit making them a part of the global pandemic and a cause of it.

The Egyptian Government's Role in Supporting the Tourism Sector during the COVID-19 Crisis

The tourism sector has been the most affected sector in Egypt as a result of the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been the case in almost all countries of the world. Global air traffic has stopped, resulting in a recession in the tourism sector. Tourism contributes a large share of Egypt's GDP, being the largest source of foreign currencies and job creation.



Thus, the pandemic has already turned into a national economic crisis. Tourism revenues in Egypt rose to \$12.6 billion in 2019. However, the pandemic took away about 70% of Egypt's tourism revenues in 2020 after tourist numbers fell to 3.5 million, and Egyptian tourism revenue slumped to about \$4 billion over the whole of 2020. Three million Egyptians working in the tourism sector are suffering from the tourism shutdown, which accounts for about 20% of the country's GDP. It is worth mentioning that about 60% of the workers in the tourism sector are freelance workers, i.e., working on a daily wage, thus, are the most affected by the crisis.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Egyptian government has reassured the tourism sector on its continued support for the directives of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. It has issued several decisions during the first wave of the coronavirus. The most important for companies is the postponement of the payments of the consumption of electricity, gas, and water, government fees for services, or utilization fees, and the payment of all debts

owed for periods before the Corona crisis. The government has also provided subsidies for workers in the sector estimated at 100% of the basic wage of workers, benefitting nearly 300,000 employees of tourism companies, fixed and floating hotels, establishments, and tourist restaurants. The Egyptian government also provided loans with 5% interest to support workers and employers in the tourism sector to pay salaries and rents, provided that the loan period is three months.

In March 2021, the Ministerial Committee for Tourism and Antiquities issued several decisions to continue supporting the tourism sector, including:

- Properties used in the tourism and hotel fields of the Ministry of Civil Aviation will continue to be exempt from the real estate tax until October 31, 2021.
- Landing and accommodation fees (50%) and ground services (20%) continue to be reduced at airports in tourist provinces.
- Subsidies to tourism workers from the Emergency Fund of the Ministry of Manpower will continue until October 2021.
- Approval of the extension of the guarantee provided by the Ministry of Finance worth three billion EGP for the initiative of the Central Bank of Egypt to support maintenance and operation expenses in hotel and tourism facilities until December 31, 2021.

VIOLATIONS AGAINST WOMEN



Violations against Women



Women's difficulties increase every year, especially in conflict areas, humanitarian crises and emergencies. In the context of pandemics and disasters, studies and statistics prove that violence has generally been found to increase. Violence against women, particularly intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and domestic violence, is an increasing phenomenon and a violation of women's human rights. A 2018 analysis across 161 countries, conducted by WHO estimated that about 1 in 3 (33% of women) have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner or non-partner violence.

Egypt

Women in Egypt face substantial difficulties and obstacles because of violence, intimate partner violence, debt, and discrimination.

Violence against women is a widespread behavioural phenomenon that the Egyptian society is not void of. It has remarkably been increasing in recent times. Many incidents of violence against women, as well as women's violence against men, have surfaced. The rapid succession of murder stories has created a state of panic in Egyptian society.

In Egypt, spousal violence has been worsening. This phenomenon occurs due to marital disputes, the interference of relatives in family

affairs, religious misconceptions, lack of communication, low income, marginalization of women, gender inequality, in addition to social and economic instability. Wives experience physiological and physical distress with psychological violence being at the top of the list. On the other hand, men represent 31% of victims of spousal violence, where they get beaten or killed by their wives. This is a result of psychological pressures, neurological diseases, and changes of societal values. During the first 8 months of 2021, 11 wives were killed by their husbands out of a total of 20 cases, representing 55% of the violence cases.

Falling in debt is another phenomenon that Egyptian women suffer from. These women end up in prison for borrowing money to help enhance their families' economic conditions, and failing to pay their instalments on time. These women are usually the ones responsible for socially and economically caring for their families.

This occurs due to ignorance and lack of legal awareness. For women specifically, they fall into debt due to exaggerated marriage demands that pressure mothers to borrow money. Another reason is what is known as "burning goods", where women buy a commodity at a very high price in return for paying in monthly instalments and then sell it immediately at a low price to take advantage of cash liquidity to meet

an urgent need and then failing to repay those instalments. Moreover, women sometimes act as guarantors to one of their relatives' instalments. This means they get sued when the first party fails to fulfil the payment.

Statistics indicate that more than 90% of the imprisoned women were guarantors of their husbands, leaving children homeless and without their families. The Coronavirus pandemic has furthermore increased the number of women in debt as many families have lost their source of income.

The latest statistics received by the Ministry of Social Solidarity from the Ministry of the Interior stated that Egypt has about 30,000 women in debt. The duration of detention of these charges ranges from three to 10 years, where women suffer psychological harms, social stigma, family disintegration and the displacement of their children.

The Egyptian government and its civil society organisations are working to eliminate this phenomenon, through research and supporting women economically and socially. As part of the presidential campaign and the initiative of "Prisons without indebted men or women" through the Tahya Misr Fund, the government pardons women and provides them with support after leaving prison. The Fund allocates 30 million pounds to this problem. It works on ending the distress of many women by supporting their integration and economic empowerment through small projects. The government has also spent 65 million Egyptian pounds for 389,000 Egyptian women.

Turkey

Violence against women is a widespread phenomenon in Turkey, as well as "Femicide". Femicide is the act of deliberately killing women because of their gender. It remains a huge issue in Turkey. Due to religious extremism, the rate of violence and crimes against women has been on the rise.

The latest statistics have shown that at least one woman is killed every day by men. Over the past months, violence against Turkish women has reached the highest levels as at

least 300 women were killed in 2020. Data from WHO indicates that 38% of women in Turkey experience violence from their partners. Many Turkish women are also subjected to systematic abuse and oppression, particularly minority women, human rights activists and women who are active in civil society.

Turkey fails to effectively implement its laws when it comes to protecting women's rights. Sexual violence has been recognized in its Penal Code as a crime against society. However, statistics indicated that about 2,000 women are deported every year and sexually exploited in neighbouring countries. Religious (unregistered) child marriages are still very common despite its criminalization, especially in poor rural areas. The percentage of married minor girls may reach 50%. In addition, the government does not classify killing and violence against women as a violation of human rights and does not apply local or international laws that protect women. This reflects the state's desire to continue violence against women, especially as it has always been biased in favour of men against their victims.



Human rights organisations identified the government discourse, negative rhetoric on women and the regime practices to be the reason of the escalation of violence against women. In addition, Erdogan's speech on equality, in which he argued that women are not equal to men, has worsened the situation and contributed to an increase in violent crimes against women. This speech resulted in deepening negative stereotypes about women and their roles in society. Thus, it is no surprise that Turkey ranks 133rd out of 156 countries in the 2021 Gender Equality Index.

President Erdogan withdrew from the Istanbul Convention Action against violence against women and domestic violence on the first of July 2021. This marks another setback for women's rights in Turkey. Women led protests and demonstrations against the decision, resulting in the arrest of dozens of participants. Extremists have viewed the Convention as a threat to Turkey's traditions and customs, while conservatives said that it undermines family structures and encourages violence.

Turkey also poorly punishes crime perpetrators. Although there are laws on the protection of women, there are no actual practices by the Turkish government to reduce the phenomenon of gender-based violence. Worsening the situation even further, Turkey currently works toward passing a law that allows the rapist to marry his victim. This reduces the severity of the offence and will lead to the release of about 4,000 men on the condition of marrying their victims.

Women in Turkey continue to be victims of sexual or domestic violence, honour killings and discrimination. Turkey has failed to prevent gender-based violence, killings, and degrading treatment, and continues to violate international human rights law.

The Sahel

The humanitarian, political and economic situation in the Sahel region have worsened women's lives. In conflict areas, terrorist groups and extremists are prevalent. In addition, women suffer from restriction of movement, violation of human rights laws, destruction of facilities and weakened delivery of services. Women and girls are the most at risk in conflicts. They fall victim to sexual and gender-based violence, systematic abductions, rape, forced prostitution, forced sterilization and forced marriage. Sexual



violence is the most common type of violence. It has also increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic, forcing a large proportion of people to seek refuge, increasing the number of internally displaced persons. In 2021, The UN Refugee Agency reports indicated that the number of internal displacements in the Sahel region has quadrupled in the last two years.



In 2021, WHO estimated that 30% of women have experienced at least one form of gender-based violence in their lives. Another WHO study in 2021 revealed that the prevalence of sexual violence ranges from 15% in urban areas such as Japan, to 71% in rural provincial areas like the Sahel countries. Burkina Faso and Mali topped the list among the top six countries in terms of the prevalence of child and forced marriage. While, in Niger, 70% of women have been beaten or raped by their husbands, fathers or brothers, and only one in ten girls completes her high school education.

To help prevent and reduce violations against women, in July 2021, Mauritanian first lady Dr. Marième Vadhel called for women in the Sahel to participate in the fields of security and justice. The secretariat of the Sahel and West Africa (SWAC) and the Development Centre of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) organised a dialogue entitled "DevTalk" to develop some strategies and services for survivors of sexual violence to prevent further trauma. The World Bank is also funding Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographics Project in the Sahel region, which aims to promote the empowerment of women and adolescent girls and enhance their access to high-quality services for education and reproductive health with a funding of \$295 million.

Furthermore, there are gender equality and development initiatives in the African development strategy 2063. There are also other programmes that aim to end violation of African women, empower them economically and socially and encourage their participation in issues of security and peace within their communities.

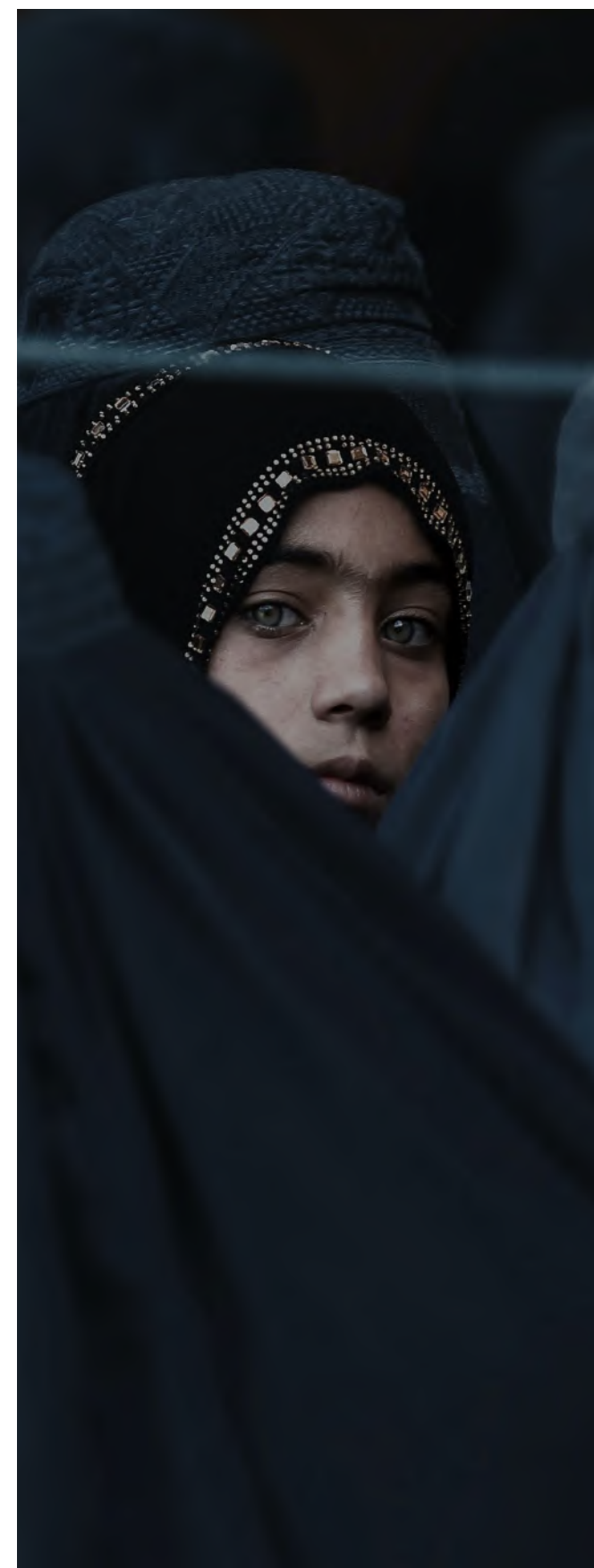
Afghanistan

Terrorist groups that are deployed regionally and internationally have imposed themselves on the international system, with enormous organisational, logistic capabilities and advanced weaponry. This highlights the main issue that each state is facing. On the one hand, they have to fight terrorism and maintain the state's national security. On the other hand, they must keep the pursuit of development and respect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The situation in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of the Soviet Union represented a friendly environment for chaos and fragmentation. It gave room for different extremist groups to appear and be present in the scene. The most important and influential of these groups is the Taliban that expanded, increasing their influence and spreading more into Afghanistan.

In the beginning of them gaining power over Afghanistan, the Taliban did not make any promises about the inclusion of different groups in the society or even preserving human rights. They were only promising peace.

A new era started on 15 August 2021 when the Taliban managed to take over the capital, Kabul, and overthrew the civilian government. President Ashraf Ghani fled hours after the Taliban entered Kabul. Thus, the city effectively fell under the rule of the Taliban armed group, that had been ousted by the United States and its allies 20 years before.



Despite promises that women's rights would be respected under Sharia law, the space for women's rights has already begun to rapidly vanish. The hard-won gains of the previous two decades have begun to disappear. For example, on 8 September 2021, the deputy head of Taliban's cultural commission told Australian media SBS that women would be banned from playing sports, citing in particular, the national women's cricket team. Many rights too were violated such as the right to work and the right to get an education. Not only were women deprived of education, they were also banned from going to work as the Taliban asked women in the workforce to send their male relatives to replace them. Even before the Taliban takeover, Afghanistan was placed near the bottom of every list when it came to protections for women, and at the top in terms of the need for safe houses, counselling and courts that could help keep women safe. More than half of all Afghan women reported physical abuse and 17% reported sexual violence. Moreover, almost 60% were in forced marriages as opposed to arranged marriages, according to studies cited by the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs and underreporting remains rampant.



More than

1/2 of all

AFGHAN women
reported
physical
abuse

Obstetric Violence in Armed Conflicts

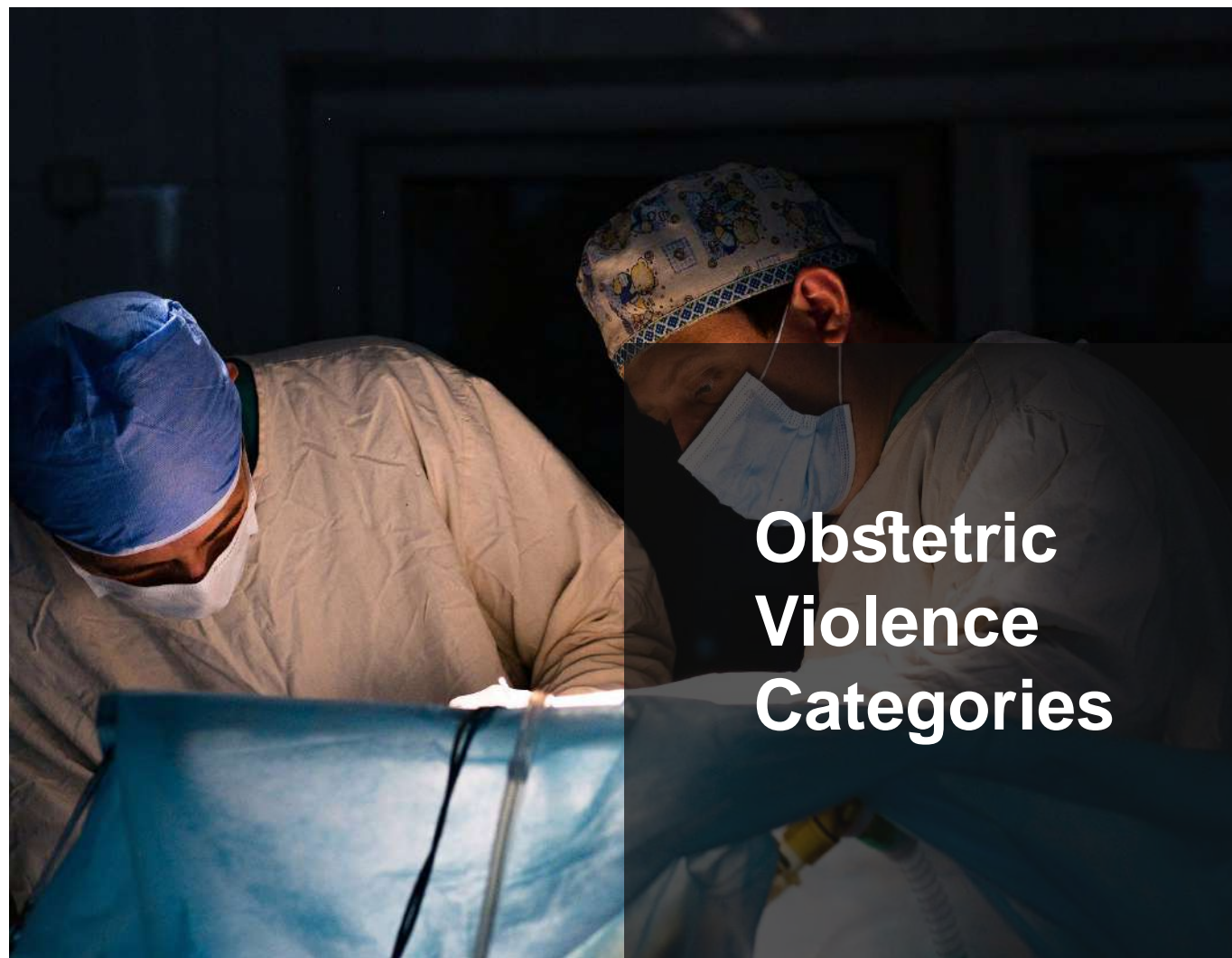
Childbirth is the most common process in which a woman bears physical pain. Obstetric violence is one of the forms of violations against women that occur during this process. Women may suffer during the childbirth process from harmful behaviours that are a clear violation of their health rights and could worsen and cause their death.

The Nature and Forms of Obstetric Violence

Obstetric violence is physical, sexual, or verbal abuse, bullying, coercion, humiliation or abuse women face during childbirth by medical personnel. It has been occurring in hospitals in many countries of the world. It is only a new term for the old problem of disrespect and abuse in obstetric and gynaecological care. It falls under the broader problem of gender-based violence and women losing their bodily autonomy.

Most women who experience such violence push it under the rug as it is viewed as a private topic. The victims themselves sometimes do not even realize that their experience can be considered violence. These abuses contradict the right to informed consent, the right to refuse medical treatment, the right to health, the right to equal treatment, the right to privacy and the right to life.





Obstetric Violence Categories

- **Verbal humiliation:** speaking harsh or inappropriate language, and threatening to withhold treatment.
- **Physical violence and abusive practices:** being hit or slapped, gagged or tied to the bed during childbirth, or forceful handling such as heavy pressure on the abdomen in natural childbirth.
- **Neglect and disregard for women's pain and needs:** ignoring women's desire to choose a birthing position, refusing to let them have a companion, depriving them of food and fluids, and treating the woman as a passive participant in the birth process.
- **Violation of privacy and confidentiality:** not having dividers or curtains between patients.
- **Exposure to discrimination:** discriminating between patients on the basis of socioeconomic level, health status, ethnicity, religion, or social stigma.

- **Failure to adhere to professional standards while providing health care:** performing painful vaginal exams, and having long waits to get health care.
- **Use of unnecessary medical treatments or medical interventions:** inducing labour, cutting the perineum without medical justification, or performing caesarean deliveries without medical justification.
- **Denial of treatment:** refusing to give painkillers.
- **Detention:** not allowing the woman to leave the hospital after giving birth until the bills are paid.

These forms of violence cause a feeling of betrayal as well as psychological distress. It leads to a lack of confidence and abstention from any medical care before the birth process, in addition to increasing the phobia of childbirth and hastening postpartum depression.

A study at the University of Bristol found that the children of mothers who suffered from depression during or after pregnancy are more likely to be depressed themselves in the future. The 14-year research project regularly assessed the mental health of 5,000 children up to the age of 24. Furthermore, according to a study published by Translational Psychiatry in 2021, 17.22% of the world's population suffer from postpartum depression, with the



highest rate found in Southern Africa 39.96%. The National Health Service (NHS) in England also estimates that one in five women suffer from postpartum depression and other mental health pain as a result of childbirth violence.

Despite all the developments in the medical field from highly accurate devices to measure a fetus' vital signs and effective drugs to relieve obstetric pain, childbirth violence continues in various forms in public or private hospitals.

In government hospitals, the process of childbirth is usually handled by interns. Most of the women who frequent go to public hospitals are from the lower middle classes, which exposes them to stubbornness, abuse and intolerance of their pains. While in private hospitals, caesarean delivery is resorted to as they are more expensive even if they are unnecessary and may threaten women's lives.

Thus, it has become essential for women to always be well aware of all the risks, procedures and options so that they can control and make their own decisions safely. In this sense, the doctor must provide a welcoming environment for the woman to feel comfortable and have the space to ask questions and clarify any doubts. Accordingly, the woman undergoing childbirth must confirm and agree on all the procedures that will take place in the operation. If this agreement is violated and there are violations or violence against the woman, the doctor must be held accountable.

Obstetric Violence in Areas of Armed Conflict

Civilians have been caught in the crossfire of various armed conflicts in recent decades and have had to endure constant threats of bombing, shooting and chemical attacks. More than 90% of war casualties are civilians, with women and children being particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of conflict.

Armed conflicts also lead to poor access and quality of health services. Armed conflicts destroy local infrastructures, such as food and water supplies and sanitation systems. This makes it increasingly difficult for pregnant women to access public health and maternity care.

Women are exposed under armed conflict to all kinds of abuse, including violence during childbirth. They are subject to beatings, sexual harassment, prevention of painkillers, forced contraception, forced sterilization, abortion, obstetric violence, failure to follow health safety and viewing them as a mark of shame and slaves, especially women in captivity. Thus, good reproductive health is necessary to secure the health and rights of women under these circumstances.

Accurate data collection is rarely a priority or even a possibility during war or armed conflict, however, it is estimated that the war causes the death of about 140,000 pregnant women each year. South Sudan is among the countries with the highest rates of deaths, with more than two thousand women dying for every 100,000 births.



The conflict in the Palestinian Territories has similarly led to a decrease in access to maternal and postnatal care, as the number of home and induced births has increased. Moreover, women giving birth

are arrested and searched at military transit points. Not only that, but Israel also executes harsh sentences against pregnant women. For example, the Palestinian woman Anhar al-Deek, who was three months pregnant, was detained and severely beaten in prison. She was only released as a result of international pressure.

In war-torn Yemen, Doctors Without Borders observed that pregnant women were seeking refuge in caves to give birth rather than risk going to the hospital.

Obstetrical Violence and International Organisations

Criminalizing obstetric violence in situations of war and armed conflict is implicit in the third article of the international humanitarian law in the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 12 of the CEDAW.

Since the UN and its bodies monitor the humanitarian situation, investigating facts and violations of international law, obstetric violence also needs to be monitored. Some mechanisms need to be put in place to eliminate it, especially as it causes the death of a large number of women.

A study of WHO, UNICEF and several international organizations showed that about 42% of women were subjected to obstetric violence in various forms, such as physical or verbal abuse or discrimination during childbirth in health centres, with some of them being punched, slapped, shouted at, mocked or pressured.

Moreover, the right to adequate care and privacy during childbirth is an integral part of comprehensive health services. It includes components of private health care, education about rights and choices, freedom from abuse and treatment with dignity. However, disrespect and abuse during childbirth is a well-documented phenomenon that is directly linked to power relations and broader contexts of instability in families, communities and nations.

The definition of obstetric violence as a subset of gender-based violence highlights that it is also a type of structural violence. Therefore, it needs to be addressed systematically. More women need to speak up about the abuse and harm that occurs in the maternity care setting for the environment to change.

VIOLATIONS AGAINST CHILDREN



Violations against Children

Human rights are fundamental rights entitled to all people, regardless of nationality, sex, ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. All are to be treated equally and with respect. Similarly, children and youth have the same equal human rights as adults. There is even special emphasis on them for being dependents and more prone to vulnerability. However, 2021, like the preceded year, has been a devastating year for the rights of children.

Ongoing armed conflicts, escalating violence, and humanitarian crises taking place around the world have severely impacted and threatened children's lives. Thousands of children casualties and gross violations against children have been recorded, and are increasing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In conflict areas, humanitarian access has been restricted due to lockdown measures, impacting children's rights to health. School closures have also left many children at greater risk of recruitment by militias or armed forces. Forced labour, child trafficking, recruitment in armed groups and sexual violence are the most prevalent violations against children in 2021, followed by denial of humanitarian access.

Palestine

In Palestine, Thousands of children suffer from extreme human rights violations by the Israeli occupation army. Israel continues to fail its obligations despite being a signatory of the UNCRC in 1991. Palestinian children continue to experience torture, arbitrary imprisonment, detention, unfair trials, threats of deprivation of education, killing, rape, and forced displacement.

2021 witnessed an increase in human rights violations against Palestinian children by the Israeli armed forces, especially after the recent escalations in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and particularly the Gaza Strip, which were subjected to purification campaigns by the Israeli Air Force. It was documented that 75 children were killed, 210 were injured and 450 were arrested. Also, it has recently been noted that children as young as 8 years old were

being arrested by the occupying forces.

In addition, in the first quarter of 2021, 200 children were displaced, 53 schools were under the threat of being demolished and 168 children were prisoned under dire conditions. Imprisoned children face cruel and inhumane treatment from soldiers. It is noted that Israel prosecutes between 500 and 700 children in military courts annually. However, 2021 recorded the highest percentage of Palestinian children arrests. The situation escalated further in May with the attacks and forced evictions of the residents of the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in East Jerusalem.

Turkey

Taking advantage of the turmoil and the political unrest in both Syria and Libya, Turkey has been involved in the unlawful recruitment of child soldiers in both countries. Despite being a signatory of all international conventions on children's rights, it continues to ignore its obligations and maintain its recruitment of minors and children.

For the past decade, Syria continued to be the centre of brutal non-stop war. Children were the most affected by the repercussions of the war, suffering from poverty, lack of humanitarian assistance, hunger and child recruitment. As the war continues, the recruitment of children under the age of 18 by armed groups has been massively increasing in Syria. Children have been recruited to be soldiers and used as human shields and suicide bombers.

Despite the act being one of the six serious violations against children as identified by the United Nations, children continued to be used as combatants, porters, or for sexual purposes. The recruitment of children is a full-fledged war crime. The Turkish government is accused of recruiting children in Syria and Libya, with the promise of a better life.

Moreover, the Libyan Centre for Human Rights revealed that Turkey factions, in order to support the Sarraj Libyan government, recruited Syrian children, particularly in Misrata, and transferred

them to Libya to fight with the Tripoli government against the Libyan National Army. Orphanages were the main targets for the recruitment of children. It has been noted as well that Turkish armed groups torture and arrest children belonging to other militant factions.

The SOHR has confirmed that Turkey's method of transferring Syrian fighters into Libya has recently shifted from incitement to intimidation. The ICC revealed that the line between voluntary and forced recruitment is almost non-existent.

In 2021, the UN issued a report about the killings, mutilation and recruitment of Syrian children under the age of 10, revealing that number of violations against children was more than 4,724. Turkish factions continue to ignore safeguarding children rights and even violate them.

Ethiopia

Amid the pandemic, a military conflict has unfolded in the Horn of Africa, Tigray region. The war is marked with mass atrocities, war crimes and killings of unarmed civilians, women and children.

The Ethiopian and Eritrean soldiers and belligerents in the conflict have completely dismantled the region's economy and food system, leaving the civilians to suffer the dire consequences of the ongoing conflict. Children are among the most vulnerable groups affected by the conflict.

Thousands of children are being held by Ethiopian forces, abducted, and hidden in unknown places. More than 1,000 children and adults have been abducted from western Tigray between November 2020 and April 2021. Thousands of children in the Tigray region are detained and kidnapped by the Ethiopian forces. In August, 200 people including more than 100 children were killed, in attacks on a health facility and a school in Afar.

Children are at risk of abuse, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, murder, torture, rape and



genocide. According to UNICEF, 26.3 million people were in need across Ethiopia including 14 million children in September 2021. According to USAID, Malnutrition contributes to more than 50% of all infant and child deaths in Ethiopia. UNICEF has raised its concerns on the threat of malnutrition in Tigray, as it could affect 100,000 Ethiopian by July 2022, “a tenfold jump over average annual levels”. According to the United Nations OCHA report in May 2021, “nearly 11,000 children under the age of five were screened for acute malnutrition”.

According to the IOM in April 2021, there are some 1,000,052 IDPs in the Tigray region, half of which are children under 18 years. Data indicated that IDPs are fleeing to towns and cities to seek humanitarian assistance and access to basic services.

Moreover, children in Tigray are suffering from widespread rape and sexual violence carried out by the different parties; the Ethiopian troops, Eritrean Defence Forces, or pro-government fighters from the neighbouring region of Amhara. The tragic humanitarian situation of Tigray people in the conflict is very clear.

Yemen

The armed conflict in Yemen has destroyed children’s prospects for the future. The consequences of the pandemic and the ongoing war make children the most affected group, depriving them of their fundamental rights.

According to the international report issued by the UNDP, about two out of six million school-age children currently have no access to education. The World Bank statistics confirmed that 31.6% of school-age children do not go to school.

Over their 5 years of presence in Yemen, the Houthis carried out 1,492 attacks on schools and educational facilities in 19 Yemeni governorates. UNICEF also reported that violence in Yemen forced

more than 3,600 schools to close, while another 270 schools became shelters for displaced people and 68 schools were occupied by Houthi rebels. The Houthi group has also transformed some government schools into private ones, and set fees, ranging between 100 to 150 dollars, for students to enrol. The Houthis have deprived about 130,000 teachers of their salaries, dismissed thousands of them, killed 21 and issued death sentences for 10 school principals. In addition, they carried out 157 raids on educational facilities, which prompted thousands of teachers to leave their schools and search for alternative professions. Moreover, changes were made to textbooks that exude the legacy of human brutality such as sectarianism, racism, hatred and lack of respect for human rights, which made some parents refuse to send their children to school. The above-mentioned acts were done despite the right to education being guaranteed by many international conventions, declarations, treaties and protocols, as well as Article 2 of the Yemeni Constitution which stipulates that education is the right of citizens and that education is mandatory at primary stages.

Yemen has witnessed the improvement of education in the period before the civil war, where Yemen was able to make progress and rank 153rd in the 2015 HDI, but fell to 179th place out of 189 countries in 2020. It is expected that Yemen will not be able to achieve any of the SDGs by 2030 as long as its citizens are being deprived of their rights.



The Sahel

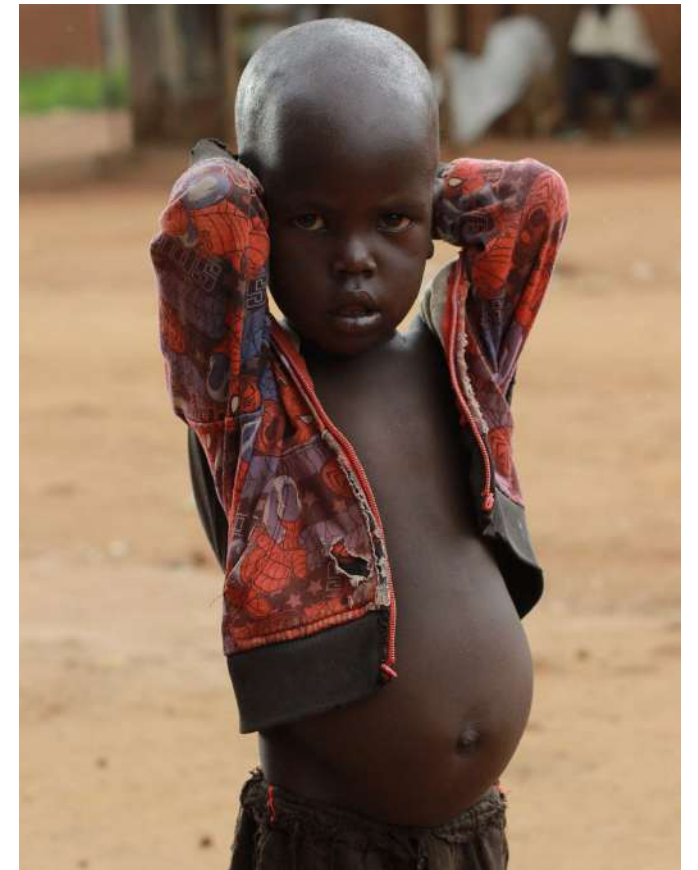
Children in the Sahel region are affected and abused by the proliferation of terrorist groups, civil wars, violence, human trafficking, hunger, displacement, abduction, forced recruitment, murder, mutilation, sexual assault and deterioration of education, as well as climate change-related damage from drought, and desertification.

Reports have also confirmed that there is 13.5 million persons, 7.2 million of which are children, whose rights have been taken away due to conflict, poverty, and climate change. Moreover, a quarter of migrants in Africa are children and their percentage in 2021 has increased by 64%. Ninety-nine countries have also closed their borders to migrant children. And even if they are allowed in, they face discrimination, hatred, and ill-treatment from the citizens of these countries.

Children from the Sahel countries suffer from many violations; 191,000 children have been displaced as a result of the intensification of the conflict in Mozambique’s Cabo Delgado region. In Sudan, 5.4 million children are suffering from successive crises and the spread of wild polio, COVID-19 and cholera. In Burkina Faso, the number of children in need of protection increased more than tenfold from 35,800 in 2019, to 368,000 in 2020. Furthermore, 2,500 schools closed, leaving almost 12 million out of school.

In Mali, a sharp increase in forced displacement has been recorded, with more than 137,000 displaced children, in addition to the closure of 1,260 schools, in central Mali, where schools are used for military purposes, and children being forcibly recruited into armed terrorist groups. As a result, more than 150,000 children were deprived of their right to education according to reports by the United Nations mission, and more than 900 schools are still closed due to the lack of security.

In Niger, 3.8 million people, including 2 million children, need humanitarian assistance according to UNICEF. 678,000 of them are in need of protection services. In Niamey, the



epicenter of the epidemic, 7,015 children need support. Although Niger adopts a policy of free education, many areas lack schools with the literacy rate not exceeding 10% of the total population. Moreover, 1,478 schools have been closed due to the recent rise in violence in the border area between Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, thus, authorities are building huts to be used as schools where students sit on the ground on flammable materials that caused more than one fire incident on the 11th of April 2021 which caused the death of 20 children.

In Nigeria, about 76% of girls marry before the age of eighteen. Female students are being kidnapped, and some survivors revealed that they were forced to learn combat and the teachings of marriage to prepare them for forced marriage to the leaders of these terrorist groups. As for education in Nigeria, attendance is not compulsory though education is free, and some groups, such as nomads and people with special needs, do not receive all the necessary support for education. Since 2002, the country has witnessed sectarian violence by the terrorist group Boko Haram. It has constantly targeted schools, leading to more than 40% absence rates, and has also carried out kidnappings of students in the northeast of the country. Boko Haram had also kidnapped more than 200 girls in the northeast of the country from “Chibok school” and 300 others from a school in Nigeria’s northwestern state of Zamfara.

On the other hand, some governments and organisations have taken concrete steps and actions to protect children’s rights and help them access services such as Zambia, Rwanda, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Cameroon and the Congo. However, there is still a long way to go to provide a decent life for these children.



LIVELIHOOD CHALLENGES



Livelihood Challenges

More than 2 million people are in need of urgent food assistance due to the food crisis facing the Sahel countries and threatening their security. This crisis has led to a deterioration in the level of education and the health situation, especially after the Coronavirus outbreak. Some of the countries that were affected by the crisis are Senegal, Mauritania, Mali and Sudan. The main reason behind the famine is the drought in the above-mentioned countries, as well as war, inflation, failure of agricultural seasons, population imbalance, increased mortality, epidemics, inefficient food distribution systems and policies, poverty, low incomes and increased oil prices.



Niger

Niger ranks last in the human development index, ranking 189th out of 189 countries. This is because of poverty, insecurity, climate change and food insecurity reaching a crisis level between October and December 2020.

7.8 million people are now living in a severe food shortage, equivalent to 60% of Niger's population, farmers and villagers living east of the capital Niamey are facing the worst crisis since 1984, according to a 2020 UN humanitarian and emergency assistance report. The United Nations estimates that 1.9 million people in Niger do not know from where will they receive food, 42% of children under the age of five suffer from malnutrition and 64% of Niger's rural population does not have access to clean water.

International organisations, the African Union, Islamic relief and the United Nations have played a role in assisting more than 3 million people in Niger in terms of water, sanitation, food security, malnutrition treatment, seasonal food distribution projects and facilitating families with access to land irrigation systems through water conservation technology. FAO has been working with regional and global partners to take measures to reduce the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic through holding meetings to decide on the procedures and solutions in Africa. FAO is working with the African Union Commission and regional economic groups to ensure that African governments, development finance institutions and other financial partners prioritize food systems in their actions and investments. The Organisation has provided 13,000 tons of animal feed, distributed more than 3,400 tons of premium seeds and covered the needs of 94% of the damaged villages.



Ethiopia

Tigray has been in a humanitarian crisis since November 2020, with troops fighting each other and civilians suffering the repercussions of the long-running armed conflict. International humanitarian organisations have documented damage and destruction of homes, businesses, schools, places of worship and hospitals. In addition, mass atrocities were committed by the involved parties in the conflict, including mass killings, rape, and destruction and looting of property, as reported by humanitarian agencies and UN officials. The region is facing a catastrophic hunger emergency that sees no improvement.

On the 3rd of July, UN officials warned the Security Council that famine is affecting more than 400,000 people and that another 1.8 million people were on the brink of famine.

The conflict has also impacted negatively the region's economy and diet as it has affected the harvest season, leaving Tigray residents waiting another year to harvest. In addition to the food insecurity caused by the armed conflict, the conflict has internally displaced more than two million Ethiopians in search of safety. Others have sought refuge in neighbouring countries and are living in harsh conditions, lacking basic materials and adequate medical supplies.

The lack of clarity of information given by Tigray's government presents an obstacle for humanitarian organisations and actors in knowing the exact number of people in need of assistance. The role played by aid agencies and the international community has also been inadequate, with limited and almost ineffective efforts by the Ethiopian government and other warring parties who should be held responsible for their deliberate violations of international humanitarian law against civilians.

Egypt

As for Egypt, the issue of food security occupies a key pillar of the Egyptian economy. The main problem issue is the increase in the population that causes hardship in achieving food security. This is reflected in the continued reliance on other countries to provide many major food commodities. Concerning the food gap, Egypt imports all basic food commodities, mainly cereals, food oils and sugar, as well as dry legumes, red meat, milk and fish. There are three main reasons for this unsecured food situation; limited resources for food production, specifically water and land, failed economic and agricultural policies and population growth.

Egypt aims to reach self-sufficiency of food commodities instead of importing them, and develop consumption patterns to improve nutritional levels and increase per capita consumption of food commodities of high nutritional value. Egypt is working to achieve this goal through agricultural development projects such as the 100,000 agricultural greenhouse projects, the one and a half million acres project, the fish farming project, the development of the Toshki project and the new delta project. Despite the outbreak of COVID-19, Egypt's exports of vegetables and fruits have increased and the demand of European countries for Egyptian products has begun to increase. The Department of Vegetables and Fruits has confirmed that Egyptian production began to invade European markets.

Egypt is also working to improve the management of state-owned land which directly contributes to achieving the SDGs in its three national dimensions. This improvement has become an urgent necessity in light of the current and future challenges facing Egypt. Some of the current challenges Egypt is facing include high poverty rates, varying levels of regional development, high unemployment, urban sprawl, erosion of agricultural area, pressure on services and facilities, as well as the relative scarcity of major resources, most important of which is water. It is also expected that the population will double in forty years. Thus, Egypt faces the challenge of balancing land use between the current and future generations.

Despite the government's efforts to maximize the use of state-owned land, Egypt's land management system continues to suffer from many forms of imbalances. The absence of law enforcement is one of the most important reasons for state-owned land grabbing. Since 2011, two million violations have been recorded on 90,000 acres. Egypt has succeeded in implementing nearly 4,000 cases of removal of encroachments.

The random proportion of buildings in Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, Eastern, and Qalyubia governorates amounted to 40% of the land in Egypt and there are 1.9 million cases of land counting from 2011 to 2018. three million and 240 thousand properties are the number of building violations in all provinces. 9,609 building violations within the urban space were removed and 20,447 violations were based on agricultural land.

Agriculture is the main source of income of the Egyptian economy, constituting about 14.7% of the GDP and is becoming increasingly important as a profession. Its activities involve more than half of the population, whether in production, marketing or manufacturing of agricultural equipment. More than eight million work directly in agriculture, which is equivalent to about 32% of the Egyptian labour market.



This issue involves both land and human rights, thus, becoming a constant source of tension in both developed and developing countries. It results in increasing concerns about food insecurity, climate change, unsustainable use of natural resources and rapid urbanization. It is worth mentioning that there is still no provision in the International Law on the right of a person to the land. Regulations of most of the issues concerning land rights are left to the national law of states.

Besides land grabbing and erosion, Egyptian farmers face various problems in the summer due to the low prices of livestock and dairy and leather products, paired with the high cost of breeding, such as fodder and veterinary

care. This hinders the development of the animal revolution and widens the gap between production and consumption. Furthermore, farmers do not receive enough support, in addition to the losses he incurs as a result of the successive difficulties they encounter. They are forced to take loans from the PBDAC, which became a commercial bank and can give loans to the farmer with an interest of up to 24%.

Egyptian farmers also face problems in marketing their products as the state has abandoned its role in receiving strategic crops, thus, leaving the farmers at the mercy of black-market traders. This is in addition to the chaotic pesticide markets. There are recurrent fertilizer crises even after the lifting of subsidies on fertilizer. Farmers also suffer from irrigation crises and pollution in canals and banks. The Egyptian countryside has suffered neglect and marginalization for decades, causing thousands of families to fall into poverty as they find difficulty in obtaining basic services such as health, clean water and electricity.

Fortunately, the agricultural sector has recently witnessed great developments through several projects which the Egyptians has worked on such as the "Veal Revival" project, the largest greenhouse project in the Middle East, the 1.5 million acres project, fish farming projects, fertilizer complexes projects, the natural gas delivery projects and the One Million Head of Livestock Project. As for the farmers' status, the government has exerted major efforts to improve their status with initiatives to settle their debts.

Furthermore, there is the National Project for the Development of Egyptian Villages within the "Decent Life" initiative to purify the bank's water and improve the health and environmental conditions of its residents. This presidential initiative, aims to improve the standard of living of nearly 55 million Egyptians, with investments amounting to 500 billion pounds aiming to establish the principles of social justice and equality.

Furthermore, Egypt has achieved 100% self-sufficiency in vegetables and fruits. Plus, the exports penetration into global markets and the demand for Egyptian agricultural exports

have increased due to their high quality and the application of great agricultural practices. Egyptian agricultural exports increased to more than 4 million tons during the period from January 1, 2020, to September 2, 2021, with 305 Egyptian agricultural commodities in the markets of 160 countries.



On the other hand, medicine is another important pillar in livelihood. The pharmaceutical industry in Egypt has faced multiple crises varying between monopoly, adulterated medicines, the disappearance of some drugs, in addition to the impact of the 2016 financial policy of the Egyptian government. More than about 7% of the fake medicines in the world are found in Egypt and it was made even worse by the pandemic. Moreover, the disappearance of drugs worsens the crisis of medicine deficiency, reaching more than 8,000 out of the 14,000 drugs in the Egyptian pharmaceutical market, in addition to the fact that 22% of registered medicines are not produced in the drug market. The importance of the medicine appeared largely during the COVID-19 pandemic, as the defects of the industry were put under the spotlight.

Egypt has sought to develop comprehensive national pharmaceutical policies. This is within the framework of comprehensive insurance that takes into account economic and social factors and is characterized by transparency and compliance with the state's obligations to international laws on the rights of human beings. Moreover, the Egyptian government has established a project of integrated logistics stores for medicines and medical supplies for monitoring drug prices. It has also established the Egyptian Drug Authority to protect citizens from the harmful practices of pharmaceutical companies as well as the "City of Medicine" whose main goal of its establishment is to achieve self-sufficiency of medicine and produce 85% of the medicine in Egypt locally to reduce the prices of imported medicines that are available in the Egyptian market at an expensive price.

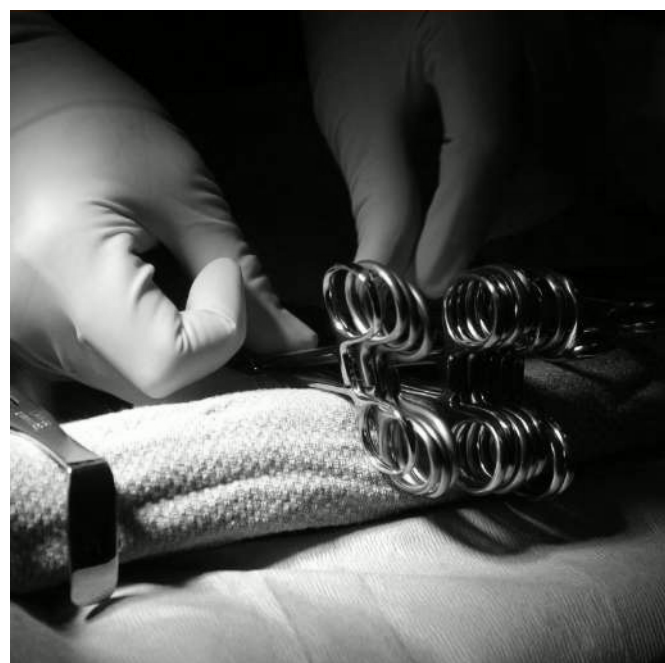
Nevertheless, medical negligence is still an issue that faces the Egyptians' right to health. It is a crime that is difficult to detect and prove against the doctor or the hospital. Forensics is the only way to get proof, however, 80 % of deaths are attributed to complications. Some doctors blame their patients' death on fate or weak capabilities or mismanagement. Medical negligence refers to medical errors during the doctor's work, which leads to a permanent disability of the patient or sometimes death.

The crime of medical negligence is considered a misdemeanour as stated in the Egyptian Penal Code in Article 244 which penalizes medical practitioners who mistakenly cause harm to a person with imprisonment not exceeding 1 year



and a fine not exceeding 200EGP, or either of the penalties. If the injury results in a permanent disability, or if the crime occurred as a result of the offender's breach of code of conduct or being intoxicated, he shall be imprisoned for 1-5 years. However, the penalty is usually 6-8 months, and in most cases, it ends with mediation. Sometimes the prosecution does not even refer the case to court.

Members of the Egyptian parliament submitted an amendment to the Medical Responsibility Law that attempts to fill the gaps which include the formation of a Higher Committee for Medical Responsibility that includes a number of senior doctors, to examine the allegations of a medical error, and issue its decisions regarding the incident. However, even if it was



determined that the doctor is at fault, he is not to be detained without the permission of the general prosecutor. Hospitals are obligated to provide compulsory insurance to ensure that patients receive adequate compensation for the extent of the damage. With the exception of the last clause, all modifications are in the best interest of the physicians and to help them absolve themselves of responsibility as regardless of the facts, the doctor will not be subject to any penalty and hospitals will only have to pay compensation to the victim or his family.

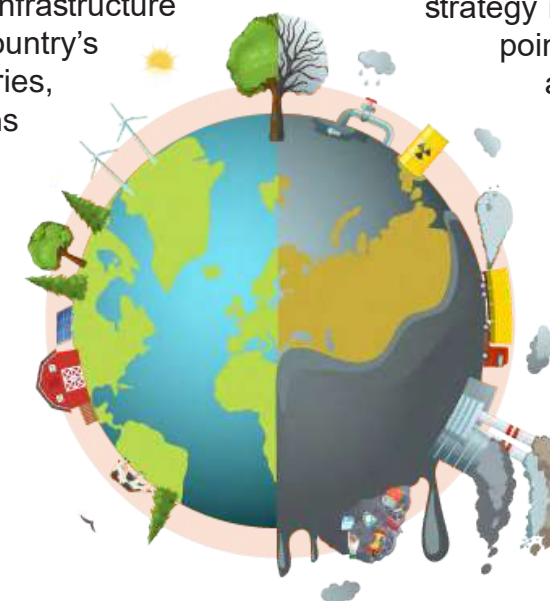
The Forum of Development and Human Rights Dialogue has monitored cases of medical negligence during the period from January 2021, Until October 2021, which reached 24 cases in 15 governorates.

Climate Change and Livelihood

Climate change has been one of the issues at the forefront of global concern for several years now as experts warn over rising temperatures. It is a human rights issue as much as it is an environmental one, as it poses a danger to even the most basic of rights.

Perhaps what is most tragic is the inequality of the costs, as it is the more affluent countries that produce the most carbon emissions and have more resources to counter the effects of climate change, while poorer countries, such as Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, India, South Sudan and Niger, are the most affected by climate change and lack of resources. Moreover, Africa faces greater risks from climate change. According to a 2020 UN report, it is estimated that nearly 118 million extremely poor people in the continent will be exposed to drought, floods, and extreme heat by 2030, hampering progress toward poverty alleviation and growth.

Climate change affects ecosystems and access to natural resources such as fresh water and food sources, as well as terrestrial, coastal and ocean ecosystems. This will in turn lead to shortages in food and fresh water as well as the spread of diseases which will affect the livelihoods of those living in the most vulnerable areas. In addition to this, to combat the effects of climate change, countries must divert resources away from services such as education, healthcare and infrastructure thus stunting the country's development. Some countries, especially island nations such as the Caribbean and Pacific islands face the risk of being completely wiped out as their countries can be completely submerged due to rising sea levels with entire cultures being eradicated in the process.



Some of the most basic human rights are affected by climate change and it is those who are the most vulnerable who will be the most affected. The rights to life, health, development, food, housing, self-determination, education and water and sanitation will all be at risk due to climate change and all are rights that are protected by some form of human rights instrument. These are not the only rights affected by climate change as there are rights that are not explicitly stated in human rights instruments, namely the rights of future generations as they will pay the price for an issue that they are not responsible for. According to a report by the CVF and DARA International, climate change is responsible for about 400,000 deaths annually, and this number is expected to rise to 700,000 by 2030. Women and their rights also face many risks as they tend to be more affected and exposed to catastrophes that will result from climate change representing a form of gender inequality as 80% of the displaced by climate-related disasters and changes around the world are women and girls. According to the UNDP and other UN agencies, women are also the first to feel the effects of climate change when they are forced to travel long distances to feed their families.

Egypt's National Strategy for human rights has taken into account the issue of climate change in its agenda. As such, the strategy has identified challenges and goals that need to be achieved to overcome these challenges. While climate change is not a focal point of the strategy it is nevertheless an important point that the strategy aims to address building on past initiatives and strategies announced before. The issue of climate change is high on the Egyptian government's agenda as seen with past initiatives and Egypt's enthusiasm of hosting COP27 in 2022.

The Arab World and Water Shortage

Water is a natural resource and a basic right that an individual cannot live without. It is also vital to sustainable development in terms of health, nutrition, gender and the economy. According to WHO, each person requires a minimum quantity of 50 -100 litres of safe water per day. Although the right to water is not explicitly specified as a separate right in international law, it is an essential part of ensuring the realization of the right to an adequate standard of living and is recognized by a wide range of international human rights instruments which have specific obligations regarding access to safe drinking water. They are organs such as the CESCR and the OHCHR as well as many international human rights treaties, such as the CEDAW, The ILO Convention No. 161 and the CRPD.

The availability of water resources is considered to be one of the most important challenges facing the global region. The Arab region is the most concerned because its weather is considered to be a dry and semi-arid desert climate. The uneven distribution of water to the various economic sectors and the misuse of water resources are among the main factors that play a devastating role in securing water resources. Additionally, the uneven geographical distribution of water resources and the difficulty of efficiently utilizing the available resources are also factors of the water challenge.

According to UN reports, water security in the Arab world has become threatened with the decline in the share of water allocated to individuals due to geographic and other factors related to climate change and population growth, as well as poverty and water deficiency.

The Water Situation in the Arab World

The population of the Arab world is currently more than 400 million, and the population growth rate is relatively high compared to the rate in the world. It has led to an imbalance between the available resources and the demand in addition to the decreasing and fluctuating rainfall rates, high evaporation rates, droughts, salinity, soil nutrient depletion and desertification.

One in four people suffers from “very high” water shortages according to a WRI report published on August 6, 2020, with Qatar and Lebanon at the top of the list of countries with a major water crisis. Iran, Jordan, Libya, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain and Oman are included in the list of countries with a very high-water crisis. In addition, 27 other countries suffer from severe water shortages, including Yemen, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Egypt. Moreover, it is expected that by 2030, climate change will lead to a 20% decrease in renewable water resources and an increase in the frequency of droughts.

The UN WWDR 2021 states over 85% of the Arab region population live under conditions of water scarcity which has increased dependency on transboundary waters, non-renewable groundwater resources, and non-conventional water resources. The Arab region also suffers from the problem of water distribution between countries, especially since around 60% of the running water in the region crosses international borders, such as the Nile River.

The water situation in the Arab world is regulated by specific regional policies between the countries in terms of establishing dams and using the stream. For example, the Tigris and Euphrates rivers are shared by Syria and Iraq in terms of the source and the stream, which forced them to set a specific policy on how to manage it with the share of each country determined. However, this has led to many disputes and conflicts between Arab countries over water resources.

Causes of the Water Crisis in the Arab World

A water crisis is an imbalance between renewable and available water resources and the increasing demand for them. There are many reasons for the water crisis in the Arab world, including; the rate of population growth and water demand; the increase in the number of immigrants; and the pollution that leads to global warming and water evaporation. Additionally, there are some political reasons associated with the water crisis such as the absence of international treaties and agreements; the nature of the colonial relations between Arab countries, for example, Israel and its desire to exploit the water factor as an element of political pressure and deprivation for the Arab countries; and the Regional Alliance (Turkey - Israel, and Ethiopia), where Israel and Turkey are trying to play important and regional roles in the region and to consolidate their influence by exploiting the Arab need for water, for political and economic purposes.

Disputes and Conflicts between Arab Countries over Water Resources

Turkey, Iran, Syria and Iraq: a dispute over the Tigris and Euphrates rivers

The Tigris and Euphrates rivers were transformed from two national rivers to two international rivers under the authority of Syria, Turkey and Iraq. Due to the sharing of the waters, Turkey as the upstream country has been able to use this as a geopolitical weapon in dealing not only with Syria and Iraq but with other Arab countries. But although several international and bilateral agreements were made, they were not binding to Turkey and it proceeded to ignore all the rules and provisions that regulate the use of shared water. For decades, Turkey has been benefiting from the water and building dams and hydroelectric power stations reducing the flow of waters to Iraq and Syria.

In 1983, a tripartite committee was formed to solve the problem, and meetings were held for nine years, but it was not able to reach any tripartite agreement on regulating the use of

Euphrates water. Both Syria and Iraq accused Turkey of storing water and threatening its water supplies. In 2006, the foundation stone was laid for the largest project in Turkey, the third largest of its kind in the world, which is The Ilisu Dam the largest ever in the size of its threat to the future of Iraq. On June 1, 2018, Turkey announced the start of the process of filling the dam's reservoir, and since then, fears have begun to turn into reality and a catastrophe has begun to unfold in various parts of Iraq and Syria. Turkey continued with building the dam, with great prosperity promised by the Turkish president. In November 2021, Erdogan announced that the dam will contribute to the revenue of 3 billion Turkish liras annually. While Turkey is carrying on with the project, fears are rising again about the negative consequences it might have on Iran and Iraq. Jamal Mohammed Vali Samani, head of the Water Studies Department at the Iranian Parliament Research Center warned that water will be very scarce for Iran and Iraq and that Turkey will almost have a full monopoly over the water flow. Tensions are rising between Iran and Iraq, as Iraq's Ministry of Water Resources proposed taking Iran into the International Court of Justice to safeguard Iraq's share of water. This was due to Iran building several dams to control the rest of the water flow from rivers located between both borders.



Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia: a dispute over the waters of the Nile

The origins of the Egyptian-Ethiopian dispute over the Nile go back to the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1929, to which the Ethiopians were not a party, but during which the United Kingdom claimed to have negotiated with Egypt on behalf of Ethiopia and other Nile Basin countries under the control of the British. The 1959 agreement enshrined the Anglo-Egyptian treaty

and introduced amendments that benefited both countries, such as increasing Egypt's guaranteed annual share of water to 55.5 billion cubic meters and Sudan's share to 18.5 billion cubic meters. This time also, Ethiopia and other countries were not consulted in the agreement. For this reason, Addis Ababa considered for many years that the 1929 treaty and the 1959 agreement do not take into account its water needs.

When Ethiopia launched the Renaissance Dam project in April 2011, it did not consult either Egypt or Sudan, as it considered the issue to be simple and related to Ethiopian sovereignty. For their part, the Egyptian authorities know very well that the Blue Nile, on which the dam was built, is the main source that feeds the Nile River and supplies the country with the largest amount of water on which it relies heavily. Ethiopia has stalled in allowing an environmental and social impact assessment of the dam, a requirement under international law when implementing such projects and Ethiopians have repeatedly stressed that the issue is related to the sovereignty of their country. Several studies, assessments and negotiations have taken place to solve the conflict, however, they have failed to do so. The AU intervened and was able to persuade the two parties to resume negotiations under its auspices. In July 2021, the UN Security Council meeting took place to tackle this issue, based on Egypt and Sudan's demands. The issue was deferred to the African Union again.



The Efforts and Projects of Arab Countries to Address the Water Crisis in the Arab World

The project on dragging ice blocks from the pole for the Gulf countries

The UAE and the Gulf countries are among the countries that most rely on desalination plants to meet their fresh water needs. However, this method is very expensive and harmful to the environment. An amount of \$100 million had been allocated for the project, but technical issues hampered its implementation, including the weakness of ships and shoals in the Bab al-Mandab Strait.

According to Abdullah, "As for the UAE, these two problems have been resolved, because we currently have a large number of powerful ships and barges, which can help us carry out the operation safely. We will also anchor the iceberg on the eastern coast of the country. The United Arab Emirates, so we don't need to cross the Strait of Hormuz." It's expected to start the trial run by the second quarter of 2022 & to the eastern coast of UAE by the end of 2023.

Arab strategy for water security 2009-2025

In 2009, the Arab Ministerial Council for Water approved a unified strategy that extends to 2025 that seeks to achieve Arab water security, especially since most Arab water sources are from non-Arab countries. This comprehensive Arab strategy is based on the establishment of an information base for Arab water resources, the protection of Arab water rights and the confrontation of climate changes in the Arab region.

Most of the council members approved a draft executive plan with a total cost of \$10 million, which includes five projects and aims to rationalize water use and expand the use of conventional and non-conventional waters, in cooperation with the ACSAD. Within the framework of evaluating the implementation of the Millennium Goals, the Arab Ministers of Water called for attention to the field of sanitation through the expansion of these networks and the establishment of an in-depth study on this subject.

A large, vertical photograph showing a rugged, rocky coastline. The rocks are dark and layered. In the foreground, a red lifebuoy with black straps is floating in the water. The sky is a pale blue. In the top right corner, there are white geometric lines forming a stylized 'A' shape.

EGYPTIANS ABROAD



Egyptians Abroad

Immigration signifies the departure of an individual to the territory of another country, leaving their homeland and beginning another life in a different country with different laws, educational and health systems, languages and culture. However, immigration has always been the means that people resort to in search of a life that guarantees continuity. Immigration is considered a window of salvation from fears that are caused by the conditions of the place where they live, and through which they try to reach their dreams and hopes in the new land to which they are migrating.

Migration took some paths that the world has preserved, which is migration to the western north. This is especially true after the European colonial periods and the imperialist powers' encouragement to work in their armies and factories and move to live within their societies. When it comes to immigration, Egypt has historically been a land for immigrants. However, Egypt has gone through several developmental stages of immigration, starting from the thirties of the twentieth century until the present day. And unfortunately, many are still lured to the route of illegal immigration and suffer from the major atrocities it has.

Immigration in Egypt

Systematic immigration began in Egypt in the thirties of the twentieth by Egyptian teachers migrating to Iraq. The interest of Egyptians in emigration then rose in the mid-fifties due to political, demographic and economic pressures. This phenomenon is still increasing by the day. Egypt today is considered to be a source of both emigration and immigration. Labour migration is considered to be the most important dynamic factor in Egypt, where remittances flows are exceptionally important for the state's economic development.

Post-2011, Egypt witnessed several key changes in its state policies, including changes in its policies toward migration, migrants and Egyptians living abroad. During the 2011-2013 turmoil, a huge number of Egyptians migrated abroad as a result of the political situation with approximately 10 million Egyptians residing abroad. Since 2016, the Egyptian government has undertaken several decisions, implemented a set of policies and launched several campaigns as a part of its strategy towards engaging with the Egyptian diaspora as part of its 2030 development agenda. This is through encouraging the diaspora's remittances, investments and skills transfer for the development of the country.

The Central Authority for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) confirmed that the

number of Egyptian immigrants who obtained immigrant status reached 184 in 2020 compared to 350 in 2019, a decrease of 47.4% due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The United States of America ranked first in terms of the number of immigrants approved to immigrate abroad in 2020, with 35.3%. In March 2021, ambassador Nabila Makram, Minister of Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates' Affairs, confirmed that the registered number of Egyptians abroad in CAPMAS reflects only the number of registered Egyptians and does not reflect the accurate number.

Types of Migration

- 1- Humanitarian migration in which the refugees' homeland is too unstable or there is a fear of persecution upon return with a petition is usually filed in another country.
- 2- Legal permanent residence which enables an individual to live and work in a country with some reservations regarding the benefits granted, such as voting and some social services.
- 3- Temporary visits allowing individuals, with government permission, usually in the form of a "visa", to live in a country for a limited period and a specific purpose such as study, work, family visit or tourism.
- 4- Illegal immigration where individuals are unable to work or obtain the benefits enjoyed by residents risking deportation at any time.

Illegal Immigration

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees the freedom of all individuals to leave any country and warns against imposing barriers to an individual's right to leave his territory, except in certain circumstances. Although international law allows people the freedom of movement and immigration, it criminalizes illegal immigration.

The concept of illegal immigration appeared after the emergence of the nation-state and the drawing of artificial borders among states. It is criminalized in order to preserve the sovereignty of the state and protect the state's privacy from any extraneous elements. Illegal immigration, previously legally known as undocumented migration, is related to the concepts of human security, human trafficking, illegal residence, transnational crime and human smuggling.

The United Nations defines illegal immigration as the unregulated entry of an individual from another country, by land, sea, or air without carrying any form of permanent or temporary residence permits and failing to respect the requirements necessary to cross the state's borders. Illegal immigrants usually start by travelling informally and then aiming to legalize their residence.

Reasons of Illegal Immigration and its Implications

Many immigrants rush illegally to escape political, social and economic conditions in their country of origin and obstacles that stop their ambitions and seek advantages that exist in the destination country. An illegal immigrant can also be a refugee or a displaced person. Amnesty International estimates that there are around 22 million refugees around the world, of whom 10% must be resettled each year, and 84% of refugees are hosted by low and middle-income countries.

Reasons for Illegal Immigration

- Economic conditions due to the lack of job opportunities, low wages, living standards, high rates of inflation and increase in prices.
- Social reasons as from motivating successful illegal immigration stories of relatives and seeking good social and health conditions and freedoms in destination countries with a small population and an increasing percentage of elderly.
- Psychological factors due to the feeling of isolation, social alienation, persecution and discrimination that may be directed at specific individuals or groups on the basis of race, gender, religion or sexual orientation. These factors are usually related to the political situation in the country, especially if there are minorities within a unified society.
- The security dimensions in areas of armed conflict with less security stability.

Implications of Illegal Immigration

Illegal immigration could either lead to a civilized and humane treatment or aggressive behaviour against migrants such as ethnic and personal insults (racism and discrimination), scams, fraud, trafficking and sometimes imprisonment, torture or deportation. Moreover, many are exposed to physical injuries or death in the journey before reaching, or within, their destination.

Some countries refuse to receive illegal immigrants or settle their status in light of the repercussions of international terrorism, and fear of the repercussions of the cultural and religious influence of immigrants. On the contrary, other countries welcome the

legalization of the status of illegal immigrants due to their need for them in the strengthening of their economy. This negatively affects the countries of origin, where the depletion of human resources and lack of competencies lead to the continuation of economic decline.

Europe is the most sought-after illegal immigration destination by land and sea. The same applies to the United States of America with asylum seekers facing severe difficulty to cross its borders with Mexico. Many international and regional organisations work to help migrants, refugees, and survivors of drowning in illegal immigration attempts. They monitor violations that occur against them to develop global policies to manage migrations such as the United Nations, The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the European Union and Amnesty International as well as many non-governmental organisations concerned with illegal immigration within countries.

Illegal Immigration in Egypt

Egypt has suffered for long periods from the phenomenon of illegal immigration across the border prominently and the spread of this culture among its youth for decades. However, state agencies strongly addressed the issue and Egypt witnessed a major decline in illegal sea migrations and the elimination of land escape.

The paths of illegal immigration in Egypt take some different forms, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and with the extreme strictness of the Egyptian Coast Guard and the Egyptian Border Guard Corps. Libya became the first refuge for escape, whether through the Salloum crossing and waiting for a lifeboat or drowning aiming for the Italian coasts, or from Libya to Tunisia or Morocco and from there to Ceuta and Melilla to enter Europe from the west.

Illegal immigration brokers spread in many Egyptian villages. They take advantage of the conditions poor families are going through by drawing an ambitious future for their children abroad in return for great sums of money. Illegal immigration spreads in some governorates,

most of which are located in the delta such as Ash Sharqia, Daqahlia, Qalyubia and Menoufia.

Reasons for Illegal Immigration in Egypt

- **Standard of living:** The main objective of immigration is to raise the standard of living and improve the individuals' economic status as they believe they will regain all the great sums of money they have spent to travel and more.
- **High cost of legal immigration and the great security measures:** The selectivity and discrimination between those accepted, along with a large number of immigration procedures by the embassies of other countries, serves as a motive for turning to illegal immigration.
- **Stereotypes:** Egyptian youth have fantasies from social circles about a better life abroad and marrying a foreign girl to obtain citizenship in addition to getting motivated by relatives living abroad and that they can offer help when needed. Most young people are not aware that they may be exposed to violations and dangers from citizens and gangs targeting illegal immigrants.
- **Social profile:** Ostentation, and showing off that this person works abroad no matter his job, not only prompts parents to sell their possessions for their children to travel abroad but also take pride in paying more than others; it is a disgrace to the family to have no children abroad.
- **Brokers of illegal immigration:** Brokers represent fishermen and boat owners with several offices across the country who are responsible for gathering youth into small boats in return for a great amount of money.

Illegal Immigration Rates and Numbers

The phenomenon of illegal immigration began to spread in Egypt in 2013. 2016 witnessed the highest level in terms of the numbers of illegal immigrants and drowning victims among Egyptian immigrants in the Mediterranean. According to a study prepared by Hamdi Arafa, a professor of government and local administration, on the illegal immigration of

Arab citizens in 22 Arab countries during the COVID-19 pandemic, there are approximately 14,850 cases annually trying to illegally migrate through the Arab countries on crowded and unsafe boats and an average price from \$2600 to \$4000 per person. Furthermore, there are 1.6 million illegal immigrants in Europe who were transported by local, regional and international gangs by fishing boats. More than 65% of them are unlicensed and do not conform to safety specifications. The average sailing time is 17 hours, after which migrants are lowered from the boat by wearing buoys to swim at a distance of two kilometres.



Challenges Facing Egyptians Abroad

Egyptians abroad face a set of challenges and difficulties. Over the years, ill-treatment and exploitation against Egyptians, in particular, Egyptians employed overseas, have been reported by media outlets and human rights organisations. However, Egyptians' difficulties abroad differ from one state to another and from one region to another. For example, Egyptians have to abide by the Kafala system in the Gulf countries and are subjected to human trafficking.

Since the September 11 attacks, Middle Easterners and Muslims have been targeted. Acts of hatred, violence and racial discrimination have spread as a direct result of the growing negative image of Arabs and Muslims portrayed in the media and by governments. Immigrants are subjected to racial stereotypes and are treated as suspects based solely on the mistaken belief that a person's race or religion alone is a sufficient predictive indicator

of potential criminal behaviour. Racial profiling denies people equal treatment and protection under the law. Furthermore, discrimination in the workplace appears based on religion, race, colour and gender. This is in addition to the harassment by co-workers through acts such as threats and intimidating comments.



Additionally, Egyptians abroad may experience hate crimes which are criminal acts motivated by prejudice due to race, religion, gender and physical or mental disability. Most countries have adopted laws to reduce hate crimes or have strengthened penalties for crimes based on bias. However, not all hate crimes are reported to local police.

The Role of the State in Countering Illegal Immigration

Egypt is currently investing a lot of resources and creating its own road map and strategy towards the Egyptians living abroad. Its efforts included the re-establishment of the Ministry for Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates' Affairs as a standalone ministry in 2015. Egypt is also working with all its apparatus to combat this phenomenon that costs the lives of many Egyptian youths. It aims to raise the state's economic indicators by expanding in many fields to motivate the youth to stay. The Egyptian government is focusing on supporting small enterprises, with interests not exceeding 10% annually. Additionally, the government has issued legislation that amounts to life sentences and great fines for smuggling migrants as well as attempting or mediating in the smuggling.

Several official bodies are concerned with the issue such as the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Emigration and Egyptian

Expatriates' Affairs and State Information Service. They seek to provide all services to Egyptians abroad such as supervising the elections of Egyptians abroad, providing safe alternatives to illegal immigration, caring for the Egyptian community abroad in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, enhancing communication with them and providing them with all needed information, accurate facts and official data. In addition, they conduct several training sessions and work on raising awareness regarding illegal immigration and human trafficking. With the developing situation of the pandemic, the Ministry of Emigration held 126 remote training sessions, with a total of 156 beneficiaries, in 17 governorates, as part of the Digital Beginning Initiative to train and qualify Egyptian youth at home and encourage others to return.

Likewise, several international and non-governmental organisations are working to enhance the capacity of key ministries to investigate, judge and prosecute cases, while providing protection and assistance to migrants. As a confirmation of the government's vision in combating human trafficking and illegal immigration, many of the concerned Egyptian ministries are exerting major efforts. For example, The National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking has been established including ministries, authorities, national centres and some governmental and non-governmental research centres. On June 27, 2021, the Committee launched the Third National Action Plan to Combat and Prevent Illegal Immigration (2021-2023). Moreover, in early September 2021, the Ministry of Emigration launched the "Life-Saving Boats" initiative, under the directives of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, to warn of the dangers of illegal immigration. It works to raise awareness, engage youth in national projects and provide them with job opportunities through SMEs. Another example is the "Haya Karima" initiative of the Ministry of Social Solidarity, which works on improving the conditions of poor villages and their services.

Moreover, the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University inaugurated the Migration Research Unit in early 2021 and organizes a symposium on "the phenomenon

of irregular migration and how to address it." Furthermore, The Ministry of Emigration, in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, also launched the "Welcome home" initiative in 2021, which aimed to create a database with key information on Egyptian returnees, including their professions, specialization and skills to offer them job opportunities compatible with their skills.

On the security level, Egyptian police are prosecuting agents and brokers that collect money and motivate young people to immigrate illegally. Furthermore, the Egyptian Border Guard Corps are resolutely confronting infiltration and escape attempts by land and sea.



Migration is one of the problems of the current era that has many negative and positive effects on the immigrant and the state. Despite immigration having positive returns, the situation differs when it is perused with immigrants losing their sense of stability, being exposed to prejudice, discrimination and hate crimes or even risking their lives. In spite of countries' efforts to address the phenomenon, the culture of illegal immigration still beats among some societies leaving official and unofficial state institutions in a challenge to confront and monitor these problems and challenges to ensure a better future for the nation's youth.

Egyptians Abroad and Human Rights Violations



Bola Fayez

Status: Deceased

Incident: Found dead in the water, while possibly trying to cross from Morocco to Spain in February 2021.



Omar Al-Zayat

Status: Deceased

Incident: Shot three times when three robbers attempted to rob him in Florianopolis, Brazil in April 2021.

Khaled Amgad Awad

Status: Alive (Imprisoned) suffering from some psychological problems.

Incident: Charged with stabbing a Jewish Rabbi in USA, assaulting a security officer and possession of a knife and firearm in July 2021.



Emil Isaac Mhany Gars

Status: Alive (Injured)

Incident: Stalked, insulted stabbed by a Kuwaiti citizen after refusing to do extra work for the client without getting his previous fees in April 2021.



Magid Ghali

Status: Deceased

Incident: Murdered in Tennessee, USA while working in a store.



Mohamed Hussein Abdeltawab

Status: Alive (Heavily Injured)

Incident: Stabbed and robbed off his entire savings and belongings by 5 armed men in Libya in May 2021. He is currently in a Libyan hospital awaiting transfer back to Egypt for treatment.

Mohamed Al-Najjar

Status: Deceased

Incident: Died under suspicious circumstances while in prison in Germany. German authorities report that he died from injuries from an attempted suicide in June 2021.



Ali Salem

Incident: Was first acquitted from charges of espionage and international bribery and then sentenced to two years, a fine of 500,000 riyals and deportation for disclosing work secrets to Egypt. He suffered abuse and an attempted murder by Qatari Authorities.





4 – Street 75, Damascus, Sarayat, Maadi District,
Cairo Governorate, Egypt



www.fdhrd.org



info@fdhrd.org
arabdhr@yahoo.com



(+2) 0223806221



© 2021 - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
FDHRD