



لمجلس القومي للمرأة
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR WOMEN

WOMEN POLICY TRACKER ON RESPONSIVE POLICIES & PROGRAMS DURING THE NEW COVID-19 PANDEMIC

First Edition
2020



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THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR WOMEN

National Council for Women

11 Al Sanhoury from Makram Ebeid Street - Naser City - Cairo

Phone : +202 23490060 - 23490061

Fax: +202 23490066

Website : www.ncw.gov.eg

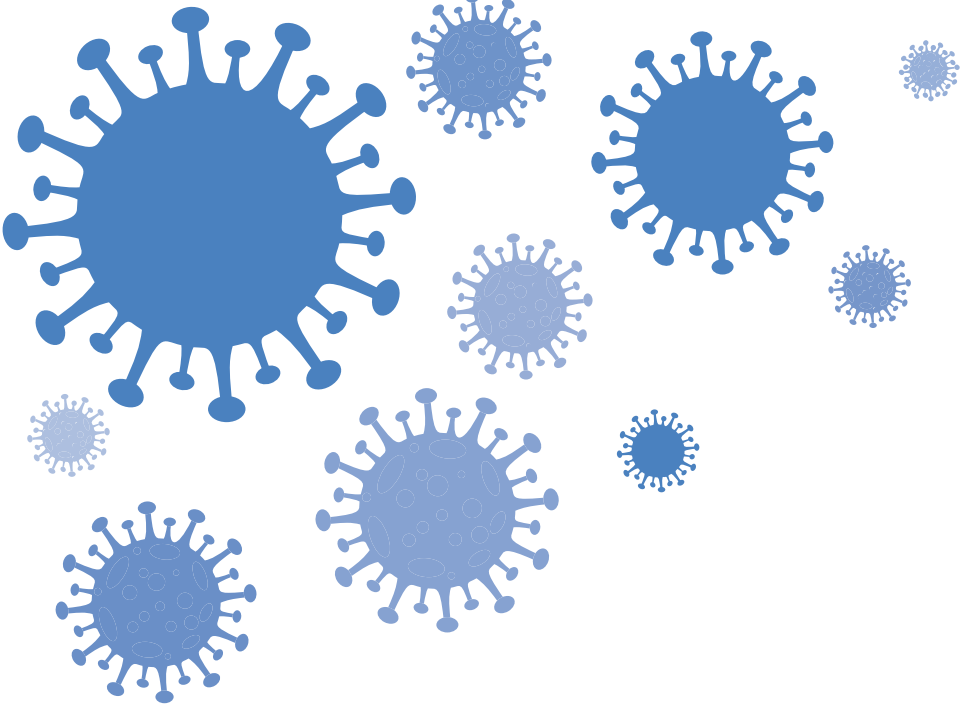
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**WOMEN POLICY TRACKER ON RESPONSIVE POLICIES
& PROGRAMS DURING THE NEW COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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WOMEN POLICY TRACKER ON RESPONSIVE POLICIES & PROGRAMS DURING THE NEW COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Introduction

The COVID-19 outbreak has an impact on both men and women. However, it impacts women in different ways. In Egypt, women make up around **42.4% of human doctors** and **91.1% nursing staff** of who are actually working for the Ministry of Health, in addition to **73.1% of nursing staff in hospitals and therapeutic facilities in the private sector are women**². **Women in the health sector are more likely to be exposed to the virus and dealing with enormous stress balancing paid and unpaid work roles.** Furthermore, overwhelmed health services may **limit access to family planning services and to contraceptives**, potentially leading to a rise in fertility rates and the socio-economic impact on individuals, households and communities. COVID-19 is expected to **interrupted access of women to reproductive healthcare services and commodities.** Given that pregnant women are more likely to have contact with health services (antenatal care and delivery), they can be greatly exposed to infections in health facilities which may discourage attendance.

COVID-19 poses a serious threat to women's engagement in economic activities, especially in

1- The first three editions of the report tracked programs and policies from March 14 until June 6, 2020 while the fourth edition tracked the period from the start of the tracker's launch until July 6, 2020.

2- CAMPAS 2018

informal sectors, and gender gaps can be increased in livelihoods. In Egypt, 18.1% of women are heads of households³. 40.9% of females' total non-agricultural employment is in informal employment and 33.9% of females' employment is vulnerable employment. Meanwhile 6.7% of female employment is in industry; 36.4% of females' employment is in agriculture; while 56.8% of female employment is in services;⁴ Egyptian women also represent 70% of the paid care sector workforce (mainly as teachers, health and social workers). Moreover, the paid care sector in Egypt represents around 28–31 % of overall female employment. **Women are almost four times more likely than men to work in the paid care sector.** ⁵

Recognizing that, the Egyptian government started to take stringent procedures and measures to contain and prevent the spread of COVID-19 according to the pace of its spread, while considering all segments needs and women in specific during the execution of those measures. The government was particularly keen to integrate & mainstream all the needs of Egyptian women into the entire decision making process needed and the implementation of programs in order to ensure women's empowerment & protection against the socio-economic and psychological repercussions of the new COVID-19 pandemic.

During the meeting held on 22 March 2020 in celebration of the Egyptian Women's Day, the speech of the President of the Republic conveyed a number of messages that in general represent a mechanism to

3- CAPMAS 2020

4- LMS

5- LMS

face the risks of spread of COVID-19. The President also issued a set of economic and social protection decrees to support and protect all society, and recognized the role and status of the Egyptian woman and the importance of continuing her supportive role during this current phase.

Since the National Council for Women is the national machinery concerned with proposing the government public policy on women's development pursuant to Law No. 30 of 2018, NCW has prepared a policy paper regarding Egypt's rapid response to women's situation during COVID-19 outbreak, which includes an analysis of the status quo. In this paper, NCW has presented a number of proposed response measures, whether immediate or middle-term responses, for concerned all line ministries & government institutions, regarding the following pillars:

- 1. Impact on human endowment (health, education and social protection)** through applying/upscaling the already existing support programs regarding all health aspects including psychological, mental & physical as well as reproductive health care services; social protection programs; particularly response measures for older women; women with disabilities; pregnant women, and women of reproductive age, and education, to deal with the consequences of the school lockdown and the potential girls' dropout.
- 2. Women's voice & agency (Violence Against Women, Leadership and Representation in decision**

making during crisis management) women's participation in the decision making process can enhance the health security control mechanisms, examination and protection of health, and ensure women's accessibility to the relevant information. Also response measures can be adopted to provide psychosocial, legal and advisory support for women who may be subject to violence resulting from the implications of social conditions generated by the precautionary measures taken to respond to COVID-19 outbreak.

3. **Impact on economic opportunities:** the proposed response interventions depend on the already existing mechanisms as well as introducing new ones to support the women workers whose livelihoods have been affected or whose income from freelance work has declined. Alternative solutions should be proposed to address the economic downturn and its impact on working women in the formal or informal sector.
4. **Promoting data and knowledge:** promoting the compilation of data designed by sex, age and disability-disaggregated data on COVID-19, including tracking the emergency response measures, support policy research & social innovation; monitoring & evaluating the impact of the COVID-19; and conduct public opinion surveys in order to recognize the differences in exposure and treatment & help design the preventive measures accordingly.

In this regard, NCW established the "Women policy

tracker on Responsive Policies and Programs During COVID-19 Pandemic” to serve the following purposes:

- 1) Monitor all issued policies and procedures responsive to the needs of Egyptian women directly and/or indirectly in light of the efforts made to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- 2) Design an easier tool that can be used as reference to all women related issued policies that can be used by decision makers for a more collaborative & comprehensive vision on means of moving forward.
- 3) Document the efforts & highlight the outcome of the coordinated efforts of the government on women related policies to protect them & their families from the COVID-19
- 4) Reflect on all those policies with necessary supporting programs & initiatives

The major women related responsive policies and measures taken by the Egyptian Government

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in collaboration with all the concerned bodies constantly issues measures and programs to combat the spread of the virus. Moreover, MoHP issues all the data on the numbers of COVID-19 cases transparently and disaggregated by sex & age; in addition to producing awareness raising videos & info graphs about the virus.

(March 2020 14)

- The President issued a decree on *suspending classes in universities and schools* for two weeks; as protection for the children allowing the mothers to rest assure of their safety.
- The Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) issued a decree on the *lockdown of nurseries* for two weeks; **as protection for the children allowing the mothers to rest assure of their safety.**

(March 2020 16)

- The Prime Minister issued Decree No. 719 of 2020, including inter alia:
 - The number of *employees in government authorities and bodies shall be reduced* under the set of the precautionary measures taken by the government to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
 - Pregnant *women or those looking after one child or more of less than 12 years* shall be granted an *exceptional leave* for as long as the Decree remains in force; **allowing all working mothers to be able to do their family duties without losing their jobs.**
 - *Women employees looking after their children with disabilities* shall be granted a leave pursuant to a circular; **allowing mothers of children with disabilities to be able to take care of their children without losing their jobs.**
- MoHP announced taking special measures on *dispensing medicines for chronic diseases, formula*

milk and Family planning methods (contraceptives) for three months; **accessibility needed reproductive healthcare services for women**

(March 2020 19)

- Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) announced *intensifying the precautionary measures* for children in foster homes and providing all the health precautions and awareness-raising leaflets, including welfare homes, correctional institutions, orphanages, *nursing homes, social protection facilities*, people with disabilities, and *women shelters*; **protection of elderly women and women with disabilities living in the shelters**; **Preparedness to any potential case of violence against women through secured concerned shelters.**

(March 2020 22)

- The President instructed as part of a set of decrees and directives aimed to address the new COVID-19 to *launch campaigns for raising the awareness of citizens* for guidance and providing precise information, and strengthen health control according to the highest standards, at the points of entry to the country; **Awareness raising & promoting data & knowledge to include women beneficiaries.**
- MoSS announced *increasing the number of beneficiaries of conditional cash transfer* from

Takaful and Karama Program to *100,000 households*; **Social protection especially for women heads of households**

- MoSS announced *increasing the monthly income for rural women leaders* from EGP 300 to EGP 900 per month; **increased support to women rural leaders on ground**
- MoSS announced *integrating women aged 65 and above in nursing homes* under the umbrella of social protection; **protection of elderly women**
- MoSS announced *increasing the number of beneficiaries of soft loans and loans with negligible interest rates* to set up micro enterprises so that they can improve the living standard of their families; **economic opportunities to include women in need to microfinance loans**

(March 2020 24)

- Extending the suspension of classes in schools and universities and lockdown of nurseries of whatever type;
- The Ministry of Manpower (MoM) announced the steps of *registration of irregular workers* on MoM website to receive an *exceptional allowance of EGP 500*, as part of the government plan to protect them due to being affected by the COVID-19; **providing economic support to include women irregular workers**

(March 2020 26)

- The Prime Minister issued Decree No. 776 of 2020 on *establishing a workers' emergency benefits fund and forming a committee for the irregular workers affected by the economic repercussions of the new Coronavirus*, composed of (the Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Minister of Manpower, Minister of Social Solidarity, NCW President, Chairman of Information and Decision Support Center, Head of the Suggestion and Complaints Committee of the National Wage Council, and a member of the Administrative Control Authority). Including NCW in this committee reflects the government's belief in the **importance of women's voice & agency through representation, participation & involvement in the process of decision making and taking into account the needs of Egyptian women** while designing the policies and strategies aimed to respond and mitigate the impacts of the new Coronavirus.

The Committee shall be responsible for the following:

- Collect the data of the workers affected by the economic repercussions of the new Coronavirus, and take the necessary actions in coordination with the various concerned bodies to offer financial and social support to the workers to overcome the crisis.
- Coordinate the efforts and initiatives introduced by financial institutions, companies, businessmen, non-governmental institutions and other concerned bodies so that the aids are delivered to those eligible.

- Coordinate with the Workers' Emergency Benefits Fund to ensure the existence of a consolidated database for the affected workers to avoid double disbursement.
- Develop policies for workers' compensation in case of partial or full lockdown of the facilities in which they work, in coordination with the concerned funds and accounts.

(March 2020 29)

- The President issued a decree on *increasing the monthly allowance for medical professionals by 75%* and establishing a risk fund for medical professionals; **Economic benefits to include women health care providers (doctors & medical professionals)**
- The President announced the *disbursement of exceptional bonuses from "Tahya Misr" Fund for all the workers in quarantine, fever and chest hospitals and central labs* all over Egypt; **Economic benefits to include women health care providers**
- The Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA) issued a set of resolutions on the activity of microfinance for the benefit of 3.1 million citizens, including:
 - *Reduce or postpone the installments due from the clients by 50%* of the value of each installment for microfinance clients.
 - *Exempt microfinance clients who make timely payments from the commission of the prepayment of indebtedness or reducing the administrative fees* to renew the existing funding; **economic opportunities benefiting women in**

microfinance

(April 2020 2)

- The President instructed to provide *additional support to the health sector* and enhance the financial conditions of the health workers, doctors and nurses, by *increasing the bonuses granted to medical interns* during their internships in university hospitals under the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE0) and Scientific Research and Al-Azhar University hospitals, to *EGP 2200 per month, instead of EGP 400*, as of December 2019 class; **economic benefits to include women doctors**

(April 2020 5)

- The MoH launched *2 hotlines to provide necessary psychological support* to citizens at home; **psychological support programs to include women beneficiaries**

(April 2020 6)

- The President instructed to *provide allowances of 500 EGP for irregular workers* who might be impacted by the COVID-19 for 3 consecutive months; **economic benefits to include women irregular worker.**
- The President instructed to upscale *decent housing by building 250,000 new housing unit and another 100,000 housing unit* for the people living in unsafe

habitat; **Social protection intervention to include women beneficiaries**

(April 2020 7)

- *Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (MSMEDA)* announced the launch of an *exceptional loan for a limited period to help small projects survive the crisis* & support needed liquid money to finance running & production costs. Loan maximum amount is 1 million EGP & it *shall be granted to small businesses* with specific conditions & an exceptional interest rate, according to the nature of each project. (Given that, the total no. of small project provided to women in 2019 was 69% while 51% of microfinance loans were granted to women).
- *Egyptian microfinance federation* allow their 3,500,000 beneficiaries in the informal sector to *access electronic financial services using meeza card and/or electronic mobile wallets*. This is done through 200,000 employees working in 964 organizations & non-governmental organizations, 11 microfinance companies; other than banks that provide the same service as well.
- *Ministry of Manpower* announced that *40% of the beneficiaries of irregular workers registered as impacted from COVID-19 provided the 500 EGP allowances are women*.

(April 2020 9)

- *The Central Bank of Egypt dedicated 50 billion egp for mortgage finance to middle class income through banks & mortgage companies for 20 years; (given that previously, 20% of the mortgage finance funds beneficiaries are women).*
- *Ministry of Health & population launched a mobile application “Egypt’s Health” which is the official platform for awareness raising against COVID-19 & a guidance the necessary steps to be taken incase infected by the virus & means of contacting the authorized health staff.*

(April 2020 11)

- *Ministry of interior (Mol) launched the 2nd phase of the initiative “we are one” that started at the beginning of April. Mol has distributed basic food supplies to families in need in Al Asmarat neighborhood under this initiative.*
- *A campaign titled “Stop the Bulling, Corona virus is not a crime” was launched to raise the public awareness about the social stigma that is related to COVID19.*

(April 2020 12)

- *Ministry of Environment launched its action-plan to fight COVID-19 through proper recycling of medical waste & monitoring pollution sources; the ministry also shall launch an awareness campaign titles “get ready for being green”*

which includes a component for fighting COVID-19 through rationalizing resource consumption and purchasing only basic needs, raising awareness of how to *safely dispose of masks and gloves to ensure the virus does not spread, and educating cleaners on the need to wear masks and gloves.*

(April 2020 13)

- *The Prime Minister launched Ahalina community Initiative with the slogan of “Hand in Hand we help each other” to support irregular workers impacted by the COVID-19 through donations. The initiative aims to provide financial support to irregular workers through the contribution of all stakeholders (Private sector, individuals, & other organizations). In that context, Banque Misr has launched new offerings for the e-wallet product to encourage donations in a timely & efficient manner.*
- *Ministry of Health & Population has provided personal protection equipment to the personnel working on family planning campaigns & services as prevention from the COVID19.*

(April 2020 15)

- *Ministry of ICT launched a technological center for people with disabilities which provide 24 hour response service to people with disabilities about any COVID-19 related inquiry including anyone who might be having COVID-19 symptoms & link them to the concerned health entities in Egypt through the*

Application titled “Wasel” dedicated for the deaf & people with hearing impairment.

(April 2020 16)

- *The Prime Minister of Egypt issued a decree to control the prices of precautionary products that are used to prevent and limit the spread of COVID19.*

(April 2020 19)

- *The National Council for Women with the Ministry of Health & Population, World Health Organization, UNFPA, Extra news & Egypt Today Magazine launched a campaign to raise the awareness of the public on COVID19 from a medical/scientific dimension through the production of videos featuring expert medical doctors from different specialties.*

(April 2020 20)

- *The Ministry of foreign affairs & Ministry of Migration have been working on launching exceptional flights for Egyptians who were stuck in other countries due to the COVID19. Priority was given to 270 women and children who were stuck in Kuwait.*
- *The Ministry of Social Solidarity announced:*
 - *Extending the beneficiaries of Conditional cash transfer*

program "Takaful & Karama" to new *160,000 families*.

- Providing *exceptional cash support for 3 months to One million citizens* (over 200 thousand families).
- Starting a pilot of *digitizing insurance services through transferring pension over mobile phones* in Luxor & Port said Governorates.

(April 2020 22)

- The Ministry of Social Solidarity published the report of the efforts of *the Egyptian Red Crescent* during the COVID19 pandemic during the period from April 16 to April 22, and included the implementation of field interventions to confront the virus through field teams deployed throughout the country that carry out sterilization and disinfection operations for state institutions that provide Services to the public; and distributing aid to the families in need. *The number of volunteers reached 2706* with a volunteer campaign in every street; *the number of volunteers trained to respond to the COVID19 reached 5705; the number of public awareness campaigns reached 380; and the number of sterilization and disinfection campaigns reached 361. While total number of interventions for affected areas is 17; and the total number of relief resources and disinfectants distributed is 1077.*

(April 2020 23)

- Egyptian Parliament has *adopted the small, medium & micro enterprises law, which include a full pillar on the informal sector* and means of formalizing

it; and set some conditions for those enterprise to adhere to; with a planned transition phase. This comes in line with the *Government's plan to integrate the informal sector with good incentives provided.*

(April 2020 25)

- *Ministry of ICT* launched a package of *educational program for women* to prepare them for labor market including *new technological tools to help women in the areas of e-marketing and e-commerce* to ensure they are empowered economically.

(April 2020 26)

- *The general healthcare authority*, which is one of the new comprehensive health insurance system authorities, working under the supervision of the Ministry of Health & Population, signed a memorandum of understanding with *the general federation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs)*. The MOU aims at *raising awareness about COVID19 & means of preventing & limiting its spread*. The MOU was signed to enhance coordination of governmental entities (represented in the healthcare authority) & non- governmental entities (represented in the federation of ngos) efforts. The agreement also includes training and raising the capacities of volunteers and *delivering necessary medicine to the elderly & people with chronic disease* who are beneficiaries of the

health insurance system; *and 4500 patient of those categories have already received their medicine.* It also participates in sanitizing premises determined by the healthcare authority & dedicated necessary equipment to do so.

- Ministry of Social solidarity has activated the *marital awareness program “Mawwada” online* as response to the COVID19. 17 videos were recorded for a group of psychologists and experts giving messages to the Egyptian families; while a new video is added on daily basis on this platform. This is done under the “stay at home” initiative as means to limiting the spread of COVID19.

(April 2020 28)

- *The President of Egypt* directed to *intensify awareness raising campaigns to address any misconceptions about the COVID19 and the social stigma* that might hinder citizens to ask for medical help or apply for the COVID19 tests.

- *The Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, under the guidance of the Cabinet, works to ensure that the *lives of migrants and refugees are not exposed to any direct effects of the COVID19* through support provided by the *health care system* and that *no measures are taken to return the migrants to their countries.* *United Nations concerned organizations also provide basic services and health care for refugees in Egypt.*

- *Ministry of Industry & commerce and MSMEDA* has drafted a policy note with *suggested policy measures for women*, as response to the National Council for women's note. Among the most important suggestions are:
 - Support mechanisms of E-marketing to women products so they can sell their products from home through the e-exhibition of MSMEDA.
 - Study the possibility of conducting women trainings online.
 - Facilitate & support financing/lending projects that women can do from their home such as heritage products.
 - Study the possibility of providing necessary services through social development & human sector (such as health & literacy projects) through the internet.
 - MSMEDA local offices shall contact their female heads of households beneficiaries who own projects and study means of supporting them & their projects to reduce any negative impact resulting from COVID19.
 - Prepare for a media plan to aware women on all digital services provided by MSMEDA.
 - Coordinate with NCW to study means of implementing the suggested policies in Egypt's rapid response to women's situation through COVID19 outbreak.
 - Provided needed information about sectors

that include women that are highly impacted by the COVID19 & study means of immediate intervention to support women in those sectors, especially Female heads of household & women caring for a disabled family member in the microfinance sector.

- Study means of contacting private sector and banking sector through their corporate social responsibility departments (CSR) to provide needed support for sectors that have high percentages of women owned businesses & especially commercial projects.

(April 2020 29)

- *Public prosecution* took immediate steps & necessary legal measures after the emergence of some lawsuit of exploitation of women and girls, and the pursuit of making money by illegal means, within the framework of *protecting women and girls from human trafficking crimes and electronic/cybercrimes*.

(May 2020 1)

- *Tahya Masr Fund* has launched a new convoys with 123 cars that *includes basic food supplies & disinfectants/sanitizers that have been delivered to 150,000 families* in need especially during the holy month of Ramadan and as a preventive measure against the COVID19 pandemic

(May 2020 2)

- *Tahya Masr Fund* has coordinated with *Ministry of Social Solidarity and Ministry of local development* to allocate a share of *basic food supplies & disinfectants/sanitizers* to the branches of *The National Council for Women to be distributed to families in need and impacted by the COVID19*
- *The National Council for Women with Baseera Center in partnership with UN Women* has launched a *phone survey* during the period from 4th -14th of April that tackled the effect of COVID19 pandemic. The survey included 1518 women with a minimum age of 18 years old. The survey results confirmed that the pandemic contributed to a change in lifestyle compared to the pre-pandemic period; tackling violence against women & economic impact among other topics. Results showed that *7% of the wives reported that they had already been subjected to violence by the husband* (verbal abuse or insult); that this did not happen before the pandemic occurred. The survey showed that *33% is the rate of increased problems with in the family*; and *19% increase in violence among family members*. The level of awareness among family members on means of prevention from corona virus is *94%*; while *72% of the respondents believe that the family's income has been affected by the crisis*, and that the *time spent by women in doing households tasks has increased*.

(May 2020 3)

- *The Ministry of Justice* has suspended the work in courts but took an *exceptional decision to proceed with the family court cases* in order to finalize issues such as alimony payment, child custody & residence and other important matters that will support women custodians during the pandemic. The decision has been coupled with another one to *sanitize the concerned courts & apply all precautionary measures to them.*

(May 2020 4)

- *Egypt is leading an international movement in the United Nations to magnify the attention to the situation of women & girls during COVID19 times. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and The National Council for Women* are working on this as means to emphasize the need for international cooperation & sharing of experiences in order to overcome this challenge facing humanity. This cooperation shall ensure that all negative social repercussions of the spread of the COVID19 on women are addressed and preventive measures are taken to reduce its impact on the most affected segments. In that context, *a draft resolution was presented to the United Nations General Assembly in order to support national and international efforts to respond immediately to the impact of the COVID19 pandemic on women and girls, under the item on global health and foreign policy*, with the aim of establishing a comprehensive and robust implementation framework for rapid response to health and social repercussions of COVID19 on women. The Ministry of foreign affairs,

through its embassies and official missions, have distributed Egypt's policy note titled "Egypt's rapid response to women's situation during COVID19 outbreak" & women policy tracker first edition titled "Women policy Tracker on Responsive Policies and Programs during the New COVID-19 Pandemic" to share Egypt's experiences and practice on the international level.

(May 2020 5)

- *The Ministry of planning & economic development (MoPED) in cooperation with Terous Misr Foundation launched an initiative titled "Masr Hataady/Egypt will overcome". The initiative aims to encourage the private sector to retain employment and provide new job opportunities and encourage all programs and initiatives to support and develop the SME sector; as it is one of the most affected sectors impacted by the COVID19. The Initiative is done with the participation of a large number of owners and heads of companies, civil society institutions, intellectuals and private sector companies. An interactive website and platforms on social media will be launched and benefit from audio and visual media to contribute to raising Public awareness and achieving the highest level of interaction with citizens.*
- *The Prime Minister and the Ministry of Planning & economic development announced the progress on digitization plan of the government; including allowing Egyptian citizens to process*

any transactions or *issue their official documents without having to go to governmental premises*; given that *some of the governmental services & documents will be digitized & delivered citizens at home*.

(May 2020 6)

- *The National Council for Women, in cooperation with the UN Women launched the “Mental Health Prioritization” initiative, with several partners, including Safe Kids and Shezlong-therapist app, and Egypt Today magazine, and the initiative was launched on the social networking sites of the Council and the partners. A number of psychologists and concerned institutions to support the mental health of Egyptian women and raise awareness among women & men on the importance of mental health in general in light of the spread of the current COVID19 and the initiative comes as an important part of the Government awareness raising efforts.*

(May 2020 7)

- *The Ministry of Local Development provided financial assistance to support families in need in 101 villages in the governorates of Assiut and Sohag and Qena and provided technical and financial support to small borrowers and beneficiaries of the local development fund, especially female heads of households and youth and people with lower-income to mitigate the effects of the repercussions of the COVID19. This is under the framework of the*

local development program in Upper Egypt and the presidential initiative “A decent life”.

(May 2020 13)

- Under the directions of the President of Egypt, The Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises agency (MSMEDA) - The Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Bank of Cairo committed to increase the micro-projects financial portfolio and focus on women and youth through *signature of two project contracts worth 620 million pounds to support small and micro projects* in order to develop and expand the availability of loans to *help these projects cover their administrative and operational expenses*, continuity and competition in light of the prevalence of the COVID19 and its negative effects on temporary and unsustainable employment. The *percentage of projects allocated to women in these two contracts ranges between 30% and 100% of the total financing*.
 - 1- The first project, “The Initiative for Microfinance Project”, with a total funding from the agency of 500 million pounds.
 - 2- The second project, “Women microfinance project”, with a total funding of EGP 120 million dedicated to supporting Egyptian women.
- The National Post Authority began *delivering a unified Meeza card* to those who are entitled to the irregular workers grant decided by President of

the Republic. (40% of the beneficiaries are women)

(May 2020 14)

- The Prime Minister directed allocating necessary financial needs to continue the development of important *information infrastructure projects* that are in line with the current conditions given the important of relying on the Internet, whether in *education or training*, in addition to implementing many *other automated services* in light of the spread of the COVID19
- The Ministry of Health and Population has *activated the "Call Center" service* to Egypt's health application, and created *an electronic system to link units and centers with hospitals*, and the issuance of the application for *remote consultations and telemedicine clinics*.

(May 2020 16)

- Tahya Masr Fund launched *the largest convoy of humanitarian aid* for the benefit of the families in need, which is the third phase of the initiative "if we share, we will survive the crisis" aimed at reaching *300 villages in need in 16 governorates* and is organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and 20 civil society organizations.

(May 2020 17)

- Within the framework of the partnership between

the Arab Republic of Egypt and the World Bank Group, the group provided *50 million dollars in an emergency response* within the framework of the rapid financing package approved by the World Bank Group. The new project will address preventive measures and detect cases of infection and respond to the pandemic in Egypt, and the project will contribute to finance (1) The purchase and distribution of medical equipment and supplies needed to counter the virus; (2) Training of medical personnel; (3) Quarantine, isolation, and specially designated treatment centers; (4) Mobilizing rapid response teams in tracking contacts of COVID19 cases; (5) Develop content delivery platforms and tools to improve public awareness of virus prevention; and (6) innovative monitoring and evaluation of social distancing strategies, including community mobilization.

- The Prime Minister *announced special precautionary measures to be taken during Eid vacation* including extending the curfew to be from 6am to 5pm, closure of all malls, restaurants, beaches and entertainment services. Also some of the institutions & facilities were sterilized during that time.
- The cabinet also produced an *awareness video of the impact of COVID19* to continue raising awareness on the issue especially during official holidays.

(May 2020 18)

- The Ministry of Social Solidarity, in cooperation with the Misr Al Khair Foundation, launched the *third convoy of "Al Kheir Convoys" to provide basic food supplies and some medical protection tools in 8 governorates in Upper Egypt*, and this comes as a continuation of the convoys that were launched previously in 18 governorates in Lower Egypt and coastal cities for *the benefit of the families in need (who are mostly headed by women)*.
- The Ministry of Finance allowed the use of the *QR code in government transactions* to pay all financial dues to government agencies without touching the collection machine through an *electronic wallet via mobile phones in order to reduce the use of banknotes and the spread of the virus between citizens*.
- *Ministry of health* has issued awareness raising material on how to deal with autistic children during the COVID19 pandemic.

(May 2020 20)

- Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises agency has allocated *a financing portfolio amounting to 5.4 billion to finance projects for women in particular in border and upper governorates* through a strategy for the advancement of Egyptian women projects and young graduates, and it is expected that 216 thousand micro-projects will be implemented over five years and 250 thousand jobs and projects will be funded through banks and civil society organizations that cooperate with the agency.

- The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology launched the *automatic testing service for symptoms of the COVID19 with ChatBot technology in sign language* through its “Wasel” application for the deaf and people with hearing impairment and the “Tamkeen” website, as part of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology efforts to support the government’s plans to confront the COVID19 and in light of its strategy to use information technology for an inclusive society.

(May 2020 21)

- The Prime Minister issued Decree No. 1097 of 2020 to establish a committee to study the financial compensation and workers’ salaries in national projects regarding their potential suspension from work due to the precautionary measures taken to confront the spread of COVID19. The committee includes (Minister of Planning and Economic Development - Minister of Manpower - Minister of International Cooperation - Minister of Finance - Minister of Housing and Urban Communities - Minister of Social Solidarity - Minister of Trade and Industry – President of the National Council for Women - Chairman of the Information and Decision Support Center - Chairman of the Proposals and Complaints Committee of the National Wages Council - Member of the Administrative Control Authority). Including NCW in this committee reflects the government’s belief in the **importance of**

women's voice & agency through representation, participation & involvement in the process of decision making and taking into account the needs of Egyptian women while designing the policies and strategies aimed to respond and mitigate the impacts of COVID19.

The Committee shall be responsible for the following:

- *Establishing an electronic database of the national projects and companies* assigned to the implementation of these projects include detailed employment data on existing workers & their number.
 - *Coordination with the concerned entities* and those responsible for managing these projects and companies to *update this database on weekly basis*.
 - Estimate the value of a *decent financial compensation* and the minimum salary for those workers in case of any work suspension due to the current circumstances, given the information on the electronic database.
 - Study & prepare *mechanisms and executive procedures needed for disbursement* in the light of the previous lessons learned and acquired experiences to disburse the irregular workers grant.
- *1,053,704 women benefited from the awareness raising campaigns* conducted by the National Council for Women in 1885 village from 25th of March until 21st of May. The campaigns were done through NCW rural community leaders

(May 2020 23)

- Ministry of Health has dedicated one of its hospitals to COVID19 patient who have mental illness. The Hospital has trained medical staff who are able to provide special treatment to the patients.

(May 2020 24)

- A presidential decree was issued to release 5532 women and men prisoners during Eid vacation.

(May 2020 25)

- Under the direction of the President & the Prime Minister, The Ministry of Health and Population has announced *providing all the needs, medical care, preventive requirements, and psychological support for medical teams*, including having necessary covid19 tests. This is done to provide the utmost care for the medical teams. The Ministry also thanked all medical teams and their families as the first line defense facing COVID19. (Women make up around 42.4% of human doctors and 91.1% nursing staff of who are actually working for the Ministry of Health, in addition to 73.1% of nursing staff in hospitals and therapeutic facilities in the private sector are women)

(May 2020 26)

- The Ministry of Health and Population updated the “Egypt’s health” application, *adding services to help with reporting, adding a list of hospitals,*

how to reach the nearest hospital, the alert feature in case of entering affected areas, instructions for home quarantine and daily follow-up with patients.

(May 2020 28)

- The Cabinet announced a number of decisions, *including increasing the staff of the hotline by an additional 150 seats* to deal with affected and suspected cases; and the government complaints system coordinated for patient services with the Ministry of Health and Population; and expanding the number of hospitals dealing with COVID19 patients and to reach 376 hospitals through out the governorates of Egypt.

(May 2020 30)

- A Cabinet decision was issued & imposed to *oblige wearing masks in public places and all closed places where citizens accumulate in large numbers and in public and private transportation and metro stations* and not allowing entry into a government institution without wearing masks & penalty will be imposed in case of non-compliance. This is not *applied to children under the age of 2* while announcing *children should not wear masks without the supervision of their parents*. This is within the framework of the government's plan to take all precautionary and preventive measures against COVID19.
- The Ministry of Health and Population has *allocated 5400 health units, and 1,000 fixed and mobile*

medical convoys in all governorates of the Republic to distribute a bag of medicines and preventive supplies to those in contact with positive cases of the COVID19 to facilitate the treatment of citizens and reduce the burden on hospitals.

(31st May 2020)

Ministry of Health delivers medication for the patients who are affected and in home quarantine & people who are in contact with them

(June 2020 1)

- *A 24 hour hotline was dedicated in each governorate* to follow up with citizens & receive any complaints about the COVID19 treatment. Those calls are *followed up by the Governors themselves*. This includes taking severe action in case receiving any calls regarding any hospital that refuses to admitted in any COVID19 patient, and the patient is immediately referred to another one.

(June 2020 3)

- Prime Minister gave instructions to *regulate & control the prices of COVID19 treatment in private hospitals*. Relatively flat rates have been announced.
- The Public prosecution has taken immediate *legal interventions against the incident of 3 girls being subjected to FGM* in Suhag Governorate.

The *National FGM committee* in Egypt chaired by the National Council for Women & the National Council for Childhood & Motherhood are following up with the concerned agencies and the public prosecution. The National FGM committee & the legislative committee in NCW is studying *legislative amendments*; and will make sure women & girls are not exposed to such harmful practices during COVID19.

(June 2020 4)

- The *National Council for women's complaints office* has received *34,000 inquiries/complaint* since the start of the outbreak (14th of March until the 4th of June 2020). Necessary action was taken to refer all inquiries/complaints to the concerned entities timely & effectively. The *complaints office* has *started to upgrade its technological infrastructure* to ensure more efficient & effective services for women are available.
- The National Council for women has been *promoting the essential service packages* for any potential violence against women case since the start of the COVID19 outbreak.

(June 2020 6)

- The Ministry of Health through its hospitals are making *safe deliveries for pregnant women* who were affected by COVID19 and immediate interventions were taken. It is worth mentioning that 1st cesarean

delivery done for a COVID19 pregnant woman was in 5th of April.

(June 2020 8)

- The Ministry of Finance announced meeting all the needs of the Ministry of Supply and internal trade to provide all strategic goods and supplies. The additional financing needs related to the COVID19 have been estimated at approximately 63 billion pounds.

(June 2020 9)

- Anti-Harassment unit in Cairo University has announced working on an awareness raising campaign against all forms of *cybercrimes & violence against women through the internet*.
- The Financial Regulation Authority (FRA) launched a smart *application via mobile phones titled "Women Empowerment"* to create a database that includes women who are qualified to occupy leadership positions. Also, the first training program entitled "*Certificate of the Board Member*" was designed for potential women with the aim of building their capacities for *membership of boards of directors*.

(June 2020 10)

- The Ministry of Health and Population, in coordination with the Ministry of Social Solidarity, provided *ambulances, tests and hospital beds for*

any of the elderly or people with disabilities, and directed a technician to take care of COVID19 tests in elderly shelter due to the inability to transfer cases sometimes.

(June 2020 17)

- The National Council for Women has activated the work on the citizenship project *to issue National ID cards free of charge for women in need*. Some ID cards were issued and delivered to women at home especially elderly women.

(June 2020 18)

- The Ministry of Social Solidarity has produced *awareness raising messages about COVID19*. They have also launched a *competition on COVID19 with prizes reaching up to 200,000 EGP* to aware families about the danger of the virus especially families who are enrolled in Takaful & Karama Program.

(June 2020 20)

- The Central Agency for Public Mobilization & Statistics (CAPMAS) has issued a *survey about the COVID19's impact on Egyptian families*. Among the announced numbers was *60% have either lost their jobs or their work have changed; 26% have completely lost their jobs; 90% have changed their consumption behavior to necessary products; 53% had to go through loans*.

(June 2020 23)

- Egyptian Prime Minister has announced some *measures to coexist with the COVID19* among them is removing the partial curfew, resuming work on restaurants, cafes & cinemas with 25% capacity, public transportation to resume operation, opening worship venues; while public parks & beaches are still closed.
- The Egyptian parliament has *passed a law that amends some provisions to enhance the state's ability to face risks of COVID19* such as compelling individual to use masks & other precautionary measures in public spaces. Also others amend were passed concerning procedures of dealing with deaths resulting from infectious diseases and burial process.
- The Ministry of Justice announced *resuming works in all Egyptian courts.*
- The National Council for Women through its Women Business Development Center (WBDC) has connected with women from different governorates within its project (*AL Mashghal*) to produce masks that can be sold for the public use given the latest decision of obliging the citizens to wear masks in public spaces.

(June 2020 26)

- Ministry of Health has issued *awareness raising to early married couples to advise them to delay pregnancies* at times of COVID19

(June 2020 29)

- Public Prosecution *raise awareness to marital couples & Egyptian Families* on the importance of marital relationships and its strength during these times.
- *Al Azhar el Sharif* issued a decree of giving *exceptional leave for mothers of children less than 12 years old, pregnant women & people with chronic disease*. This is in light with resuming working amid the recent announcement of the Prime Minister of Egypt to the coexisting plan.

(July 2020 30)

- The Ministry of International Cooperation agreed with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on 5 future projects between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the USAID, with a total value of *\$ 105 million, in the sectors of women's economic and social support*.
- The Ministry of Health and Population, in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Development, *established and equipped 45 health units in 45 villages in the governorates of the first phase of the presidential initiative "A decent life" worth around 550 million pounds*, in line with the comprehensive health insurance model approved by the Ministry of Health, with the aim of providing medical supplies, medicines and covering the governorates who are most in need given the COVID19.

(July 2020 1)

- Ministry of Social solidarity announced that *nurseries resume their work with specific condition & precautionary measures.*
- Ministry of Higher Education announces a *new education system* for the upcoming years. Education *through the internet, and with minimal physical attendance* is planned and not only during COVID19 those are permanent decisions for the higher education system.
- The National Council for Women along with the ILO has started its *digitized financial education training* through its trainers that have been trained on several manuals.
- Tahya Masr Fund is continuing its fourth phase of the initiative *"if we share, we will survive the crisis" distributing 500 tons of food and 36 tons of poultry to those in need in 19 governorates.* Beneficiaries are elderly in shelters, people with disabilities, widows and female heads of households.
- Egyptian Cabinet approved a project of cooperation between the Government of Egypt and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development in providing a grant of 200,000 euros to finance the project *"Contributing to creating job opportunities for women in Upper Egypt, by improving their capabilities and developing productive groups"*

(July 2020 3)

- The Ministry of Health and Population announced the *resumption of the initiative of the President of the Republic “women’s health”* in health units and specialized centers, *with all precautions taken to ensure the safety of Egyptian women.*

International Recognition:

The *Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Women* praised the many efforts and decisions that Egypt is currently making to face the repercussions of the COVID19, taking into account the needs of Egyptian women, and the women policy tracker and Programs in Support of Women during the Pandemic.

The Arab Republic of Egypt is ranked *ninth globally and first in the Arab and Africa countries* in the *medical research of COVID19*, in the “*Coronavirus Research Index*” Med studies by Country. 21 studies and researches were conducted so far.

Finally, The National Council for Women will continue tracking & monitoring all issued policies & programs that mainstream & respond to the needs of women during this crisis. NCW commits to a strong coordination with all concerned ministries and bodies to support the implementation of those policies as well as suggesting new polices in favor of Egyptian women.

