

Egyptian Workers in Kuwait Endless Suffering



Written by

Zainab Saleh Salem

Edited by

Muhammad Albadawi

The Forum for Development
and Human Rights Dialogue

12/29/2022



Egyptian Workers in Kuwait Endless Suffering

Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue

A civil organization – established in 2005 with registration number 6337 in accordance with Law 84 of 2002 and the situation was reconciled as a central association in accordance with Law No. 149 of 2019 with registration number 1084 - non-partisan

Non-profit and its statute is subject to Law No. 149 of 2019 on NGOs and private foundations.

Website <https://www.fdhrd.org/>



ALL RIGHTS RESERVED- 2022 ©

FDHRD



Introduction

International migration represents a vital aspect of labor markets in the Middle East and North Africa region. The number of international migrants from developing countries has increased significantly.

Since the early 1970s, immigration has been used as a tool to address some of Egypt's economic obstacles, specifically, those related to employment issues as the motives for the immigration of Egyptians were and still are economic motives.

Egypt is considered the largest Arab country in terms of population. It is also the largest immigrant-sending country in the Arab region. Labor migration plays an important role in the Egyptian economy, as it reduces the burden on the local labor market. It is a major source of foreign currency for the national economy, too.

It has impacts on sustainable development through their contributions to the development of the country of origin and the country of reception. The international migration from Egypt went through several stages, as the emigration flow began in the mid-fifties (the period following the 1952 revolution), greatly affected by poverty levels, economic difficulties, and social and economic policies. Legal restrictions were then imposed on it in the sixties. It started again since 1971 when the right to emigrate and the rights of immigrants became stipulated in the constitution. The rise in oil prices after the 1973 war in oil-producing countries also led to an increase in the demand for manpower. The number of immigrants from Egypt to these countries increased significantly.

Egyptian migration was not just a reflection of the oil boom in the Arab Gulf countries in the mid-seventies and the need for manpower in neighboring countries only, but also of the economic difficulties and high population growth rates in Egypt, which was accompanied by high unemployment rates in the second half of the twentieth century. It's coincided with the rapid growth of economic problems that hampered development efforts in Egypt. The Egyptian migration flows decreased especially to the Arab Gulf countries during the eighties and nineties which was considered the main outlet for Egyptian immigrants. This is because the Gulf countries enacted a policy that replaces the Arab labor with Asian labor, with the occurrence of the three wars in the Gulf region, which had their roots since 1980. The global economic crisis in 2008 also affected job opportunities. The



political events and the state of economic instability that Egypt went through after the 2011 revolution had an impact on international migration patterns.

The Arab Spring revolutions also encouraged new policies of nationalizing the workforce in the Gulf states (Saudization, Kuwaitization, ...etc) fearing the political activity of citizens of the countries of the Arab Spring revolutions. Several campaigns were adopted against illegal immigrants, including Egyptians.

In this report, we will discuss the problems that Egyptians face in the State of Kuwait in recent times, through several axes which are: clarifying the reasons that make Egyptians migrate to Kuwait, clarifying the violations that Egyptians are subjected to in the State of Kuwait, mentioning some cases of violations of the rights of Egyptians in Kuwait in the last three years, and clarifying the state's efforts to protect the rights of Egyptians abroad, and in conclusion, presenting some recommendations and suggestions.

The reasons for the immigration of Egyptians to Kuwait:

Social reasons:

- The Egyptian government's encouragement of the policy of the phenomenon of migration, whether permanent or temporary, because of the continuous rise in the rate of population growth.
- The culture of the Egyptian society helped in increasing immigration to Kuwait due to the youth's refusal of self-employment and their relentless pursuit to join government work.
- Fear for the future of children if they stay in Egypt and complete their different educational stages.
- Migrants flows to Kuwait due to misleading and wrong information that inaccurately depicts the experience of travel to the Gulf countries for potential immigrants. Labor brokers in the country often have little information about the jobs they offer and the conditions workers face in Kuwait. Even when they have good information, it's in their interest to hide it, deny it, or divert attention from the common challenges and difficulties facing Egyptians in the region. When men and women arrive in Kuwait, they find themselves working in different jobs and at lower wages than they were



originally promised. While it's impossible to link this deception to any particular aspect of this immigration system, it's true from the migrants' point of view that one of the reasons they continue to come to the Kuwait is that they go there without complete information about the working conditions and abuses they may face.

Economic reasons:

- The low levels of income of workers in Egypt compared to the attractive income they earn in Kuwait, which has a great impact on the emigration of Egyptians.
- The lack of a link between the demand for work with the increase in the supply of graduates, which is doubling year after year at an increasing rate.
- The state's reliance on the private sector to provide job opportunities for the youth, given the lack of sufficient financial resources for these youth.
- The economic difficulties facing Egypt, especially as it's going through a transitional phase, make it unlikely that it will be able to invest significantly in the science and education sectors, which are the most important sectors in which highly skilled people work.
- There is no doubt that wages for low-skilled jobs remain competitive when compared to wages in Egypt, from which most of these immigrants come. The wages contracted with potential immigrants also play a prominent role in making the decision to migrate to Kuwait. The decision to migrate is often a result of economic reasons, for example, the family. The migrant is often an envoy to implement the family's livelihood strategy, in order to ensure their future and improve their living conditions. More than that, he may have a superficial understanding of the accounts, arrangements, and deficiencies that he is likely to encounter when entering the immigration system.

The number of Egyptian workers in Kuwait:

The Central Administration for Statistics in Kuwait announced the list of the numerical and relative distribution of employment according to the top 10 nationalities and gender according to the situation on 3/31/2022, and the statistics came as follows:



The number of Egyptians in Kuwait is 449,691 (418,770 males and 30,921 females).

The number of Egyptian workers comes in the lead, followed by India, Kuwait, Bangladesh and Pakistan.



جدول رقم (3)

التوزيع العددي والنسبي للعائلة حسب أعلى 10 جنسيات والتوزيع وفقاً للحالة في 31-03-2022*

Numerical and percentage distribution for the employees by top (10) nationalities and Sex as of 31-03-2022*



دولة الكويت
الإدارة المركزية للإحصاء

Nationality	النسبة (%) Percentage (%)			العدد Number			الجنسية	الترتيب serial
	جملة Total	إناث Females	ذكور Males	جملة Total	إناث Females	ذكور Males		
Egypt	23.9	7.4	28.6	449,691	30,921	418,770	مصري	1
India	23.1	9.7	26.9	435,149	40,603	394,546	الهند	2
Kuwait	23.1	59.8	12.5	434,825	251,281	183,544	الكويت	3
Bangladesh	8.4	0.9	10.5	157,799	3,735	154,064	بنجلاديش	4
Pakistan	3.7	0.5	4.6	68,929	2,079	66,850	باكستان	5
Syria	3.4	1.7	3.9	63,484	7,017	56,467	سوريا	6
Philippines	3.4	8.5	1.9	63,364	35,666	27,698	الفلبين	7
Nepal	2.1	1.2	2.4	40,399	5,169	35,230	نيبال	8
Jordan	1.4	1.8	1.2	25,867	7,689	18,178	الأردن	9
Lebanon	1.0	1.5	0.9	19,615	6,119	13,496	لبنان	10
Other Nationality	6.7	7.1	6.5	125,770	29,925	95,845	باقي الجنسيات	11
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	1,884,892	420,204	1,464,688	الإجمالي	

* Except for the household sector (domestic workers).

* باستثناء القطاع العائلي (الخدم وما في حكمهم)

Source: Integrated Database - LMIS .

المصدر: البيانات المتكاملة - نظام معلومات سوق العمل

Problems facing Egyptians in Kuwait:

- Poor working conditions and major problems related to occupational health and safety, in addition to weak or even absent labor inspection in sectors where migrant workers abound, such as construction and domestic work.
- The spread of discrimination, including the difference in the minimum wage for migrant workers from Egypt, and discrimination against domestic workers by not considering them as workers in the labor laws.



- Limited access to justice, weak and inadequate dispute resolution mechanisms, and the absence of compensation programs in cases where unscrupulous employers can get away with it.
- Limited or no freedom of association and the inability of migrant workers to negotiate collectively.
- Procrastination in settling dues after submitting resignation and lengthy litigation procedures, which makes the contractor unable to continue in the country to obtain his right.
- Reducing workers' rights, especially with regard to travel tickets or end-of-service benefits.
- The contractor's acceptance of any job or work, regardless of his educational qualification or experience.
- Some Egyptian workers travel without health fitness, despite the stipulation that the worker be medically fit for the work he is applying for and free from diseases according to a special medical certificate issued by one of the concerned authorities and in accordance with the instructions issued in this regard.
- Sudden deportation by the employer to get rid of his financial obligations and pay arrears of wages to their workers by informing the competent authorities that he has a worker whose contractual relationship has ended and he refuses to travel, and therefore the authorities deport him without receiving his dues.
- The weakness of the human and material capabilities of the external labor representation offices, facing the problem-solving.
- Changing the terms of the contract from what was agreed upon after arriving in the work location country.
- High work permit fees paid by the Egyptian worker.
- The scarcity of administrative jobs due to the localization of jobs.



- The necessity of enduring the intense heat of the sun and high humidity, and the acceptance of living in desert, remote and far from urban areas for workers in the profession of architecture.

Cases of assault on Egyptians and violation of their rights:

Although the Egyptian people are known around the world as a people who love all the peoples of the earth, regardless of their different races, and religious sects. The title of 'Mother of the World' was not given to Egypt for nothing, but rather that Egypt opens its arms to everyone far and near in all corners of the earth on the face of the earth. Despite this, the Egyptians did not feel safe in the sisterly Arab state of Kuwait, where a large number of its citizens practiced violence in all its forms, including beating, insulting, and killing their Egyptian brothers. All these violations and more were practiced by Kuwaiti citizens and politicians against the emigrating soldiers of Egypt in search of halal livelihood and living with honor and dignity for a life of pride, Arab fraternity and self-esteem that was wasted by the violators of Egyptian dignity.

-The Egyptians were exposed to escalating campaigns from the Kuwaiti people:

- In 2020, the escalation against the Egyptian community in Kuwait was renewed, and the escalation didn't stop in the first place. The new chapter of it appeared on the hashtag #Kuwait_security_Red_line, which topped the list of the most circulated in the country, via tweets, some of which went as far as calling for the "expulsion of Egyptians" residing in Kuwait, describing them as "the only society that corrupts the system". A large number of Kuwaiti expatriates circulated video clips showing a number of isolated Egyptian workers in a shelter in the Farwaniya area, and they were chanting, demanding that they be returned to their country quickly. There was a rumor that "the Egyptians assaulted an officer with the rank of brigadier general," which angered some Kuwaitis. In the details of what happened, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior stated that "while the accommodation officials were reciting the names of the departed, some of those present gathered and attempted to assault one of the officers, and they were dealt with immediately by the security men in order to control the situation and disperse them. Three of the instigators were arrested and referred to Competent authorities", and the



Kuwaiti newspaper, Al-Rai, reported on May 13, quoting a “security source,” that “the security services dealt with a collection of shouts inside one of the shelter schools in the Farwaniya region, made by a number of violators of the residency law from the Egyptian community, as an expression of their dissatisfaction with the delay in their deportation flights from the country.” He added, "The security forces contacted them and informed them that their flights would be tomorrow and the day after," denying rumors spread on social media about riots or assaults on a security commander in Farwaniya. On Twitter, calls were made for the Kuwaiti security men to "strike with an iron fist," and some went on to spread hate speech by using phrases such as "step on them" and "trample their necks.", Some of the tweeters went on to verbally attack all members of the Egyptian community, by describing them as "the only community that subverts the regime," and by saying, "We don't want them to be expelled" and demanding their deportation. Well-known faces participated in the campaign. One of the Kuwaiti media commented, after the riots in Farwaniya and the assault on the security men, I think it is time for the Ministry of Interior to intervene and inform the ambassador that he and his community are not wanted in Kuwait, so let them leave without regret, describing the violators of residency conditions as "Criminals and forgers have been wreaking havoc in the country for years."

A number of Egyptians reside in Kuwait in violation of the conditions of residency, some of whom had revealed that they had been subjected to "swindling" at the hands of "residency dealers" who took sums of money from them in exchange for promises of legal residency and then left them in Kuwait without fulfilling these promises.

- In 2021, the attack on Egyptians in Kuwait was renewed due to a 7-year prison sentence for a member of the ruling family, with work, on the background of forging university degrees from Egypt. The court ordered the Sheikh to return the amount of 157,000 dinars (about 520,000 dollars), and fined him twice the amount, according to the Kuwaiti newspaper, Al-Rai, some Kuwaitis demanded the deportation of Egyptians from Kuwait with various claims.



Some cases that were monitored for the violation of the rights of Egyptians in Kuwait during the past three years:

-Murder cases:

1. The body of a dead Egyptian was found in Kuwait:

In 2022, the security services in Kuwait found the body of an Egyptian dead man, bearing traces of beatings, in a dirt yard in Hawalli Governorate, which is inhabited by several Arab communities and is the most populous of the governorates. A "cleaver" was found next to the dead body of the expatriate, who was lying on the ground. Immediately, the Kuwaiti authorities began searching for the killer, who eventually turned out to be a Kuwaiti citizen. The investigations led the security men to the dead man's room, which was close to where the body was found. Inside the room, the security men found traces of blood, which means that the crime began inside the room and the investigations continued, that the victim's escort provided information that expedited the arrest of the perpetrator, who admitted to beating the victim and fleeing from the scene of the accident, and he source stated that the accused has been referred to the Public Prosecution. Investigations stated that the cause of the crime was a quarrel between the victim and another person who was with him, and the Kuwaiti killer and a Kuwaiti security source said that the killer stabbed the victim and then fled the crime scene, However, the criminal investigations officers were able to apprehend him a few hours after the Egyptian expatriate killed him. The Kuwaiti citizen confessed to committing the murder against the expatriate, and was referred to the investigation to find out the reasons for the quarrel, and to complete the legal procedures.

2. Finding the body of a murdered Egyptian:

In 2022, a report was received to the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior stating that there was a body in the Khaitan area belonging to an Egyptian. The beginning was when one of the residents of the property, in which the body of the Egyptian was found, reported to the security services that a strange smell was emitted from inside an apartment whose door was open, but he was afraid to enter that apartment so that the Kuwaiti security services moved to clarify the situation. Upon its arrival, the security forces, detectives, criminal evidence, and medical emergencies in Kuwait moved to the reported property, and by conducting the initial examination, they found the body of a person lying on a couch with traces of blood and blows to the



face and head, it seemed that it had not been more than 24 hours old, and on examination, personal evidence of the corpse was found indicating that he was an Egyptian national, in his sixties, and that he was killed after being beaten with a heavy, hard tool, which disintegrated the skull and facial bones, so that the case was registered as a “murder” that was referred to the competent authorities for investigation its circumstances.

3. Killing an Egyptian security person in Kuwait:

In 2022, sources in the Egyptian Consulate in Kuwait stated that they are following up on the killing of the Egyptian citizen, Sayed Salah Abdel-Ghani, following a quarrel that broke out while performing his work as a security personnel on April 12 and others were injured, and that the killer, a Kuwaiti citizen, and a number of those who participated in the quarrel, including Egyptians, a Syrian citizen and another Lebanese were arrested. The sources confirmed that the case was transferred to the criminal court, and that the consul insisted on the presence of a representative of the guard company in which the dead man was working to ensure his financial rights, indicating that the consulate was the one that shipped the body on April 15, and that the Egyptian embassy is following up on the details of the case and the disbursement of all insurance rights and the necessary compensation for the family of the deceased.

-Cases of beating and assault:

1- Two young men assault an Egyptian driver in Kuwait:

In 2022, activists in the State of Kuwait published a video of a quarrel between two young men and an Egyptian expatriate who works as a driver on a bus in Kuwait, without giving details or the reason for the quarrel, and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior announced that a public transport bus driver had submitted a report to the Salmiya police, stating that he had been beaten by two people and then ran away, noting that a case of assault had been registered and referred to the General Department of Criminal Investigation, and that the accused were being arrested to take the necessary action against them, and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior statement didn't clarify the identity of the people in the quarrel, but activists published a video of the quarrel that took place inside the bus and was documented by a passerby in front of the bus, in which 4 people appear, two of whom are fighting fists with the driver, and the twitter said that the Egyptian driver is about



29 years old and works on a bus belonging to a transport company. The Egyptian young man submitted a report to the Salmiya police station, and brought a medical report documenting that he had a wound under his eye, and the tweeters mentioned that the Egyptian young man was treated inside the hospital for the injuries caused by the quarrel, as the driver claimed that he was beaten by two people he didn't know because of their refusal to pay the transportation fares.

2- A Kuwaiti flogs an Egyptian worker with a headband and insults him in a shocking clip:

In 2022, the incident occurred inside a cooperative society in Kuwait, a video clip circulating from Kuwait sparked widespread anger, as it documented the brutal assault of a Kuwaiti citizen on an Egyptian worker, and he was humiliating him inside a shopping center. The video, which was filmed inside a cooperative society in Kuwait, showed the Kuwaiti taking off his headband and assaulting the Egyptian, who appears to be working as a "cashier" inside the cooperative society, and the reason for the dispute that occurred between them and prompted this quarrel is not known, but the Kuwaiti citizen was accusing the Egyptian worker of theft and fraud, as appears from his words. The Kuwaiti was holding the headband as he strangled the Egyptian worker, and slapped and punched him with his hand as well, saying: "If you are a fraud in Kuwait, I will slaughter you". A number of customers and other workers tried to intervene to calm him down, but he also threatened to beat them if they remained around him, and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior published, in a tweet on "Twitter", that the victim came to the police station and filed a complaint about the incident of assaulting him, and the ministry confirmed that the necessary legal measures are being taken regarding the assault on an Egyptian citizen in Kuwait.

3- Assaulting an Egyptian nurse inside her workplace in Kuwait:

In 2022, an Egyptian nurse working in a medical center in the Kuwaiti city of Jahra submitted a report to the police station accusing a Kuwaiti citizen of assaulting her inside her workplace, and attached a medical report in the case file, which had No. 19/2022 misdemeanor. The Egyptian nurse, born in 1982, said during the investigation at the police station that while performing her work duties, in one of the medical centers located in the Kuwaiti city of Jahra, a citizen assaulted her while accompanying one of his sick relatives. The defendant was released after hearing



his statement, and the matter was referred to the prosecution to initiate an investigation.

4- Beating an Egyptian doctor in Kuwait:

In 2022, a Kuwaiti newspaper announced that an Egyptian doctor working in a maternity hospital in Kuwait was attacked, resulting in injuries, while neither the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health nor the Kuwaiti medical association, in their statement, disclosed the doctor's nationality. Commenting on the incident of beating an Egyptian doctor in Kuwait, Dr. Osama Abdel-Hay, the former Secretary-General of the Medical Syndicate, said, according to a statement issued by the syndicate, that he contacted the head of the Kuwaiti medical association, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Tawalah, and confirmed that "the doctor is Egyptian."

5- A Kuwaiti slaps an Egyptian:

In July 2021, an Egyptian worker named "Walid Salah" was slapped on the face by a Kuwaiti citizen in the "Sabah Al-Ahmad" shopping association, after the first demanded the Kuwaiti citizen to abide by the association's rules and pay for his belongings in a manner that doesn't violate the store's regulations, but the Kuwaiti slapped the Egyptian worker three times on the face before the supermarket attendants intervened, and the Egyptian youth said, "I will not hit an old man with his family," as he said during his meeting with a Kuwaiti media: "We are in a state of law. .. I received instructions that transactions shouldn't be completed if the customer doesn't have a number, so I asked the customer and he told me that he doesn't have a number, and another customer behind him said that he has a number, so I told him it's forbidden and this is the decision of the administration, but the customer told me: "It's none of your business" and slapped me on my face. I didn't do anything and he kept shouting, all of this because I'm implementing the instructions of the administration. I will not give up my right. People were with me and I was humiliated in front of them. and we are in a state of law. Many people support me. The Kuwaiti police will bring me my rights. I came to the police station today and made a case. this country has good things. and thanks to the people who sympathize with me." the two parties to the conflict went to the Mina Abdullah police station, with the head of the Sabah Al-Ahmad association, Nasser Dhaar Al-Otaibi, and the assaulted young man registering a case against the attacker, and in a quick reaction, the president of the association, Nasser Dhar Al-Otaibi, submitted



his resignation, expressing his dissatisfaction with (the disgraceful behavior that occurred from the citizen in public and under the roof of an entity that he manages it).

6- An Egyptian was beaten by youths in Kuwait:

In 2020, social media pioneers shared a video of an assault on an Egyptian young man in the Fahaheel area of Kuwait. In the video, which was published by the local Kuwaiti newspaper, "Inspection", on its Twitter page, some Kuwaiti youths severely beaten the Egyptian, who works in an electronic game store in Fahaheel. One of the attackers was keen to document the incident, which made activists speculate that the attack was intended, especially since the attackers entered the store and had a small conversation with the worker, then beat him directly, to knock him down. The Ministry of State for Immigration and Affairs of Egyptians Abroad confirmed, on Sunday, that the video circulating regarding to the assault on an Egyptian youth in the State of Kuwait in a shop is "partial", and stated in a statement that the video "doesn't include all the details of the incident in which a clash occurred between the parties to the incident after the attack.", and clarified that the incident was due to a quarrel about products in a children's toy store, which ended with "an apology to the Egyptian citizen.", and also the ministry added that the two young men, who assaulted the Egyptian youth at his workplace in connection with the quarrel, are under detention and investigation by the authorities.

7- Assaulting an Egyptian female doctor in Kuwait:

In 2020, an Egyptian doctor working at the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Eastern Dispensary, in the State of Kuwait, was attacked by a Kuwaiti citizen, who was insulted and beaten her, and part of her tongue was cut off.

Ahmed Ibrahim, the head of the Egyptian labor representation office in Kuwait, said that he had contacted Dr. "L. R. M" who has been working as a family doctor at the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Eastern Clinic since 2010, and he indicated that she was subjected to an incident of insulting and beating by a Kuwaiti citizen, and according to the records of the dispensary, in which all his data is written, she says that during the examination of his ear in the Raqqa clinic, where she works on Fridays, on weekends, he kept her in the examination room, which was free of cameras, and he beat and insulted her, and she was bruised and part of her tongue was cut off,



she was unable to ask security, so she called for help screaming at her colleagues who came and saw the attacker continuing to beat her in their presence, and when they tried to stop him, he insulted them and left, and the labor attaché continued: The doctor then called her husband, and they moved to the Raqqa police station and issued a report No. 159/2020, Raqqa, after they obtained a medical report from Aidan Hospital for injuries.

Egyptian efforts to protect the rights of Egyptians abroad:

1- Insurance application for Egyptians working and residing abroad:

The first insurance for Egyptians working and residing abroad, began to apply from Saturday, January 1, 2022.

The insurance application for Egyptians working and residing abroad came in response to the requests of Egyptians abroad, especially those working in the Gulf countries, where coordination was made with the Ministry of Interior, the financial supervisory authority, and the Egyptian insurance federation to implement insurance starting from the first of January 2022 with the participation of the Egyptian association for travel insurance abroad, as it includes insurance companies that are from it is scheduled to apply insurance to extend the insurance umbrella for Egyptians abroad, in line with the state's strategy to achieve insurance coverage in the market.

Registration takes place through an electronic platform dedicated to this purpose on the Egyptian Al Majma'a website, and the ease of procedures for Egyptians abroad has been taken into account through this electronic platform, provided that the insurance premium is only 100 pounds per year, as they aim to extend the insurance umbrella to include all Egyptian citizens in all their segments in the whole world.

The application of insurance came in response to the requests of Egyptians in the Gulf countries, who represent the largest segment of Egyptians abroad, and to meet the needs of citizens residing abroad, especially with regard to the occurrence of deaths, the transfer of bodies, the occurrence of accidents, and the disbursement of appropriate compensation.

As the Ministry of Immigration has published mechanisms for entering the insurance umbrella for all Egyptian communities abroad so that they can benefit



from it, and this insurance is the first of its kind and serves as reassurance for Egyptians abroad, and the beginning comes with insurance for Egyptians abroad, and there will be other insurance products to meet these needs.

The Ministry of Immigration signed, for the first time, a memorandum of understanding with the financial regulatory authority and the Egyptian insurance federation, in order to cooperate in the field of providing insurance protection for Egyptians working and residing abroad, by providing insurance coverage in cases of death, transfer of bodies, accidents, and the disbursement of appropriate compensation, The signing of the memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Immigration, the general authority for financial supervision and the Egyptian insurance federation, in coordination with the concerned authorities, comes within the framework of supporting the efforts of the Egyptian state to protect Egyptians working abroad, and in response to the requests of Egyptian citizens abroad, provided that it's applied to all workers and residents abroad, in a way that contributes to strengthening the bonds belonging to the homeland, as well as developing and raising the efficiency of insurance awareness and raising the level of insurance culture.

2- An hour with the minister:

Direct communication with entities and the "Hour with the Minister" initiative: the ambassador Soha Gendi, minister of immigration and Egyptians abroad, was keen to launch the "An Hour with the Minister" initiative to communicate with Egyptian communities abroad. She held many virtual meetings via the Zoom application, within the framework of sustainable communication with Egyptians abroad, to receive their suggestions and inquiries and listen to their demands without barriers. The meetings included a presentation of efforts to communicate with ministries and state institutions to agree on incentives for Egyptians abroad, discuss the conditions of the community and listen to their ideas and theses regarding creating more linkage between members of the community and their homeland, Egypt, during the coming period, in a way that meets the needs of Egyptians and learn about their future ideas as well as the challenges facing the community. There, and what they need from their country, Egypt, during the coming period, in the presence of representatives of the Ministry of Interior and the National Organization for Social Insurance.



The Minister held meetings with the Egyptian community in Canada, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Kuwait, South Africa, Kenya, Lesotho, the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Germany.

Within the framework of the “An Hour with the Minister” initiative, the ambassador Soha Gendi, minister of state for immigration and affairs of Egyptians abroad, held an interactive meeting with a number of members of the Egyptian community in Kuwait in October 2022, with the participation of ambassador Amr Abbas, assistant minister of immigration for community affairs, ambassador Osama Shaltout, Egypt's ambassador to Kuwait, ambassador Hisham Asran, Consul General in Kuwait, along with the participation of major general Ihab Al-Hini, representative of the civil status sector at the Ministry of Interior, Colonel Dr. Mohamed Sharker, director of the legal affairs department at the general administration of passports, immigration and nationality, Mr. Ashraf Attia, head of the central department of the office of the authority's President national social insurance, and Dr. Elham Fathy, director of our Children abroad department at the Ministry of Education, within the framework of the minister's keenness to listen to the proposals of Egyptians abroad, and to discuss and respond to their inquiries, in cooperation with the competent authorities.

3- Solving the problems of Egyptians abroad:

Continuous efforts all the time to follow up on the problems and proposals of Egyptians abroad, whether in Russia, Ukraine, the Gulf, Europe and Africa. A slogan raised by everyone in the Ministry of immigration is “We are at the service of Egyptians abroad.” This is what ambassador Soha Gendi was keen to establish, through continuous follow-up on social media platforms, communication groups, phones, and other means of communication with Egyptians abroad, she didn't stop supporting a patient in Mozambique, an absent girl in Germany, or the return of a body in several countries, believing in its responsibility for millions of individuals around the world.

The office of Welfare of Egyptians abroad at the ministry of state for immigration and affairs of Egyptians abroad received citizens' complaints from the beginning of 2022 until November about 7,157 complaints, through Facebook, e-mail, hotline, government portal, meeting the complainants at the ministry's headquarters, and



their complaints and requests. There were many problems that ambassador Soha Gendi was keen to follow until they were resolved.

Recommendations:

- Reinforcing provisions for the protection of migrant workers in memorandums of understanding and bilateral agreements between Egypt and Kuwait, including unifying labor contracts so that they adhere to international labor standards and don't allow discrimination in treatment between migrant workers with similar skills and different nationalities.
- Complying with the legislative and regulatory frameworks of the fundamental principles and rights at work established by the International Labor Organization, ratification of all agreements related to and related to migration, and ensuring comprehensive protection of labor laws for migrant workers, including migrant domestic workers.
- Regulating travel and immigration operations through concluding bilateral agreements with the State of Kuwait that include controls and standards that preserve the rights of Egyptian workers there, in which requires the relevant ministries, whether the workforce or foreign ones, to provide information and a database on cases of surplus and deficit in the field of employment, the travel of Egyptian workers abroad, and the conclusion of work contracts in a manner guarantees the worker's rights.
- Requiring employers to cover health insurance costs for migrant workers and, when necessary, provide them with access to culturally appropriate medical care, including sexual and reproductive health care and non-compulsory HIV testing.
- Building an integrated system for the care of Egyptians abroad, in the form of a safety net or the strong support on which they rely, care for them, strengthen their support and protect them when necessary, and stand up for their defence when necessary, in the manner of the integrated care systems that most Asian countries apply to their expatriate nationals.
- Improving the ability of migrant workers to resort to justice, including effective and efficient dispute settlement mechanisms as well as compensation



mechanisms, and imposing deterrent penalties on employers who violate the rights of migrant workers.

- Enforcing fair and ethical recruitment practices, including ensuring that employers pay recruitment fees and costs and not migrant workers.
- Strengthening labor monitoring and inspection systems, especially in sectors rich in migrant labor, such as construction and domestic work.
- Building the capacity of trade unions and civil society institutions to increase their reach and improve the services they provide to them.
- Working with representatives of those governments and allowing civil society organizations and institutions to dispatch fact-finding missions regarding the working and living conditions of Egyptian workers in those countries.
- Activating Egyptian labor offices in the State of Kuwait to ensure that they perform their role and address violations of the rights of Egyptian workers in the country.
- Educating citizens working in Kuwait of the need to register with the competent consulates so that they can provide assistance, guidance and care when needed.

Conclusion

Through this report, we wanted to provide an overview of the conditions of Egyptians working in Kuwait, who face adverse conditions and obstacles in their search for their livelihood in Kuwait, to which they go out with their hopes and dreams to improve their conditions, but they face difficult conditions and great challenges.

The Egyptian labor force in Kuwait is one of the largest Egyptian communities abroad, and they have remarkable efforts and activity. They are always keen to work and support the national economy, and include a diversity of all groups and specializations. The interest of Egyptians abroad is the compass that moves everyone.