

Situation Analysis

OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS
IN EGYPT 2024



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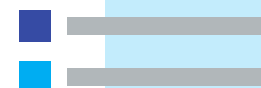
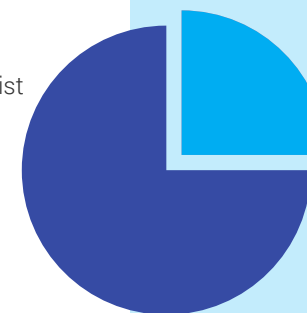
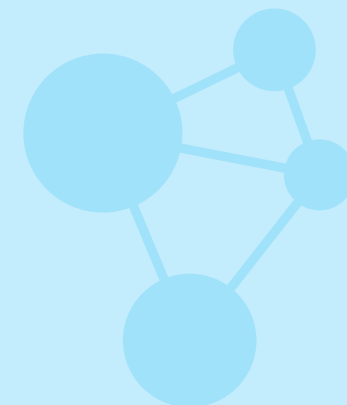
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Preface

The 2024 Situation Analysis of Children and Adolescents in Egypt (SitAn) presents a wealth of evidence, analysis, and insight that guides decisive and effective decision-making, policy dialogue, partnerships, and interventions to address child rights. Knowing how critical data is for the narrative and enforcement of children's rights and well-being in Egypt, we, at UNICEF, strive to keep the SitAn a live document that is regularly updated with timely robust data to inform ongoing and future efforts to meet children's rights across the country.

The 2024 update of the Situation Analysis was developed based on the latest evidence available by mid of 2024, including data collected by the government and partners through surveys such as the Egyptian Family Health Survey 2021, administrative data systems, and demographic and population estimates. In addition to secondary analysis, such as published research papers, legal and policy frameworks, as well as global and regional literature of relevance to Egypt's context. The SitAn report provides deeper insight into specific topics, such as the displacement of Sudanese families into Egypt, it also includes the results of quantitative and qualitative research of their situation in Egypt. Moreover, the report places emphasis on the analysis of disaggregated data to highlight disparities across genders, wealth quintiles, and regions, or the lack thereof.

Applying a human rights-based and gender-focused approaches, this update further attempts to recognize the factors related to deprivations that affects the advancement of child rights in Egypt. It is also critical in guiding programme interventions aiming to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to support the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, as well as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

While this research indicates Egypt's progress towards meeting its commitment to child rights on several fronts, it highlights areas that require further interventions to ensure the wellbeing of all children and adolescents in Egypt.

UNICEF in Egypt adopted a consultative approach involving government partners in addition to the internal consultations engaging UNICEF programme staff in Egypt, as well as UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office advisors to provide further quality assurance. The technical support as well as time and effort invested by all parties are what made the delivery of this compelling evidence possible to hopefully inform and advice all development partners.

Jeremy Hopkins

UNICEF Representative in Egypt



Acronyms

APC	Arab Parliament for the Child	HIECS	Household Income, Expenditure and Consumption Survey	PMT	Proxy Means Test
CAPMAS	The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics	IDSC	Information and Decision Support Center	PPO	Public Prosecution Office
CBR	Crude Birth rate	ILO	International Labor Organization	PTR	Pupil Teacher Ratio
CCPI	The Climate Change Performance Index	IMAGES	International Men and Gender Equality Survey	PWDs	People With Disabilities
CCRI	Children's Climate Risk Index	IMF	International Monetary Fund	SADS	Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer	IMR	Infant Mortality Rate	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
CMR	Child Mortality Rate	IMS	Information Management System	SDS	Sustainable Development Strategy
COP	Convention on Climate Change	IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding	SIS	State Information Service
CPB	Child Protection Bureau	LCOY	Local Conferences of Youth	SitAn	Situation Analysis
CPCs	Child Protection Committees	LE	Egyptian pound	SYPE	Survey of Young People in Egypt
CPM	Child Protection Mechanism	LT-LEDS	Low Emission Development Strategy	TFR	Total Fertility Rate
CPOs	Child Prosecution Offices	MENA	Middle East and North Africa	TIMSS	Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study
CRM	Child Rights Monitoring	MoETE	Ministry of Education and Technical Education	U5MR	Under-five Mortality Rate
CwDs	Children with Disabilities	MoF	Ministry of Finance	UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
DAFI	The Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative	MoHP	Ministry of Health and Population	UHIL	Universal Health Insurance Law
DPT	Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus	MoSS	Ministry of Social Solidarity	UHS	Universal Health Insurance Scheme
ECDI	Early Childhood Development Index	MoYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports	UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
EDHS	Egypt Demographic and Health Survey	MPED	Ministry of Planning and Economic Development	UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
EFHS	Egypt Family Health Survey	NAR	Net Attendance Rate	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
EHIS	Egypt Health Issues Survey	NCCM	National Council for Childhood and Motherhood	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
ELMPS	Egypt Labour Market Panel Survey	NCCS	The National Climate Change Strategy	UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	NCW	National Council for Women	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
GAR	Gross Attendance Rate	NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	NEET	Not in Education, Employment, or Training	WFP	World Food Programme
GenU	Generation Unlimited	NER	Net Enrolment Rate	WHO	World Health Organization
GER	Gross Enrolment Rate	NMR	Neonatal Mortality Rate	WYF	World Youth Forum
GoE	Government of Egypt	OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development		
GPI	Gender Parity Index	OMADI	Open Access Micro Data Initiative		
		PIRLS	Progress in International Reading Literacy Study		



Executive Summary

This extensive analysis (SitAn) was conducted to update the situation of children, adolescents and young people in Egypt, highlight changes and challenges children are currently facing, and to uncover existing gaps.

Overall, according to the CAPMAS 2023, 50 per cent of the Egyptian population are children and youth falling within the age cohort 0-24¹. This represents a slight decline compared to data of 2022 where the children and youth aged 0-24 years accounted for 53 per cent of the total population². Also, Egypt will witness a change in the population pyramid with a decline in the proportion of children under-five and an increase in older age groups. This is attributed to the decline in crude birth rate (CBR) and total fertility rate (TFR) observed in Egypt over recent years where the TFR declined from 3.5 births per woman in 2014 to 2.85 births in 2021.

Household Income Expenditure and Consumption Survey (HIECS) 2019/2020 results indicated that about 30 per cent of the population are poor with the highest poverty rate of 43 per cent clustered in rural Upper Egypt. Also,

analysis conducted in 2017 revealed that younger children are more likely to experience multidimensional poverty than older children (37.1 per cent among children 0-4 years, 27.2 per cent of children aged 5-11 years, and 23.8 per cent of children aged 12-17 years)³.

Egypt is a destination and a transit hub for refugees, migrants and asylum seekers across the Middle East and Africa. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Egypt hosts 672,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers from 62 countries with the majority being from Sudan and Syria⁴. About two fifths of the registered refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt are children. Furthermore, the number of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) at risk reached a high of 7,314 children as of May 2024 (UNHCR Bulletin, 2024).

¹ Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS). (December, 2023). Statistical Yearbook: Cairo-CAPMAS.

² Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS). (2022). Statistical Yearbook: Cairo-CAPMAS.

³ MoSS, CAPMAS and UNICEF. (2017). Understanding Multi-dimensional poverty in Egypt, December 2017.

⁴ UNHCR. (June, 2024). Monthly Statistical Report, June 2024. Retrieve from: https://www.unhcr.org/eg/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2024/07/UNHCR-Egypt-Factsheet_JUN-2024.pdf

Childhood survival and health. Results from the Egypt Family Health Survey (EFHS) 2021 indicated that regular antenatal care and medically assisted deliveries are virtually universal where, 90 per cent of mothers had regular antenatal care for their last live birth and 97 per cent of all births were medically assisted deliveries. Results also indicated a surge in caesarean deliveries from 52 per cent in 2014 to 72 per cent in 2021. Progress in postnatal care for newborns has also been depicted, from 14 per cent in 2014 to a high level of 77 per cent in 2021. Data also indicated an increase in neonatal mortality.

Nine in 10 children aged 18-29 months are fully vaccinated. Unexpectedly, urban areas tend to have lower immunisation coverage than rural areas (86 per cent versus 92 per cent, respectively). Variations are more profound by place of residence, where children in Urban Governorates are less likely to be fully immunised compared to children in Upper or Lower Egypt⁵.



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There is a potential for improving neonatal mortality rate, infant mortality rate, under-five mortality rate by capitalizing on the high levels of regular antenatal care coverage and medically assisted deliveries to provide quality prenatal and delivery care.



Raising awareness among expecting mothers regarding the benefits of natural delivery is needed. Additionally, there is a need to build the capacity of medical personnel to ensure sound medical guidance. For example, opting for caesarean deliveries only as a last resort for the sake of the safety of both, the newborn and the mother.



Results also indicated a surge in caesarean deliveries from

52% in 2014 → to → **72%** in 2021

9 in 10 children aged 18-29 months are fully vaccinated.



⁵ Central Agency for public mobilization and statistics (CAPMAS). (2022). Egypt Family Health Survey-2021: Cairo-CAPMAS-December 2022

Breastfeeding and nutrition among children under-five. Breastfeeding is common in Egypt, with around 91 per cent of children have been breastfed in the two years preceding the EFHS 2021. This is despite low rates of both early initiation of breastfeeding, and exclusive breastfeeding, and the high level of prelacteal feeding. Overall, more than half of the children aged 6-23 months in Egypt live in food poverty with 36 per cent live in moderate food poverty and 22 per cent live in severe food poverty⁶.

Data from the EFHS 2021 indicated that 13 per cent of children under-five in Egypt are stunted, 3 per cent are wasted, 4 per cent are underweight, and 12 per cent are overweight or obese. Another measure of a child's health is anaemia level. The EFHS 2021 results indicated that 43 per cent of children aged 6-59 months are anaemic, with 21 per cent being mildly anaemic, 21 per cent are moderately anaemic, and 1 per cent are severely anaemic.



More efforts need to be incorporated in the 1000-day program promoting exclusive breastfeeding and vaginal deliveries. An opportunity also exists within the high rates of postnatal care where such visits could be utilized to deliver knowledge messages and raise awareness on the importance of exclusive breastfeeding.



Interventions to curb the impact of economic shocks especially for marginalized and vulnerable groups is inevitable to avoid further deterioration of malnutrition among children and adolescents and perhaps improve it.



Adolescents' health and nutritional status. EFHS 2021 results indicated that 40 per cent of never-married youth aged 15-29 years have health insurance coverage, with youth aged 15-19 years having significantly more coverage than youth aged 20-24 years (51 per cent and 27 per cent, respectively). Smoking is prevalent among never-married male youth, where 21 per cent of male youth aged 15-24 years are currently smoking, and male youth aged 20-24 years are three times more to smoke compared to those in the age cohort 15-19 (34 per cent versus 12 per cent).

Overall, there is a reported improvement in nutritional status indicators among adolescents. However, Anaemia levels in 2021 are quite high among adolescents aged 10-19 years. Overall, around 34 per cent of females and 29 per cent of males have some degree of anaemia with the majority of cases considered mildly anaemic. Surprisingly, 13 per cent of male adolescents suffer from moderate or severe anaemia which is higher than the level reported among female adolescents (10 per cent).

⁶ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). (2024). Child Food Poverty. Nutrition Deprivation in Early Childhood. Child Nutrition Report, 2024. UNICEF, New York, June 2024. Retrieve from: <https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Child-Food-Poverty-CNR.pdf>

Early learning and education. EFHS 2021 results indicated that 85 per cent of children aged 3-4 years were developmentally on track in at least three of the four domains assessed with minor disparities across subgroups, however, slightly less than half of the children are on track within the literacy-numeracy domain. Additionally, significant discrepancies were observed across the literacy-numeracy domain by mother's education and wealth. For instance, 34 per cent of children in the lowest wealth quintile are on track for the literacy-numeracy domain compared to 58 per cent among those in the highest wealth quintile.

The Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE) Statistical Yearbook data indicated that the number of schools offering pre-primary education has increased 9.6 per cent and the number of classes grew at a lower rate of 3.9 per cent between the academic years 2018/2019 and 2023/2024. Despite the reported increase in the number of preschool schools and classes, the number of preschool students has surprisingly dropped by about 15 per cent since 2019/2020. In the school year 2023/2024, Net Enrolment Rate (NER) for pre-primary education was 20.1 per cent and the Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) was 23.6 per cent with remarkable discrepancies by governorate⁷.



Design a module of simulating activities that can be done at home by family members and educating them on such activities thus creating a nurturing environment at home from birth that would stimulate child's growth, development and learning. Additionally, awareness needs to be raised among fathers to encourage their positive engagement with young children.



Expand access to kindergarten and increase parents' awareness on the importance and impact of early childhood education on school readiness, skills development, and lifelong learning.



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34% of children in the **lowest** wealth quintile are on track for the literacy-numeracy domain compared to **58%** among those in the **highest** wealth quintile.



Net Enrolment Rate (NER) for pre-primary education was

20.1% and the **Gross Enrolment Rate (GER)** was



23.6%



⁷ Ministry of Education and Technical Education. (2024). Statistical Yearbook, school year 2023/2024. Retrieve from: https://emis.gov.eg/Site%20Content/book/2023-2024/main_book2023.html

Access to education, attendance rates and dropouts. The MoETE Statistical Yearbook 2023/2024 indicates that the Ministry has expanded the number of schools for all educational levels. According to 2018/2019 Ministry records, there were 18,762 primary schools across the country; this number has increased to 20,073 in the 2023/2024 school year. Likewise, 1,704 preparatory schools have been established between 2018/2019 and 2023/2024, and also an additional 1,099 general secondary schools were built during that same period. The number of classes for all three stages has also increased considerably during the same period. Since the academic year 2018/2019, there has been an addition of 146 more schools offering special needs education (education for children with disabilities), 420 primary classes, and 6,534 more students with special needs enrolled in the system. The number of schools and classes offering special needs education is much higher in urban than rural areas (4,107 versus 1,023 classes, respectively), indicating inequality as vulnerable children are more likely to reside in rural settings and are at higher risk to have at least one type of disability compared to their counterparts in urban areas⁸.

The EFHS 2021 results indicated that primary Net Attendance Rate (NAR) is almost universal with 93 per cent of children aged 6-11 years attending primary education. Also, 83 per cent of preparatory age students are attending preparatory education and 76 per cent of children aged 15-17 years are attending secondary education. The secondary school NAR varied between 69 per cent among children in the lowest wealth quintile to 87 per cent among those in the highest wealth quintile.

Analysis from the 2021 EFHS data estimates that 3.4 per cent of primary school age children are out-of-school and 3.6 per cent of preparatory school age children are out-of-school. The percentage of out-of-school children increases considerably among secondary school age children to reach 12.2 per cent. This translates into about 1.4 million children estimated to be out-of-school which is lower than the estimated number in the pre-university education sector analysis report of 1.5 million children for the academic year 2017/2018.

The MoETE data reveals that the class size for the school year 2023/2024 was about 50 students for primary classrooms, 48 students for preparatory classrooms and 41.5 for

⁸ Metwally, A. M., et al. (2023). Prevalence and risk factors of disabilities among Egyptian preschool children: a community-based population study. *BMC psychiatry*, 23(1), 689. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12888-023-05171-3>



The MoETE needs to increase the number of schools, classes and teachers for all levels, but the kindergarten is the most in need.



Improvements are still needed to deliver higher quality educational services. The MoETE needs to report on the number of qualified teachers as a better measure than the total number of teachers regardless of qualifications.

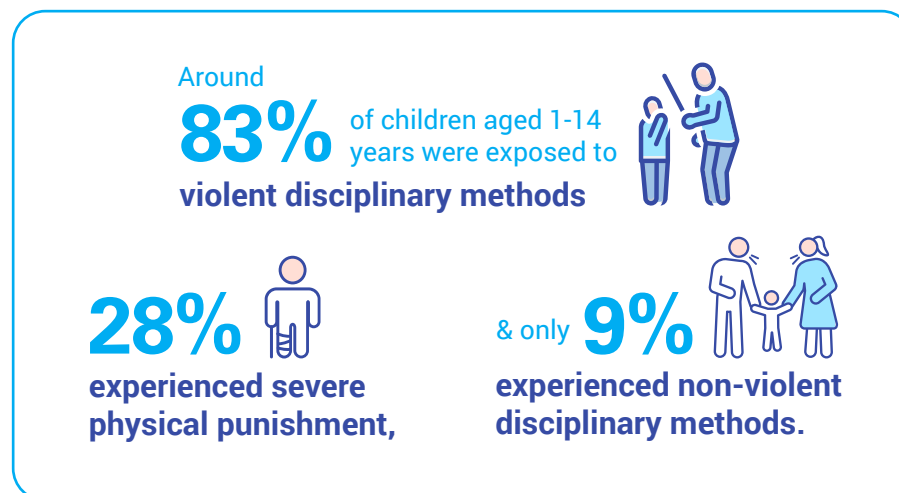


Reporting on special needs education is needed to follow up on the progress achieved and assess the quality of service being delivered.

general secondary ones with classes being even more crowded in public schools (about 53.2, 50.5 and 44.8, respectively). Similar challenges are reported for the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR), where the ratios reported in the MoETE's Statistical Yearbook 2023/2024 are higher than the threshold targeted by the ministry for 2027: PTR of 26 for primary level, 21 for preparatory and 21 for secondary level.

Looking at an assessment of the learning achievements from the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), Egypt achieved an average score of 413 in 2019 for the eighth-grade mathematics and 389 for the eighth-grade science, meeting the low benchmark for math and scoring below the low benchmark for science and ranking 34th out of 39 countries in mathematics and 37th out of 39 in science. Additionally, in 2021 Egypt scored 378 on the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) scale setting it below the low international benchmark with a low rank of 56th out of 57 participating countries.

Disciplinary practices and violence against children and adolescents. Around 83 per cent of children aged 1-14 years were exposed to violent disciplinary methods in the month prior to the 2021 EFHS survey, 28 per cent experienced severe physical punishment, and only 9 per cent experienced non-violent disciplinary methods. Overall, exposure to violent disciplinary methods declined 10 percentage points compared to results from the 2014 EDHS where 93 per cent of children aged 1-14 years were subjected to violent disciplinary methods. Children living in poorer households are more likely to be exposed to violent disciplinary methods than wealthier children, and girls are less likely to be exposed to violent disciplinary methods. Never-married females aged 15-29 years are more likely to report exposure to physical violence since age 15 compared to male youth (14 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively). Moreover, 22 per cent of never-married youth accept wife-beating, with never-married male youth being more likely to accept wife beating (30 per cent) than female youth (11 per cent), indicating some degree of normalization of violence among youth specially males.



- ✔ **Efforts to promote positive parenting and foster non-violent discipline** need to continue to leverage on what was achieved. Programmes and initiatives need to address psychological aggression more deeply to ensure parents' understanding of what constitutes physiological violence and how to avoid it while cultivating self-control and positive parenting methods.
- ✔ **Awareness raising campaigns targeting adolescents** are needed to educate them on the adverse consequences of various forms of violence, how to manage any incidences, reporting channels ..etc.
- ✔ **Mainstreaming gender dimensions into existing child protection services** to appropriately address issues related to gender-based violence, while integrating child-sensitive aspects in women services.



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Child labour. It is estimated that 1.3 million children aged 5-17 years are engaged in child labour activities and about 900,000 are exposed to hazardous work environments⁹. Child labour has reached 4.9 per cent as reported in the EFHS 2021. Remarkable discrepancies have been observed by background characteristics. Seven per cent of male children aged 5-17 years are considered to be involved in child labour compared to 3 per cent among female children. Child labour rate in rural areas is twice the rate in urban areas (6 per cent versus 3 per cent, respectively). Also, 10 per cent of children aged 5-17 years and in the lowest wealth quintile are engaged in child labour activities compared to only 1.5 per cent among those in the highest wealth quintile. It is also worth noting that the highest level of child labour is observed among those whose mother is deceased (13 per cent). Parents education is also correlated with child labour. Moreover, child labour affects school attendance where 10 per cent of children who are not attending school are engaged in child labour compared to 4 per cent among those attending school. Additionally, a logistic regression analysis utilizing the 2021 EFHS dataset confirms that the above-mentioned factors are significantly associated with child labour.



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- ✓ **There is a need to expand social protection programmes or design other programmes to support families with children at risk** of being involved in child labour, especially that impact of the current economic crisis and high inflation rates put more children at risk of being engaged in child labour activities⁹.
- ✓ **Strengthening the inspection mechanism and law enforcement** and promoting effective coordination among relevant stakeholders is crucial to combat child labour⁹.
- ✓ **Enhance supportive services for children at risk of dropping out of school** and also expand school/education opportunities to out-of-school children aged 5-17 to enrol them in community schools⁹.
- ✓ **Child-friendly protection services to prevent and respond to child labour is needed.** This can be achieved by strengthening the capacity of social workers, enhancing referral systems, mainstreaming child protection across sectors, strengthening community-based structures, and improving data collection mechanisms⁹.

⁹ UNICEF. (2023). Child Labour: Eradicating of child labour in Egypt, UNICEF Egypt June 2023. Retrieve from: <https://www.unicef.org/egypt/media/11851/file/Child%20Labour:%20Eradicating%20Child%20Labour%20in%20Egypt.pdf>

Harmful traditional Practices. Trends in FGM show decline over the years especially among daughters aged 0-19 years, however further decline in this harmful practice is still needed. The prevalence of FGM among daughters is currently 14 per cent⁶, and around 13 per cent are at risk of being circumcised by age 19 years.

The EFHS 2021 results indicated that around 39 per cent of never-married female youth aged 15-24 years are circumcised with some variations by age where 38 per cent of never-married females aged 15-19 years are circumcised, while this percentage increases to 41 per cent among those in the age group 20-24 years. Data indicated that FGM is more common in rural areas, especially rural Upper Egypt, and among females of lower educational attainment, and among those in the two lowest wealth quintiles. The majority of FGM procedures were performed between the ages 9-12 years, which is associated with puberty. Despite the law that criminalizes the FGM practice, the majority of never-married female youth aged 15-24 years were circumcised by a doctor (71 per cent) and 7.5 per cent of circumcisions are performed by nurses.


Results from the 2021 EFHS and the 2014 EDHS among ever-married women aged 15-24 years also document a decline in FGM but at a lower rate than among never-married women. In 2014, 88 per cent of ever-married women aged 15-24 years have been circumcised; this percentage decreased to 71 per cent in 2021. The decline was more profound among the age cohort 15-19 years where the prevalence of FGM dropped from 88 per cent in 2014 to 67 per cent in 2021. It is worth noting that the reported decline in FGM, especially among older age groups is unjustified and raises a concern about data reliability and the accuracy and transparency of respondents' answers in the 2021 EFHS.



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- ✓ **Effective implementation of FGM law** needs to take place along with tailored interventions for medical personnel including doctors and nurses.
- ✓ **Understanding health care providers perception and attitudes towards performing FGM is essential.** Thus, there is a need to regularly collect data from health care providers to monitor changes with regards to their awareness, attitudes and perceptions about FGM.
- ✓ **Strengthening monitoring, evaluation and accountability** across the health sector could support eliminating the practice.
- ✓ **There is a need to conduct a follow up study** to validate results of the 2021 EFHS on FGM as the reported decline especially among older age cohorts seems to be unreasonable.

The prevalence of FGM dropped from



88% in 2014 → to → **67%** in 2021, among ever-married women aged 15-19 years.

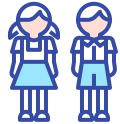
Refugee and asylum-seeking children. The UNHCR reports indicated that 90 per cent of refugee children under-five years have their birth registered by civil authority. The Government of Egypt (GoE), UNHCR, World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF and other partners cooperate closely to protect migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in various ways, including in the form of cash transfers, food assistance, housing assistance and legally recognised identity documents. However, some gaps exist; only 21 per cent of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) are in alternative care arrangements and only one third of economically vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers receive cash transfers or in-kind assistance.


With regards to education, the UNHCR reported high enrolment rates among refugee children, where in 2022, 85 per cent of refugee children were enrolled in primary education and 79 per cent were enrolled in secondary education. Additionally, UNHCR provided a total of 56,200 education grants to refugee children to enrol in public, private and community schools with about 600 enhanced education grants for children with disability. In contrast, in 2023, UNICEF has conducted a telephone based survey as part of a real time monitoring exercise to better understand the situation of the newly displaced Sudanese population in Egypt; indicative findings revealed that from a sample of those who are registered to receive cash support (from an overall pool of more than 80,000 individuals) of the WFP-UNICEF cash assistance program, 45 per cent of Sudanese displaced children were not enrolled in school as of May 2024 declining from 55 per cent in November 2023¹⁰.



More inclusive national data systems to consider non-Egyptians living in the country and children living in alternative care institutions.

¹⁰ UNICEF. (2023). Situation of the Sudanese Displaced Population in Egypt: Key findings of phone-based survey and FGDs.

85% 
of refugee children were
enrolled in primary
education

79% 
of refugee children were
enrolled in secondary
education.



Adolescent and youth economic participation. Participation in economic activity is much higher among males than females, where around 20 per cent of male youth aged 15-19 years are employed compared to only 2.6 per cent of females within the same age group¹¹. In addition, around 52 per cent of male youth aged 20-24 years are employed, compared to only 14 per cent of female youth.

The unemployment rate among youth aged 15-29 years has reached 17 per cent with significant gender discrepancies. In 2022, the unemployment rate was around 11 per cent among male youth and increases to 42 per cent among females. There has been a continuous decline in unemployment rate between 2017 and 2021 among males while it increased among female youth; however, in 2022 there was an increase in unemployment rate for both males and females aged 15-19 years. A study conducted by UNICEF in 2023 indicated that unemployment is associated with education where unemployment increases with higher educational levels and is also higher among those in wealthier quantiles compared to poorer ones. These discrepancies indicate lack of quality job opportunities and highlight the clear mismatch between educational attainment and labour market demands.

Youth aged 15-24 years who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET) were estimated to be around 30 per cent in 2020¹². In addition, in 2021, the World Bank utilizing the International Labour Organisation (ILO) database estimated the NEET¹³ in Egypt to be 28.7 per cent.¹⁴

Youth civic participation is very limited in Egypt. A recent study on young people (18-29 years old) indicated that only 11 per cent of youth participate in voluntary work¹⁵. Those findings are not far from what was observed in the 2014 Survey of Young People in Egypt (SYPE). In this regard, many programmes and initiatives were recently implemented to promote youth involvement in community activities. On top of those programmes are the *Presidential Leadership Program (PLP)*, *Your Work in your Village*, *Our Future in Our Hands* and *Digital Egypt Youth Initiative*.



Mapping job market for skill sets and demands to equip youth with relevant skills will help match market needs and subsequently lower unemployment.



Awareness raising interventions are needed to encourage youth participation in their community.



¹¹ Central Agency for public mobilization and statistics (CAPMAS). (2023). Annual Bulletin of Labor Force Survey 2022: Cairo - CAPMAS

¹² Ahmed, Omar. (2023). Youth not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) and Political Stability in Egypt and Tunisia: Comparative Political Economy Perspective.

¹³ NEET is defined by the World Bank as the proportion of young people who are not in education, employment, or training to the total population of young people (ages 15-24) or (25-29) or both groups.

¹⁴ World Bank. (2022). Share of youth not in education, employment or training, total (% of youth population) Egypt, Arab Rep., International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT database. Retrieve from: bit.ly/3G78uBf.

¹⁵The Egyptian Cabinet - Information and Decision Support Center. (2021). Egyptian youth interests survey, October 2021.



01.

Context



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Devaluation of the Egyptian pound followed by rise in prices (Nov 2023/Nov 2022) reaching an increase of about

35%
for commodities and services



65%
for food and beverages.



More than **500,000** Sudanese have been displaced and moved to Egypt



The number of refugees and asylum-seekers hosted by Egypt has reached approximately

672,000 from 62 nationalities.





UNICEF Egypt carried out an extensive situation analysis (SitAn) of children, adolescents and young people in Egypt in 2021. Since then, several developments have occurred globally, regionally and in Egypt placing more pressure on the economy. The devaluation of the Egyptian Pound was followed by price rises reaching 35 per cent for commodities and services and 65 per cent for food and beverages in November 2023 compared to November 2022 (CAPMAS, December 2023a). This economic crisis is expected to push more people into poverty. Additionally, population projections by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) show an expected increase in population during the coming years, which will add more challenges and burden on public services. At the global level, the Russia-Ukraine War affected the global economy, triggering in-country inflation, while the armed conflicts and civil war in Sudan also had some adverse implications on Egypt. More than 500,000 Sudanese have been displaced and moved to Egypt, and according to UNHCR, as of June 2024, the number of refugees and asylum-seekers hosted by Egypt has reached approximately 672,000 from 62 nationalities. Moreover, the natural disasters that occurred in Libya forced some Egyptians working in Libya to return to Egypt. Finally, the ongoing humanitarian disaster in Gaza is likely to have an impact on the entire region.

Accordingly, the urgent need to update the SitAn of 2021 was recognized to integrate the most recent data available to serve as a key evidence base for child rights monitoring at the national and subnational level. The SitAn will inform the national development agenda and discuss strategic priorities for future programmes. The SitAn will also be a key programmatic output identifying gaps in the situation of children and adolescents including any inequities, and pinpointing challenges and opportunities using a rights-based approach. In addition, the SitAn will help to inform child-focused policy dialogue and advocacy efforts in Egypt in order to contribute to accelerating the achievement of child-related equity-focused goals, by promoting the broad engagement of all stakeholders.

This report provides an overview of the main findings, opportunities and challenges from the analysis of all the documents and data available on children, adolescents and young people in Egypt until mid of 2024¹⁶. This chapter presents a demographic profile, main indicators of poverty as well as a gender profile and the humanitarian risk profile.

¹⁶ For the purpose of this report, children are defined as those below the age of eighteen years, adolescents as those aged 10-19 years, and young people as those aged 10-24 years.

Key Objectives of the SitAn

The main purpose of the SitAn is to:

- ✓ **Provide a key evidence base** for child rights monitoring (CRM) at national and subnational levels.
- ✓ **Identify knowledge gaps** related to child and adolescent inequities and deprivations.
- ✓ **Identify priority areas** for UNICEF and the Government of Egypt's programme of cooperation towards accelerating the achievement of child-related equity.

1.1 Demographic profile

This section provides an overview of the total population, disability prevalence and life expectancy in Egypt. Egypt is the most populated Arab country with the population reaching around 105.2 million in 2023, according to the estimates of the CAPMAS (2023). Overall, 51.4 per cent of the Egyptian population are males and 48.6 per cent are females. Urban-rural distribution indicates that more people are living in rural than urban areas: around 57 per cent of the total population live in rural areas and 43 per cent live in urban areas.

As of December 2023, CAPMAS Statistical Yearbook indicates that the proportion of children (0-17 years) is 38 per cent of the total population and around 9.8 per cent are children under-five years old. Around 32.2 per cent of the total population are in the age group 0-14 years. Adolescents in the age cohort of 10-19 years

represent 19 per cent of the population. In total, around 41.1 per cent of the population is under the age of 19 years, while 17.5 per cent are in the age 15-24 years, meaning that about half of Egypt's population is under age 25 years (49.7 per cent aged 0-24 years). In contrast, around 6 per cent only of the population is over 65 years (CAPMAS, December 2023b). Overall, data from the Statistical Yearbook of December 2023 shows a decline in the proportion of children and youth in the age cohort 0-24 years compared to that reported in January 2022 as 53 per cent (CAPMAS, 2022b).

Table 1.1 Life expectancy, Egypt 1976-2021
Life expectancy at birth by sex, Egypt, 1976-2021

Year	Male	Female
1976	52.7	57.7
1986	60.5	63.5
1996	65.1	69.0
2006	66.5	69.1
2017	68.8	73.2
2018	68.8	73.3
2019	68.6	73.4
2020	68.2	73.2
2021	67.2	72.2

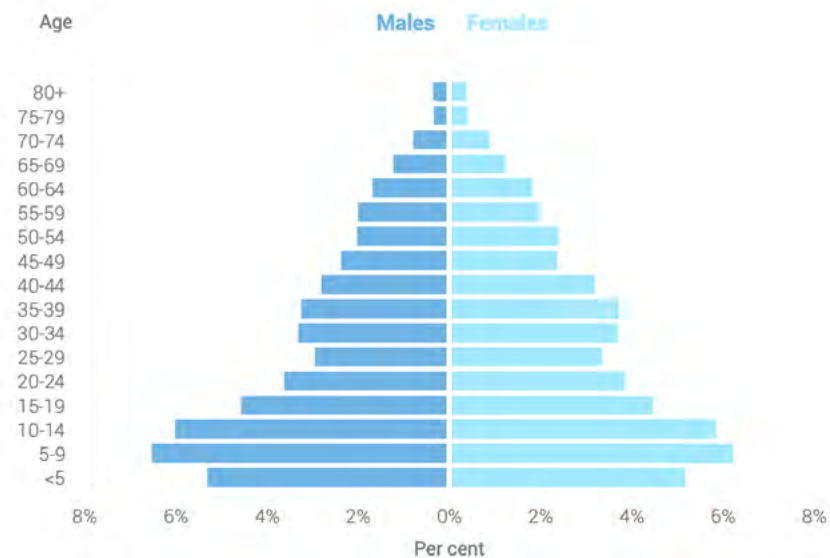
Source: CAPMAS. 2022a. EFHS 2021 Table 1.2

Egypt has experienced a steady rise in life expectancy for both males and females during the last decade, meaning today's younger populations will live much longer (see *Table 1.1*). However, life expectancy declined slightly in 2020 and 2021. This may be due to the COVID-19 pandemic that was associated with high mortality rates. In 2021, the average life expectancy at birth in Egypt reached 72.2 years for females and 67.2 years for males (EFHS, 2021).

Figure 1.1 shows the population pyramid based on the Egypt Family Health Survey (EFHS) 2021 data. Results indicated a decline in fertility during the past five years preceding the survey, which is evident by the decline in the percentage of the population under the age of five. A continued decline in the crude birth rate (CBR), indicates that a further decline in fertility levels is expected in the future.

“Egypt has experienced a steady rise in life expectancy for both males and females during the last decade”

Figure 1.1 Population pyramid, Egypt 2021



Source: CAPMAS. 2020a. EFHS 2021, Figure 2.1



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Household composition

Household composition is associated with socioeconomic differences between households, which largely affect the welfare and health conditions of the household members. For example, female-headed households are more likely to be poorer than households headed by males. *Table 1.2* shows that, according to the results from the EFHS 2021, most Egyptian households are headed by males (83 per cent), while 17 per cent only are headed by females. Data indicates that female-headed households are more prevalent in urban than rural areas (19 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively).

The average household size reported in the EFHS 2021 is 4.0 members (see *Table 1.2*) with rural households being in average larger (4.1) than urban households (3.8).

The EFHS 2021 collected information about orphaned and foster children and results are presented in *Table 1.2*. The table indicates that around 4 per cent of households include orphaned and/or foster children with the majority of these households caring for single orphaned children.

Fertility level and Crude Birth Rate

Figure 1.2 illustrates the decline in Crude Birth Rate (CBR) over that past 10 years. In 2022, the CBR has reached 21.2 per 1000 population, showing a downward trend since 2015, when it was 29.6 per 1000 population. The decline in CBR over the last 10 years had its impact on fertility where total fertility rate (TFR) has declined between 2014 and 2021 from 3.5 births to 2.85 births per woman. The TFR differs by region where the lowest TFR was observed in Urban Governorates (2.18 births per woman), followed by Lower Egypt (2.66 births per woman), then Upper Egypt and Frontier governorates (3.30 and 3.41 births per woman, respectively). In addition, the wanted fertility¹⁷ has also declined to reach 2.14 births per woman in 2021, almost the replacement level, which indicates that further decline in the rate of population growth is expected to occur in the future.

¹⁷ Wanted fertility refers to the fertility rate if all unwanted births are avoided (i.e., excludes unwanted births from the total fertility rate).

Table 1.2 Household composition

Per cent distribution of households by sex of head of household, mean size of households and percentage of households with orphaned and foster children under 18 years of age, according to urban-rural residence, Egypt 2021

Characteristic	Urban	Rural	Total
Household headship			
Male	80.7	84.2	82.7
Female	19.3	15.8	17.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mean size of households	3.8	4.1	4.0
Percentage of households with orphans and foster children under 18 years of age			
Foster children ¹	1.0	1.1	1.1
Double orphans ²	0.1	0.1	0.1
Single orphans ³	3.0	2.9	2.9
Foster and/or orphan children	3.8	3.8	3.8
Number of households	13309	17358	30667

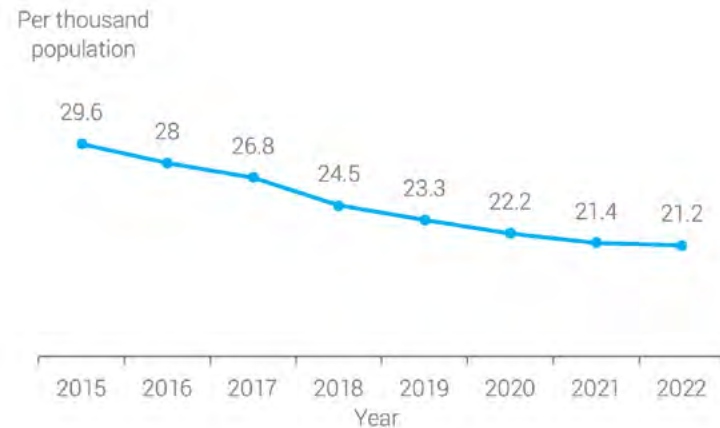
Note: Table is based on de jure household members, i.e., usual residents.

¹ Foster children are those under age 18 living in households with neither their mother nor their father present.

² Includes children who have lost both parents.

³ Includes children with one dead parent and an unknown survival status of the other parent.

Source: CAPMAS. 2022a. EFHS 2021. Table 2.2

Figure 1.2 Trends in crude birth, Egypt 2015-2022

Note: Rates are per thousand population.

Source: CAPMAS. 2023a. *Egypt in Figures*. P 33.

Disability Prevalence

The Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) Egypt Vision 2030 represents the government's commitment to integrate persons with disabilities within its agenda. Egypt, for long, has devoted efforts, designed initiatives and made necessary law amendments to improve the living conditions of people with disability including children and to reduce any inequalities they face. In 2016, Egypt passed the inclusive education law, which mandates that all children with mild disabilities have the right to receive an inclusive education in mainstream schools. In 2019, the government established the National Council for Disability Affairs, which emphasizes the rights of individuals with disabilities and encourages their full participation in society.

Results of the National Disability Survey implemented by CAPMAS indicates that overall, 4.9 per cent of the population have some degree of functional difficulty¹⁸. Among children

¹⁸ Unpublished results of the National Disability Survey conducted by CAPMAS in 2022. Special tabulations were developed by CAPMAS and provided to UNICEF to be used in this report.

and young people aged 0-24 years, 3.4 per cent have some degree of functional difficulty to perform their daily activities and 1.6 per cent are reported to have a lot of difficulty or cannot at all perform daily activities. Previous results from the Census 2017 data estimated that 5 per cent of children aged 5-17 years have some degree of functional difficulty in their daily activities, while 2.6 per cent of children aged 5-17 years have moderate to severe disabilities. The 2017 data indicated that children aged 5-17 years have more difficulties in cognitive and learning activities (about 2 per cent) rather than physical difficulties (estimated to be around 1.0 to 1.5 per cent). 5.2 per cent of youth aged 18-29 years face slight to absolute functional limitations. The data indicated that prevalence of difficulties and disability increases with age. Special attention must be given to people with disabilities, and in particular girls due to the additional structural barriers they face, to ensure they are able to access their rights, just like other children.



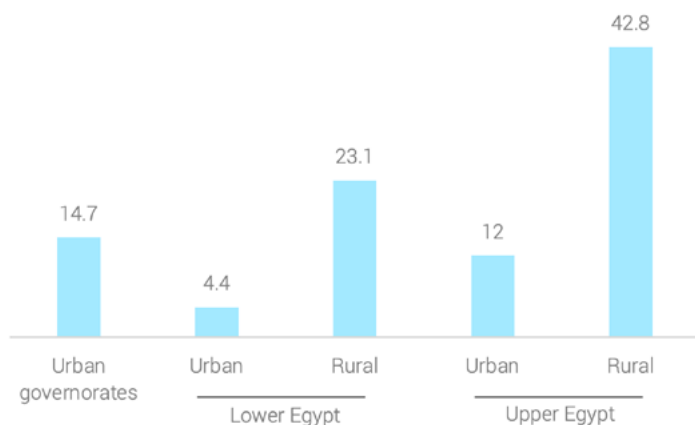
1.2 Poverty

Currently, poverty is one of the most serious challenges facing households and accordingly impacts children and young people. Latest available data published from the Household Income, Expenditure and Consumption Survey (HIECS) 2019/2020, indicates that around 30 per cent of the total population is considered poor (29.7 per cent), declining for the first time since the 1999/2000 HIECS. More recent data from the 2021/2022 HIECS is expected to be published soon; however it is expected that the recent poverty estimates will show an increase due to the economic distress related to the devaluation and resulting inflation.

HIECS 2019/2020 results indicated that 43 per cent of the population in rural Upper Egypt are poor, i.e., unable to meet their basic food and non-food needs (see Figure 1.3). The majority of poor live in rural areas, where around two thirds of the poor are reported to be living (CAPMAS, 2020). So, even though the rural Upper Egypt population accounts for 26 per cent of Egypt's population, it hosts 43 per cent of the poor population in the country.

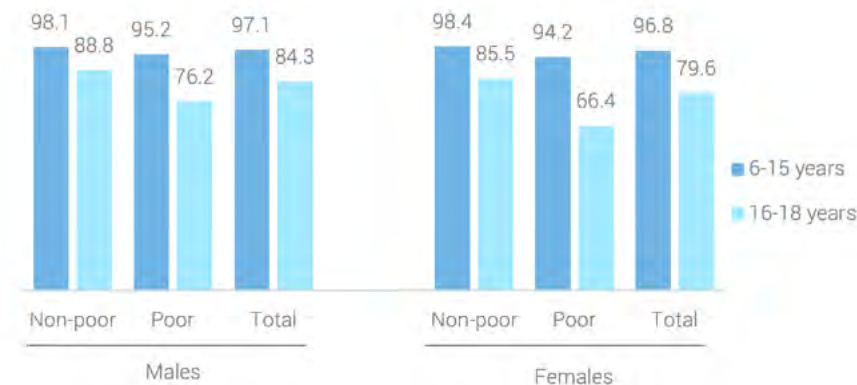
Poverty increases with family size, with only 7 per cent of individuals who live in families with less than 4 members are poor. This percentage increases to 48 per cent among individuals who live in families with 6-7 members. Furthermore, 81 per cent of individuals who live in families with 10 or more members are poor (CAPMAS, 2020).

Figure 1.3 Distribution of poor population by place of residence in 2019/2020



Source: CAPMAS. December 2020. Indicators of poverty from HIEC 2019/2020.

Figure 1.4 School enrolment rate among poor and non-poor children, by child's age in 2019/2020



Source: CAPMAS. December 2020. Indicators of poverty from HIECS 2019/2020

HIECS results also indicated that school enrolment rates slightly differ for children according to both poverty level and gender. Figure 1.4 shows that poor girls aged 16-18 years are the least likely to be enrolled in education, thus increasing the school dropout rates among this subgroup and subjecting them to the risk of child marriage.

Evidence indicates that there is an overlapping and intersecting nature to deprivation, meaning that child poverty involves multidimensional factors. These factors include access to water and sanitation, housing, education, health and nutrition, protection and information. The multidimensional child poverty analysis conducted in 2017 utilizing the 2014 EDHS data indicated that 29.4 per cent of children aged 0-17 years experienced deprivation in two or more dimensions, 8.8 per cent are deprived in three or more dimensions and 1.9 are deprived in four or more dimensions. According to the study, the highest percentage of multidimensional poverty is reported among children under-five (37.1 per cent); this percentage declines gradually among older age groups to reach 27.2 per cent among children aged 5-11 years and 23.8 among children aged 12-17 years. Overall, rural children aged 0-17 years experienced much higher levels of multidimensional poverty (35.3 per cent) compared to children residing in urban areas (18 per cent) (MoSS, CAPMAS and UNICEF, 2017).

Social protection

Social protection is anchored in international human rights principles and is a key policy tool for building resilience, combating poverty and improving economic and social outcomes among vulnerable individuals and families. It can protect people from life-cycle contingencies and social protection policies can be implemented through three main instruments, depending, for instance, on the person's age or work status:

- Non-contributory/ tax-financed social assistance, commonly provided to extremely poor individuals or households in the form of cash and/or in-kind transfers.
- Contributory or semi-subsidized social insurance schemes, with compulsory or voluntary participation, normally financed by workers' and employers' contributions to provide protection against various types of risks of income loss caused by livelihood shocks, including illness and disability, and in certain life circumstances such as maternity benefits and old-age pensions.
- Labour market policies that generally aim to realize people's right to work, promote employment and provide unemployment protection.

The Government of Egypt provides both non-contributory and contributory social protection schemes. The EFHS 2021 results indicate that quite a large percentage of households have access to *Tamween* food subsidies via a ration card (88 per cent), 1 in 10 households receive *Takaful* and *Karama* conditional cash transfers, 6 per cent of households receive social security pension, and 7 per cent of households benefit from other government support services/ programmes.

In terms of social health insurance, the government has been investing in the expansion of its new universal health insurance system, which was established following promulgation of the Universal Health Insurance Law of 2018 (2/2018). It aims to provide mandatory health coverage for all citizens; including vulnerable groups, whose contributions would be financed through government subsidies. Additionally, it offers optional coverage for Egyptians living abroad. Moreover, the bylaw of the Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS) stipulated that all foreigners residing in Egypt, including refugees and asylum seekers, shall be covered by comprehensive health insurance (ILO 2023). In 2019, a pilot of universal health insurance started in three governorates: Port Said, Ismailia, Luxor, and was expanded in late 2023 to three additional governorates: Suez, South Sinai and Aswan.

Takaful and Karama Programme (TKP)

In 2015, the Ministry of Social Solidarity, in cooperation with other partners, began implementing two cash support programmes with the aim of supporting the poorest groups in the villages of Upper Egypt and in some areas adjacent to Cairo and Giza governorates, where some families were identified to suffer from extreme poverty. TKP is part of the social protection network and support management system which has many economic, social, and humanitarian objectives. ***Takaful programme*** targets poor families with children in various educational stages up to the secondary level, and young people in poverty who need health care services. As for ***Karama*** component of the programme is unconditional cash support directed to the elderly over 65 years of age with no fixed income who are unable to work, low-income orphans, and people with disabilities.

As of mid-July 2024, **TKP is reaching 5.2 million families** (MoSS, 2024). The TKP programme was designed to reach families that are eligible for the assistance and targeted through geographical targeting and the proxy mean testing (PMT) to identify the poorest families. In addition, a detailed system was developed for external verification of registered beneficiary data and a disbursement mechanism for cash assistance through post offices across Egypt. To support the implementation of the program, a management information system had been utilized and is constantly updated for the three processes of "registration," "verification," and "payment" for cash assistance.

The government is also implementing several labour market programmes to support the economic empowerment of Egyptians. Most prominent is the MoSS-run *FORSA* (Opportunity) programme which, through a Cash Plus approach, links beneficiaries of *Takaful* with wage-employment or income-generating projects (UNDP 2021).



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1.3 Humanitarian risk profile

There are several challenges at the global, regional and local levels imposing humanitarian risks and increasing vulnerability. This section presents challenges that Egypt is currently facing and will continue to endure in the future which will have implications on the whole population and more severe impact on marginalized groups and children.

Currency devaluation and inflation

For decades, Egypt had a fixed exchange rate policy against the US dollar. After the Egyptian revolution in 2011, the Egyptian economy struggled due to a decline in tourism as well as a reduction in foreign currency reserves. In 2016, the GoE sought to obtain a \$12 billion IMF loan, which required the country to adopt a floating exchange rate policy. Accordingly, the first currency devaluation took place causing the Egyptian pound to decline from about EGP 8/US\$ to EGP 20/US\$. The pressure has been building since then on the Egyptian economy due to rising debt and servicing costs. Since the Russia-Ukraine crisis in early 2022, Egypt devaluated the Egyptian Pound three times reaching about EGP 49.2/\$US with even higher rates on the black market. According to the CAPMAS, as shown in *Figure 1.5*, the headline inflation rate and food and beverages inflation rates have hit an all-time high record of 38 per cent and 74 per cent in September 2023 respectively compared with 7.3 per cent and 14.2 per cent in January 2022. Since then, the headline inflation rate has decreased reaching 25.7 per cent in July 2024 and food and beverages inflation have decreased reaching 28.6 per cent, which is still high despite the decrease.

Since 2022, Egypt devaluated the Egyptian Pound three times reaching about

EGP 49.2/US\$

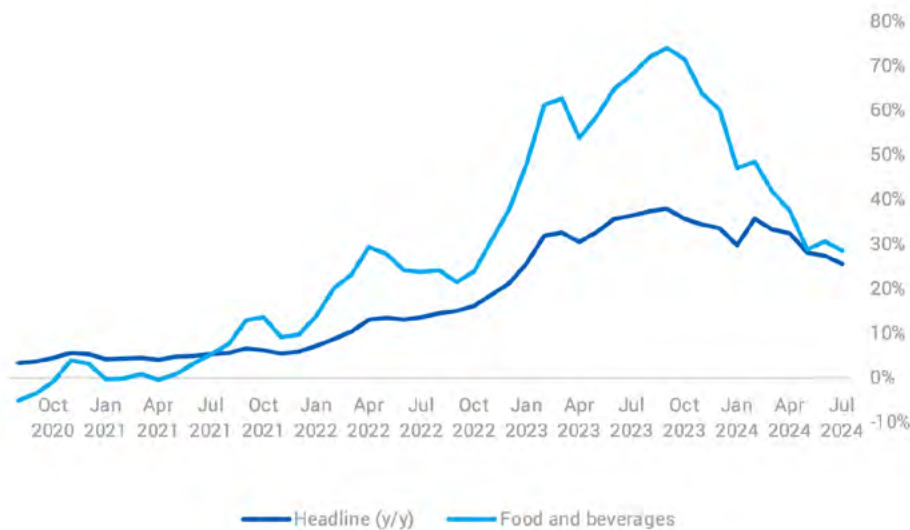
with even higher rates on the black market.



The weakening of the Egyptian Pound and the soaring inflation rate inflict a great burden on Egyptians, especially those economically vulnerable and living under the poverty line. The global and local surge in food prices raises concerns about food security, food consumption and the nutritional status of the population, particularly children. The inflationary trend from January 2022 to December 2022 mostly affected the prices of bread and cereal, which increased by 58.3 per cent. The prices of milk, cheese and eggs also increased by 48.9 per cent in December 2022. These are essential components of a child's diet. A study based on a phone survey conducted by CAPMAS in 2022 on the impact of Russia-Ukraine crisis on Egyptian Families, indicated that price increases pushed 74 per cent of households to change their food consumption patterns, 93 per cent reduced their protein consumption, and about two thirds of households reduced their consumption of eggs, vegetables and fruits (CAPMAS, 2022c).



Figure 1.5 Headline Inflation and Food & Beverages Inflation, Egypt 2020-2024



Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), and CBE calculations.

Climate change

Climate change poses fundamental threats to humanity which can cause havoc to the world, with the impact likely to hit lower income countries the hardest. The impact of climate change on food, water security, and climate-related natural hazards will be most felt amongst vulnerable populations causing more inequalities, hunger, instability, violence and displacement.

Egypt has a dry climate and receives low annual precipitation mainly along its coastal line. In 2018, Egypt's annual per capita share of water totalled to 570 cubic meters which is below the international threshold set at 1,000 cubic meters (MPED, 2021). The rising temperatures and the intensity of associated heat waves put massive strains on the country's agriculture including crops and livestock. Rising temperatures also impact water supplies and energy, which subsequently negatively impacts public health and food security (Bhattacharya, A., Kharas, H. & McArthur, J., 2023). Additionally, the controversial Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam might have devastating implications on water supply and agriculture as the per capita share of water will decline further below the unfavourable level reported in 2018. Moreover, the estimated sea level rise of about 1.0m by the year 2100 poses a threat to coastal areas in the Nile Delta.

Based on the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative's (ND-GAIN) index, Egypt is ranked 104th out of 185 countries in 2021, indicating the country's high vulnerability to climate change. In 2023, the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) ranked Egypt 20th out of 59 countries and the EU. The CCPI is an independent monitoring tool used to track the performance of 59 countries and the EU with regards to the implementation of policies working towards achieving the Paris Agreement goals. The index factors in renewable energy, energy use, climate policy and gas emissions, placing bigger weight on gas emissions compared to each of the other three categories. Egypt achieved high ratings in greenhouse gas emission and energy use, and medium rating in climate policy, but very low rating in renewable energy suggesting the need to develop policies focusing on promoting the use of renewable energy.

UNICEF released the Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI): Egypt report in 2022. The CCRI provides a comprehensive overview of the exposure and vulnerability of children to multiple climate and environmental shocks (UNICEF, 2022b). According to the CCRI: Egypt report, children are more vulnerable to climate change than adults due to being naturally more physically vulnerable and less likely to survive climate and environmental shocks, as well as being physiologically more vulnerable to toxins such as lead and other forms of pollution. Children are at a higher risk of death from diseases that are likely to be exacerbated by climate change compared to adults. *Table 7.3* shows that Egypt's overall CCRI score is 5.6 placing it at the high-risk class. Looking at the two pillars of the index, Egypt scored 7.3 out of 10 for exposure to climate and environmental shocks indicating extreme high-risk level. On the other hand, Egypt scored 3 out of 10 on vulnerability of children to the negative effects of climate and environmental shocks falling into the low-medium classification. The report also indicates Egypt's high vulnerability to climate change due to projected increase in heat waves, storms and extreme weather events. This report indicates that children in Egypt are extremely vulnerable to the risks associated with coastal flooding, soil and water pollution, air pollution and heatwaves. Egypt scores also indicate high risk in relation to water scarcity and a medium-high risk for vector borne diseases. It is estimated that 5.3 million children are exposed to heatwaves in Egypt and this number is expected to increase due to the forecasted increase in temperature and heatwaves and the population growth in the country. Within pillar two, children in Egypt are considered to be at a medium-high risk of vulnerability due to inadequate health and nutrition and also fall into the same severity class due to poverty and inadequacy of social protection. Egypt's CCRI score on vulnerability due to inadequate education and learning is 2.3, placing the country in the low-medium severity class, while the score against inadequate WASH is 0.7 indicating low severity. In conclusion, children in Egypt are facing multiple risk factors due to exposure and vulnerability to climate and environmental shocks, with extremely high levels of risks on four specific components as mentioned earlier. These risks are multiple and overlapping, and expected to increase in the future, thus heightening the climate risk faced by children in Egypt.



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Table 1.3 Children's Climate Risk Index



Egypt score on the index pillars and relative components, Egypt 2022

Components of CCRI score	Score	Risk class
Pillar 1: Exposure to climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses		
Coastal flooding	10	Extremely high
Soil and water pollution	9.8	Extremely high
Air pollution	9.4	Extremely high
Heatwaves	7.2	Extremely high
Water scarcity	6.2	High
Vector borne diseases	4.2	Medium-high
Riverine flooding	0.1	Low
Cyclones	0	Low
Overall exposure to environmental risks	7.3	Extremely high
Pillar 2: Child Vulnerability		
Inadequate health and nutrition	4.7	Medium-high
Poverty and inadequate social protection	4.3	Medium-high
Inadequate education and learning	2.3	Low-medium
Inadequate WASH	0.7	Low
Overall children vulnerability to environmental risks	3	Low-medium
Overall CCRI score	5.6	High

Source: UNICEF. (2022b). Children's Climate Risk Index: Egypt Report.

To support a greener and more climate-resilient Egypt, and to mitigate the implications of climate change, Egypt has adopted several strategies: the emerging Long Term Low Emission Development Strategy 2050 (LT-LEDS), the National Climate Change Strategy 2050 (NCCS), the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030 and the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change. Additionally, the GoE has developed more strategies at the sectoral level including Integrated Sustainable Energy Strategy 2035, National Energy Efficiency Action Plan II (2018–2022), National Water Resources Plan (2017-2037), Integrated Solid Waste Management Strategy and Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy towards 2030 (SADS 2030). Finally, Egypt has updated its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in June 2022 in alignment with the aforementioned strategies.

Takeaways from Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

- 
By 2030, Egypt strides to reduce CO₂ emissions by 33 per cent within the electricity sector, 65 per cent in oil and gas sector and 7 per cent in transportation sector.
- 
Egypt commits to installing more renewable energy capacities to generate 42 per cent of electricity by 2035.
- 
Egypt put in place more policy actions and measures to adapt to the revised NDC.

Migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and armed conflicts in the region

Egypt is a destination country and a transit hub for refugees, migrants and asylum seekers across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. During recent years, various political conflicts in the region led to an increase in the number of refugees coming from Syria, Sudan and Yemen and other countries. According to UNHCR, as of June 2024, the number of refugees and asylum-seekers hosted by Egypt has reached approximately 672,000 from 62 nationalities, with Sudanese becoming the nationality making up the largest portion of Egypt's refugee and asylum-seeker population (UNHCR, June 2024).

Amid the civil war in Syria, humanitarian crisis caused displacement of millions of Syrians who found refuge across the world. As of June 2024, Egypt hosts 156,000 registered Syrian refugees. Since the conflict in Sudan in April 2023, more than 500,000 Sudanese who have fled Sudan entered Egypt (UNHCR, April 2024), of which 392,000 have been registered as refugees and asylum seekers with UNHCR (UNHCR, June 2024). About two fifths of the registered refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt are children. Furthermore, the number of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) at-risk reached a high of 7,314 (UNHCR Bulletin, May 2024). The current ongoing war in Gaza raises an alarming humanitarian need. As the humanitarian crisis intensifies and protracts, the spillover effect and implications on the humanitarian risk profile in Egypt is uncertain.

Over the years, Egypt has endorsed international agreements and developed laws and regulations to govern the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers. The GoE implemented overarching policies to address the needs of displaced populations living in Egypt and continues to reiterate its commitment to expand health and education services available to refugees and asylum-seekers.

According to Article 68 of the UHIS bylaws (Decree 909/Feb 2018) the government can design a new scheme to include refugees in the new health insurance system, thus providing refugees with the opportunity to enrol in the UHIS. The health insurance scheme offers preventive health services such as vaccinations, family planning, emergency services (excluding hospitalization) and pandemic-related health services free of charge to Egyptians and refugees. It is noted that the Health Access and Utilization Survey among Refugees in Egypt 2021 (HAUS) indicated that those who utilized a public facility paid on average EGP

As of June 2024, the number of refugees and asylum-seekers hosted by Egypt has reached approximately



672,000

from 62 nationalities,
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980 compared to EGP 1,228 paid by those who sought care from a private facility. The survey highlighted chronic diseases as one of the challenges refugees face in Egypt, having to pay on average EGP 400 per month out-of-pocket to obtain their medications and about 31 per cent of the survey respondents reported that they cannot afford their chronic medications (ILO, UNHCR, Kingdom of the Netherlands, 2023).

The Ministerial Decree No. 24/1992 grants children of recognized refugees access to public schools. Yet in 2023, the MoETE imposed \$2,000 fees for university registration for all foreign students including refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR, October 2023). In addition, to the change in fees policy for refugees joining universities, all refugees face challenges to meet school registration deadlines due to delays in issuing residency permits. Other challenges lie within the quality of service offered, overcrowding in public schools and safety inside and outside the school. Moreover, non-Arabic speaking refugees cannot benefit from the public system.

Despite government efforts and the commitment of UN organizations to support the refugee and asylum seeker population in Egypt, those populations are likely to still face challenging living conditions. A study on the Situation of the Sudanese Displaced Population in Egypt was conducted via a phone-based survey in three rounds (July, November 2023, May 2024) and was complemented with focus group discussions carried out in September 2023 (UNICEF, 2024). The focus group discussions portrayed hardships the Sudanese displaced population face in Egypt. More than 90 per cent of respondents representing displaced Sudanese live in poor housing conditions. They are likely to live in unsafe areas, share housing with 2 to 3 families, live in unfurnished apartments and mostly sleep on the floor. The July 2023 survey also indicated that 40 per cent of the respondents rely on assistance as their main source of income, and 93 per cent of them reported that assistance is insufficient, indicating that it can hardly cover meals and rent of a single day. In May 2024, 36 per cent of the main income earners in the surveyed households were able to find work since coming to Egypt, with an increase of 15 percentage points since November 2023, while more than half are actively searching for a job. One of the main challenges is the lack of official documents proving their skills and qualifications, which make them likely to settle for jobs that do not match their skills and expertise. Alarmingly, 45 per cent of children are not enrolled in schools in Egypt which is mainly due to the financial burden associated with school fees and other expenses. Sudanese respondents also reported on obstacles they encounter in accessing health care services. Around 17 per cent of the respondents reported encountering challenges in accessing health care services in Egypt due to financial constraints, as well as unavailability of services for new arrivals and lack of information on available resources and how to access them. The 2023 rounds indicated that more than two thirds of the Sudanese respondents suffer from chronic illnesses, and 60 per cent require monthly treatment. Moreover, 28 per cent of pregnant women are not able to receive antenatal care, 40 per cent of children under 2 years have not yet completed their essential vaccinations in May 2024, declining 20 percentage points from 2023. Twenty-six per cent of children under 2 are not breastfed, while over half of them are fed formula-milk. The survey also illustrated that a considerable percentage of respondents are psychologically impacted by the financial difficulties (69 per cent), housing conditions (24 per cent) and access to food (20 per cent) and health care (28 per cent). Furthermore, the mental health of slightly over one third of children was reported to have been negatively impacted as a result of the war



in Sudan and the displacement: 23 per cent became more fearful, 24 per cent cry and scream more often than usual, 20 per cent showed a tendency towards isolation, over 18 per cent were reported to exhibit aggressive behaviours and 16 per cent reported bedwetting. Around 37 per cent of respondents did not obtain a residency permit due to high fees as cited by 32 per cent of them; 25 per cent applied for it and have not received it yet, and 13 per cent obtained UNHCR residency. For those who obtained a residency permit, more than half of them paid the cost in dollars with average cost per person equal to US\$ 39.7; 37 per cent paid for it in EGP with the average cost equal to EGP 479.2. (UNICEF, 2023)

1.4 Gender profile

Achieving gender equality and women's empowerment are among Egypt's priorities and are clearly articulated in policies, national strategies and plans. The Egyptian constitution ensures equal treatment between women and men in all aspects, including economic life. Egypt has also ratified international conventions on gender equality, among them the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the ILO Convention concerning Discrimination in Employment and Occupation (OHCHR, 2023). Egypt is also committed to achieving the SDGs, with Goal 5 aiming to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

In 2023, Egypt ranked 134th out of the 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index¹⁹. However, it ranked 85th in women's political empowerment, while it ranked 140th out of 146 countries in women's economic participation and opportunity (World Economic Forum, 2023).

Egypt has witnessed positive progress across many areas, particularly women's health and maternal mortality, literacy and education, political representation, as well as harmful practices (particularly circumcision). However, Egypt's inequality challenges remain high, and its international ranking reflects the unfinished agenda. In the [current ministerial cabinet](#), there are four women serving as ministers, in addition to five deputy ministers. Also, the proportion of females in the Egyptian parliament has reached 27.7 per cent of seats representing 162 seats (14 women appointed and 148 women elected).²⁰

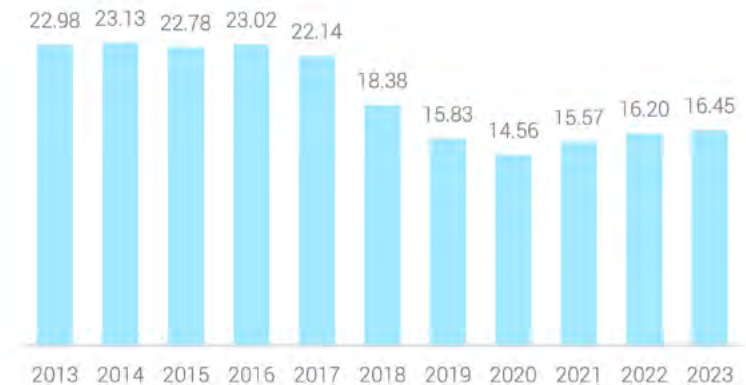
Despite all efforts towards women empowerment, female participation in the labour force is low and has unfortunately decreased in recent years (see *Figure 1.6*).

Harmful practices against women are still prevalent, where violence against women and girls (VAWG) remains common and official figures are considered underreported. The EFHS

¹⁹ Gender Gap Index: is calculated based on the average of gender gap in four main areas: Economic participation and opportunity, School attainment, Health and survival and political participation. Parity score for each indicator is calculated as the ration of the value of each indicator for women to the value of men. Parity score of 1 indicates full parity and distance for the full parity is the gender gap.

²⁰ UN Women Data Hub <https://data.unwomen.org/country/egypt>

Figure 1.6 Female labour force participation rate in Egypt 2013-2023



Source: World Bank. World Development Indicators database.

2021 indicated that around 31 per cent of ever-married women have experienced a form of violence, whether emotional, physical, or sexual, inflicted by the husband. Also, one third of women who were exposed to violence asked for help mainly from family, while only less than two per cent sought help from the police or a social service organization (CAPMAS, 2022a). Acceptance of domestic violence is declining over time where nearly 22 per cent of women interviewed in EFHS 2021 agree that the husband is justified in beating his wife, a decline from 36 per cent in the 2014 EDHS.

Child marriage is one of the harmful practices against females, since it is associated with dropping out of education and leads to early childbearing, which has detrimental effects on the health of girls. Child marriage is still prevalent in Egypt despite the law setting the minimum age for marriage at 18 years. The EFHS 2021 results indicated that among interviewed women aged 15-19 years, around 8 per cent are ever-married. Marriage at the exact age of 15 years increases from a 1 per cent prevalence among women aged 15-19 years to 4 per cent among those in the age cohort 40-49 years. Marriage at the exact age of 18 years also increases among older women.

In addition, female genital mutilation (FGM) is also among harmful practices against women and girls that were culturally normalized for a long time. Over time, there has been a slow continuous decline in the prevalence of FGM among ever-married women aged 15-49 years, reaching 86 per cent in the EFHS 2021 survey. According to the EFHS 2021, the percentage of circumcised girls aged 0-19 years has dropped from 21 per cent in the 2014 EDHS to reach 14 per cent in the EFHS 2021. Furthermore, the EFHS 2021 indicated that FGM among never-married adolescent girls aged 15-19 years is 38 per cent, and 41 per cent among never-married young women aged 20-24 years; this shows that the practice is declining but that more time is still needed to eliminate it. FGM is more prevalent in Upper Egypt compared to other regions, particularly in rural areas indicating that more efforts need to be channelled towards Upper Egypt to help accelerate the elimination of this practice.

Over the last two decades, educational attainment has been improved significantly among girls. Data from MoETE of the year 2023/2024 indicated that the gross enrolment rate (GER) is higher among females than males across all educational levels. The GER for kindergarten is 23.6 per cent among females and 22.9 per cent among males. GER for females is 104.5 per cent for primary education and 106.1 per cent for preparatory education compared to 101 per cent and 104.4 per cent for males, respectively. The gap in GER for general secondary education is 10 percentage points where the GER among females is 41.6 per cent compared to 31.7 per cent among males. These results indicate that the gender parity index (GPI) is in favour of females as it has reached 1.03 for both kindergarten and primary education, 1.02 for preparatory education and 1.3 for secondary level. (MoETE, 2024).





02.

Progress and inequities in child rights:

Life course analysis

This chapter adopts the life course analysis approach to identify progress achieved, intersectional risks, and vulnerabilities faced by children and adolescents at different stages of life: **a)** pre-birth up to early childhood, **b)** from childhood to adolescence, and **c)** from late adolescence to youth. Based on data available and existing analyses, this chapter provides an overview of the progress towards achieving SDG 2030 targets and the fulfilment of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).



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2.1 Pregnancy and birth: progress and inequalities

The first 1,000 days are very significant for a child's health and life. The right nutrition and health care during this period (starting from pregnancy) protects the child from health conditions and illnesses, such as obesity, and malnutrition. It also helps yield better outcomes for disorders, such as autism and mental illness if discovered early on. MoSS has designed and implemented an initiative during the period between 2017 and 2022 to increase community awareness of the first 1,000 days of a child's life with support of UNICEF and UNFPA.

Egypt has made significant progress in the key health and nutrition indicators on the well-being of young children. However, Egypt is currently experiencing gaps in the coverage of some of the key areas of intervention, resulting in suboptimal nutritional status among infants and young children.

2.1.1 Access to safe birth and survival

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all are the main targets of Goal 3 of the SDGs. In this regard, Egypt has achieved an improvement in maternal health and safe birth indicators during the last three decades. Data from the EFHS 2021 survey indicated that 90 per cent of pregnant women aged 15-49 years received regular antenatal care (4+ visits), an increase of about 7 percentage points from the 2014 EDHS (see *Figure 2.1*). Also, the EFHS 2021 indicated that medically assisted deliveries are almost universal (97 per cent compared with 92 per cent in 2014). However, caesarean deliveries have significantly increased putting Egypt as the country with the highest caesarean deliveries worldwide (72 per cent in the EFHS 2021 vs. 52 per cent in the 2014 EDHS). Caesarean deliveries impact early initiation of breastfeeding and consequently exclusive breastfeeding for the infant and increases the financial burden on the health care system.

The level of **postnatal care for newborns** increased from only

14% → to → **77%**
2014 EDHS → EFHS 2021



Figure 2.1 Trends in maternal health indicators and postnatal care for newborns, Egypt 2014-2021



* Last birth in 5-year period before survey. % pt.: percentage point

** All births in 5-year period before survey

*** Last birth in 2-year period before survey

A striking increase in postnatal care coverage for newborn babies has been observed between 2014 and 2021, where the level of postnatal care for newborns increased from only 14 per cent in the 2014 EDHS to 77 per cent in the EFHS 2021.

Inequalities in the maternal health indicators by urban-rural and region are clear, where all indicators are higher in urban than in rural areas and the lowest performance levels are reported in rural Upper Egypt. This indicates that children in rural areas, especially in rural Upper Egypt receive limited access to high quality health care services compared to those in urban areas.

Infant and child mortality

Over the past three decades, early childhood mortality has improved significantly in Egypt. The recent data from the EFHS 2021 indicates that neonatal mortality has reached 18 deaths per 1,000 live births, while infant mortality is 25 deaths per 1,000 live births, and under-five mortality is 28 per 1,000 live births (see *Figure 2.2*). These results are close to the targets set for SDG 3.2 which requires reducing neonatal mortality rate to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-five mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.

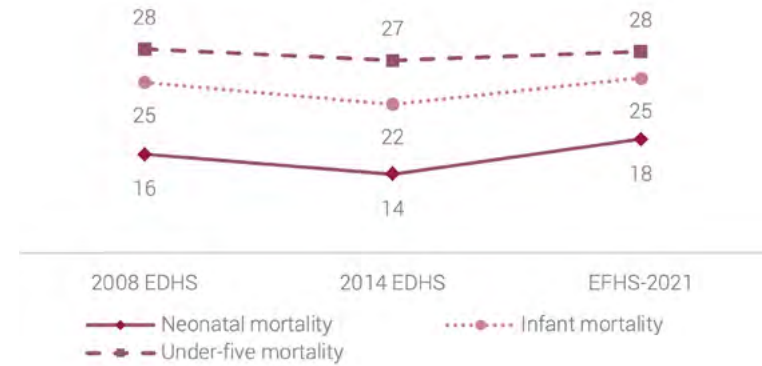
Despite the significant decline since the 1980s, the results indicate that there has been almost no change in infant and under-five mortality rates since the 2008 EDHS, while there is an observed increase in the level of neonatal mortality from 16 deaths per 1,000 live births in the 2008 EDHS to 18 per 1,000 in the EFHS 2021. As expected, data indicates that childhood mortality is higher among males than females²¹.

Differentials exist by place of residence, where children in rural areas are at a higher risk of mortality than those in urban areas. The under-five mortality rate in urban Upper Egypt is less by 8 deaths per 1,000 live births than rural area, and it is higher in rural Lower Egypt by more than 4 deaths per 1,000 live births than urban areas of Lower Egypt. Childhood mortality rate is still higher in Upper Egypt, especially rural areas than the other regions.

Looking at the change in childhood mortality between the 2014 EDHS and EFHS 2021, it is clear that more effort is needed to realize further reduction in infant (especially neonatal) and child mortality. Results presented in *Figure 2.3* show that under-five mortality has slightly increased between 2014 and 2021 in urban governorates and even more in urban Upper Egypt. Childhood mortality indicators continue to decline in Lower Egypt for both urban and rural areas. In addition, a significant decline has been reported in under-five mortality rates in frontier governorates. So, special attention must be given to urban governorates and Upper Egypt to accomplish more decline in childhood mortality rates in the future.

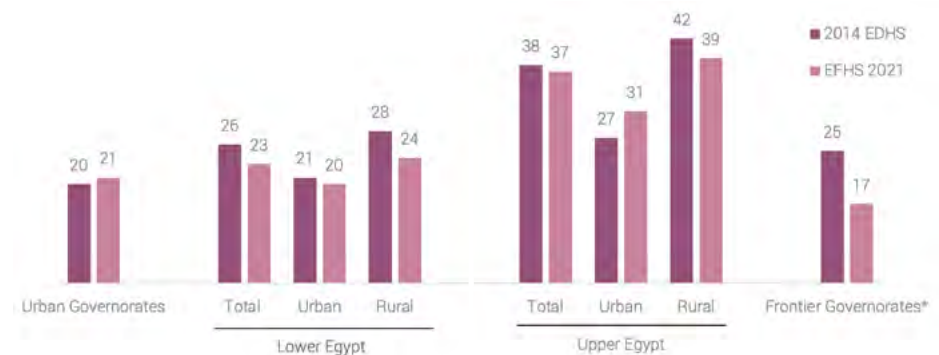
²¹ Globally, childhood mortality rates are higher among boys than girls. Calculations utilizing age specific mortality data between 1990 and 2021 for 200 countries, estimates mortality sex ratio to be 1:13 among ages 0-4. (Chao, Fengqing et al., 2023).

Figure 2.2 Trend in childhood mortality rates (per 1,000 live births)*, Egypt 2008-2021



* Rates are for the 5-year period preceding the survey.

Figure 2.3 Trend in under-five mortality (per 1,000 live births) by place of residence, Egypt 2014-2021**



* EFHS 2021 does not include North Sinai governorate, 2014 EDHS does not include North and South Sinai governorates.

** Rates are for the 10-year period preceding the survey.

Immunization

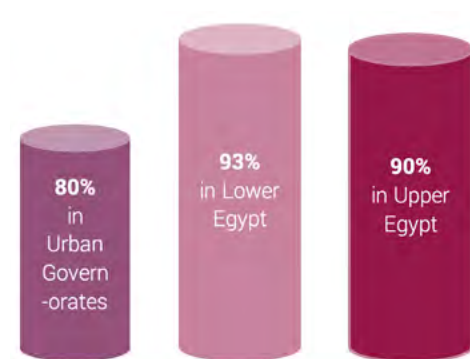
World Health Organization guidelines for childhood immunizations call for all children to receive a BCG vaccination against tuberculosis during their first year of life; three doses of the DPT vaccine to prevent diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus; three doses of polio vaccine; and a measles vaccination (MMR) to protect the child from some common diseases. According to the EFHS 2021 results, the immunization coverage for each of those vaccines is 94 per cent or more (see *Table 2.1*). Overall, 9 in 10 children aged 18-29 months had received all the required vaccinations.

Some variations are observed in immunization coverage by background characteristics. Female children are less likely than male children to be fully immunized. By region, as shown in *Figure 2.4*, children in urban governorates have the lowest immunization coverage compared to those in Lower and Upper Egypt. Additionally, urban areas have lower immunization coverage than rural areas (86 per cent and 92 per cent, respectively) with the lowest immunization coverage reported among children in urban governorates (80 per cent) and urban areas of Upper Egypt (85 per cent). There was a slight noticeable decline in the percentage of children aged 18-29 months

who have received all basic vaccinations in 2021 compared to 2014 (90 per cent and 89 per cent, respectively).

Immunization coverage declined significantly in urban governorates while it slightly increased in Upper Egypt and remained about the same in Lower Egypt. Compared to the 2014 EDHS, the percentage of children 18-29 months who are fully immunized have dropped about 10 percentage points in urban governorates. This decline may be due to the closure and precautions put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 which affected visiting the health facilities during this period, especially in urban areas.

Figure 2.4 Immunization levels by region, Egypt 2021



Source: CAPMAS. 2022a. EFHS 2021. *Table 10.3*

Table 2.1 Vaccinations

Percentage of children aged 18-29 months who received specific vaccines at any time before the survey, Egypt 2021

Vaccination	Per cent
BCG	99.2
PVT 1¹	99.1
PVT 2¹	96.6
PVT 3¹	94.9
Polio 0²	98.9
Polio 1	96.8
Polio 2	95.4
Polio 3	94.1
Measles	96.1
All basic vaccinations³	89.9
No vaccinations	0.7
Number of children	2501

¹ Children receiving PVT include (DPT, Hepatitis, Haemophilus influenza)

² Polio 0 is the polio vaccination given at birth.

³ A child is considered to be fully immunized if the child has received BCG, a measles or MMR vaccination, three DPT vaccinations, and three polio vaccinations.

Source: CAPMAS. 2022a. EFHS 2021. *Table 10.2*

2.1.2 Access to nutrition

Nutrition is a critical factor for early child survival and development, as well as lifelong health. Nutritional deficiencies cause health impacts across generations, passing from mother to child. Stunting affects the cognitive abilities and learning capacities of the child, while severe wasting is potentially life-threatening. The first one thousand days of life are essential to give children the right start, starting from good maternal nutrition during pregnancy, followed by breastfeeding the infant immediately after delivery, breastfeeding the child exclusively for 6 months (since the child does not need any other source of nutrition in this period), and continuing breastfeeding the child up to the age of 2 years, with appropriate complementary feeding.

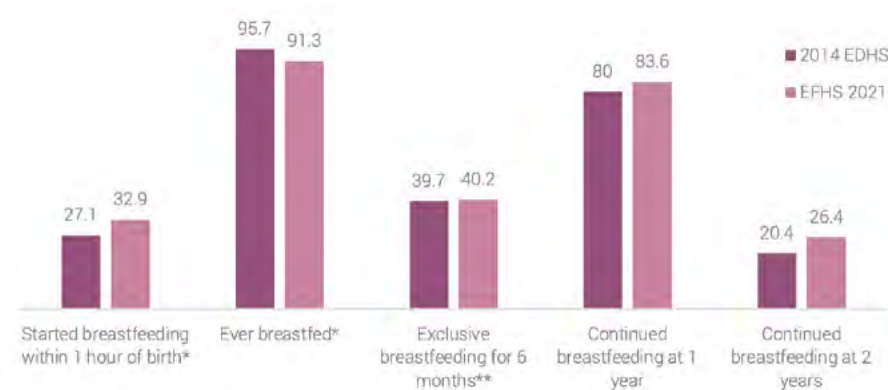
Breastfeeding and feeding practices

Data from the EFHS 2021 indicates that although the vast majority of mothers (91 per cent) breastfeed their children, 67 per cent of newborns were not breastfed within the first hour of birth, and 59 per cent of were provided prelacteal feeds²² (see *Figure 2.5*). Both practices are against WHO recommendations, since they reduce the likelihood of continued, successful breastfeeding. Exclusive breastfeeding²³ is not common. Only 40 per cent of children under 6 months are exclusively breastfed. By the age of one year, 83.6 per cent of children were breastfed, and this declines to 26.2 per cent by the age of 2 years. Although there have been some improvements in the rate of breastfeeding practices since 2014, the current rate of exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months is still substantially lower than the National Food and Nutrition Strategy's target of 60 per cent by 2030.

²² Prelacteal feeding is the practice of giving other liquids to a child during the period immediately after birth before the mother's milk is flowing freely.

²³ Exclusive breastfeeding is the practice of feeding infant only breast milk without giving her/him any other complementary liquids (including plain water) or solids.

Figure 2.5 Trends in breastfeeding indicators, Egypt 2014-2021



* Among last-born children who were born in the two years preceding the survey.

** Among youngest children under 6 months.



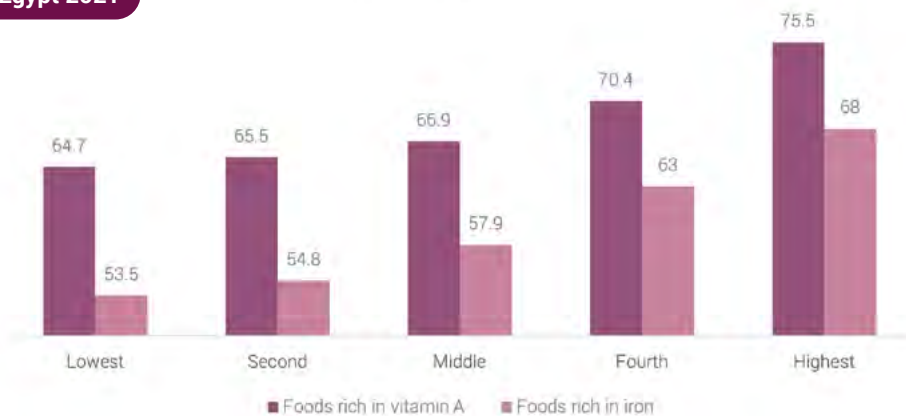
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Consumption of micronutrients

A balanced and healthy diet for children is associated with their growth and development. Micronutrients are important for child health especially children less than two years old, and any deficiencies may increase susceptibility to infections and parasitic infestation and may reduce growth or impair cognitive abilities. Micronutrients include iodine (i.e., household use of iodized salt), vitamin A and iron. Household consumption of iodized salt is high (90 per cent); however, it is lowest in rural Upper Egypt at 86 per cent, while it is highest in frontier governorates (97 per cent) and in urban Upper Egypt (95 per cent). More than two thirds (69 per cent) of the youngest children aged 6-24 months consumed food rich in vitamin A and 60 per cent consumed food rich in iron in the last 24 hours prior to the EFHS 2021 interview (see *Figure 2.6*).

Data indicates an increase in micronutrients consumption among children in Egypt compared to results from the 2014 EDHS. Urban-rural variations have been depicted whereas the intake of micronutrients is higher among children in urban areas compared to children in rural areas. Differentials are more remarkable by wealth quintiles as shown in *Figure 2.6*. The relatively low consumption of iron-rich foods, especially among the children in the lowest quintiles is concerning, especially as only 2 per cent of children receive iron supplementation.

Figure 2.6 Micronutrient intake among children aged 6-23 months by wealth quintile, Egypt 2021



Source: CAPMAS 2022a, EFHS 2021, Table 11.7

Children's diets

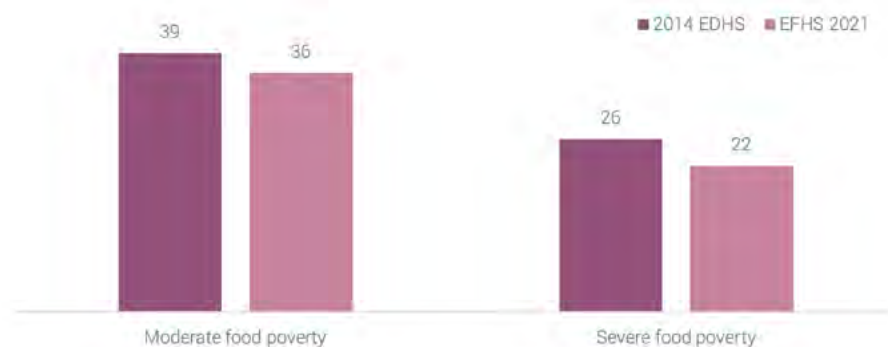
From 6 months of age, it is essential that children consume a diverse diet, to ensure that the child is provided with all the essential nutrients that s/he needs. Consuming a diverse diet helps children survive, and reduces the risk of stunting, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity.

UNICEF defines child food poverty as “children’s inability to access and consume a nutritious and diverse diet in early childhood” (UNICEF, 2024). UNICEF latest published global report on child food poverty utilized data from the EFHS 2021 and the previous EDHS surveys to estimate the percentage of children in food poverty. Overall, 58 per cent of children aged 6-23 months in Egypt live in food poverty (i.e., consume less than five of the recommended eight food groups and thus are defined as living in child food poverty). Thirty-six per cent of children aged 6-23 months live in moderate food poverty (consuming 3-4 food groups out of eight) – and a further 22 per cent live in severe food poverty, (consuming only 2 or less food groups) (UNICEF, 2024). This indicates a slight improvement compared to the 2014 EDHS (see *Figure 2.7*).

Children’s food poverty has grave implications on their future health and development. Concurrently, children are also consuming large amounts of unhealthy food and beverages; among children living in severe food poverty, 17 per cent had consumed an unhealthy food (high in sugar, salt and/or unhealthy fats) in the previous day, while a quarter (26 per cent) had consumed a sweet beverage. Consumption of these unhealthy and nutrient-poor foods not only increase the risk of a child becoming overweight or obese, but they also displace nutritious foods from diets.

“Consuming a diverse diet helps children survive, and reduces the risk of stunting, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity.”

Figure 2.7 Trend child food poverty, Egypt 2014-2021



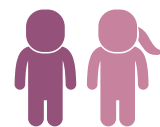
Source: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). (2024). Child Food Poverty. Nutrition Deprivation in Early Childhood. Child Nutrition Report, 2024.

Nutritional status

Nutritional status is a key determinant of child health. In Egypt, children under-five have for long faced several malnutrition challenges including stunting, wasting or underweight. In addition, overweight started to be an issue in the last 10 years.

The EFHS 2021 results indicated that 12.8 per cent of children under-five are stunted, 3.1 per cent are wasted, and 11.5 per cent are overweight. Disparities by sex are limited, however, there are clear variations by place of residence, where children from Upper Egypt (15.2 per cent) especially rural areas (16.2 per cent) and frontier governorates (16.3 per cent) are more likely to be stunted than children living in other regions of the country. In addition, children living in the lowest wealth quintiles are suffering more from stunting (16.8 per cent) than children from the other quintiles. On the other hand, overweight is more common in Lower Egypt especially urban areas (18.9 per cent) and among children living in wealthier households (14.3 per cent).

Stunting



12.8%
children under-five
are stunted
(Low height to age)

Wasting



3.1%
children under-five
are wasted
(Low weight to height)

Overweight



11.5%
children under-five
are overweight
(High weight to height)

Source: CAPMAS 2022a, EFHS 2021, Table 11.9

The EFHS 2021 results indicated a noticeable improvement in nutrition indicators compared to the levels observed in the 2014 EDHS (see Figure 2.8). For instance, stunting was 21.4 per cent in the 2014 EDHS and has then declined to 12.8 per cent in the EFHS 2021. In addition, there is a decline in wasting by around 5 percentage points (8.4 per cent in 2014 compared to 3.1 per cent in 2021). Also, among children under-five, overweight has decreased from 14.9 per cent to 11.5 per cent between 2014 and 2021. Despite the improvement in nutrition indicators, special attention needs to be given to the nutritional status of children to ensure a continuous decline in the level of malnutrition, especially with the currently high food inflation rate that significantly affects food consumption, and accordingly the nutrition status, particularly among children.

Figure 2.8 Trend in nutrition status of children under-five, Egypt 2014-2021

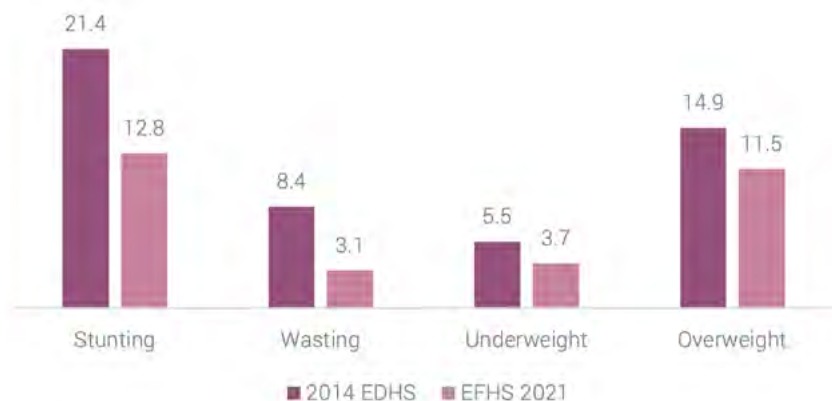
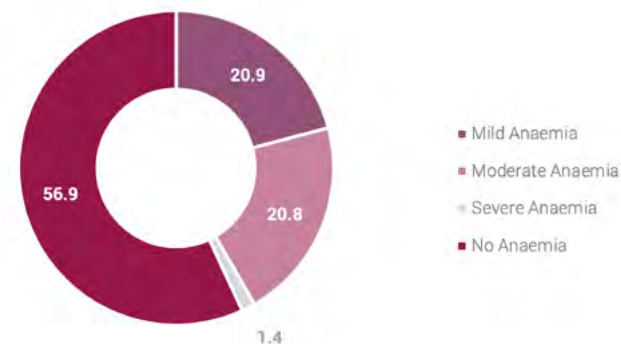


Figure 2.9 Anaemia status among children aged 6-59 months, Egypt 2021



Source: CAPMAS. 2022a. EFHS 2021. Table 11.12

Anaemia level

A person with anaemia (low haemoglobin levels) will have a reduction in the blood's ability to carry oxygen to the tissues of the body which results in less oxygen available to organs and tissues leading to many of the symptoms experienced by anaemic persons. According to several reports issued by the WHO, morbidity and mortality risk increase for individuals suffering from anaemia. In children, anaemia is associated with poor cognitive and motor development. However, anaemia is not the sole cause of poor childhood development outcomes because anaemia is also associated with other factors that affect child development such as malnutrition, poverty, low educational level of mothers, and lack of a stimulating home environment (Benedict, et al., 2022).

Findings from the EFHS 2021 indicated that around 43 per cent of children aged 6-59 months are anaemic, with 22 per cent having moderate or severe anaemia (see Figure 2.9). This is an alarming increase in the level of anaemia, up from 27 per cent in 2014, and represents a severe public health problem for Egypt. Disparities in the prevalence of anaemia exist by place of residence and wealth quintiles. Children in rural areas of Upper Egypt (47 per cent), those in frontier governorates (49 per cent), and those in the lowest wealth quintiles (46 per cent) are the most likely to suffer from any type of anaemia.



2.1.3 Access to water, sanitation and hygiene

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are essential for public health, wellbeing, and development. Access to clean and safe water is an essential need and right for all and access to improved sanitation facilities is fundamental too. Personal hygiene practices are critical to preventing the transmission of diseases and promoting overall well-being. Personal hygiene involves handwashing with clean water and soap and maintaining clean and healthy practices. The WHO estimates that unsafe drinking water and sanitation causes diarrhoea, and as a result, the death of about 1 million people every year. In this section, the indicators available for access to water, sanitation and hygiene will be presented and discussed (SDG Indicator 6.2.1).

Access to improved water

Access to improved drinking water is universal in Egypt, where 98 per cent of households have access to improved drinking water, with limited variation by region or urban-rural residence. *Figure 2.10* illustrates that the highest coverage of improved drinking water is observed in urban governorates (almost 100 per cent). On the other hand, households in rural Upper Egypt are the least likely to have access to safe drinking water, and even within this population subgroup, access has reached 96 per cent.

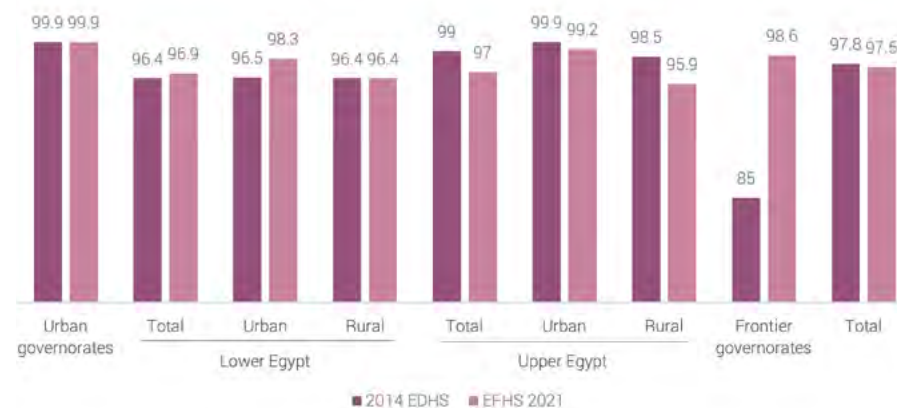
At the national level, access to improved drinking water has not changed since 2014. However, there was significant increase in the percentage of households with access to improved drinking water in frontier governorates, and a slight decline in Upper Egypt. Some households treat water to be safer before drinking it. Around 27 per cent of households in the EFHS 2021 reported that they treat water before drinking it to be safer for drinking, compared with only 11 per cent in 2014 EDHS. This percentage increases in urban areas to reach 33 per cent, while it declines among rural residents to reach 22 per cent.



Personal hygiene practices are critical to preventing the transmission of diseases and promoting overall well-being.



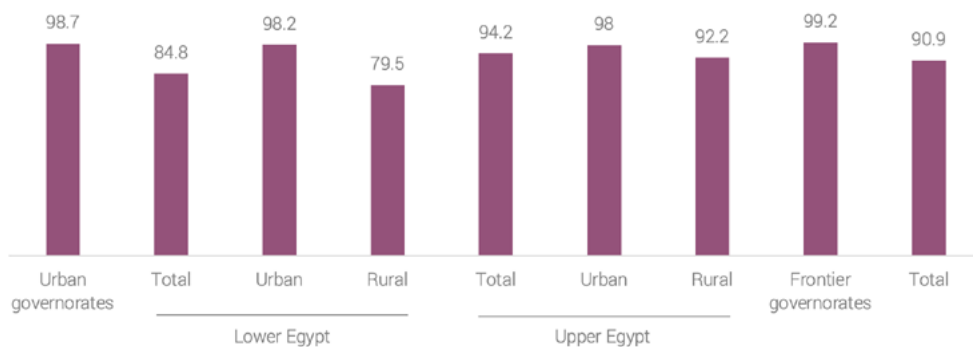
Figure 2.10 Trends in percentage of households with access to an improved water source, by place of residence, Egypt 2014-2021



Access to sanitation

Access to improved sanitation is another target of the SDGs (target 6.2). Nine out of 10 households have improved toilet facility with the lowest level observed in Lower Egypt (85 per cent), especially rural areas (80 per cent), while the highest level is observed in frontier governorates (99 per cent). Variation is clear between urban and rural residence, where 98 per cent of households in urban areas have an improved toilet facility compared to 85 per cent in rural areas (see *Figure 2.11*). These results indicate that there has been no improvement in access to improved toilet facilities since the 2014 EDHS. This may be because the coverage of improved toilet facilities was already high in 2014.

Figure 2.11 Access to improved toilet facilities among households, by place of residence, Egypt 2021



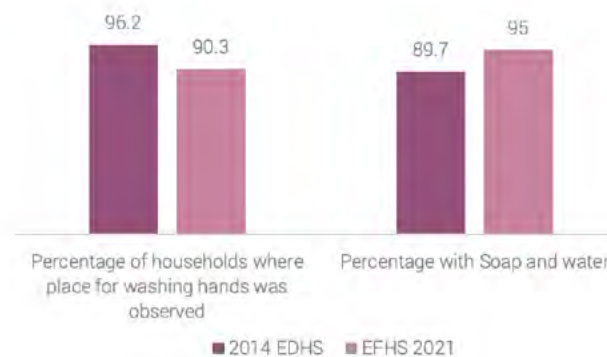
Source: CAPMAS, 2022a, EFHS 2021. Table 2.6

Handwashing and hygiene

Hygiene behaviours are directly associated with health. Handwashing with soap has been shown to reduce risk of leading causes of child mortality such as pneumonia and diarrhoea (UNICEF, 2013). Thus, access to handwashing facilities on premises with soap and water is critically important to minimize the risk of obtaining gastrointestinal infections and respiratory infections, as well as promote practicing good menstrual hygiene.

The EFHS 2021 data indicated that 90 per cent of households have a place designated for handwashing, and it was also reported that 95 per cent of those households had water and soap present at the handwashing facility (see Figure 2.12). Although a higher percentage of handwashing places were observed in the 2014 EDHS, the presence of water and soap was higher in 2021. Variations by region in the proportion of households with water and soap at the handwashing place were not significant. Interestingly, although 92 per cent of households in rural Upper Egypt have a handwashing facility with water and soap, the availability of handwashing places with water and soap is lowest in rural Upper Egypt.

Figure 2.12 Trend in handwashing place, Egypt 2014-2021



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2.2 Childhood to adolescence: progress and inequalities

Early childhood provides a critical window of opportunity for growth and development. With access to proper services, caregiver efforts, nurturing care, and an enabling environment, children can reach their full developmental potential. The early years prior to kindergarten and formal education are crucial to keep the child on track to achieve her/his potential skills, development and learning. Later on, accessibility and participation in playful early childhood education programmes (i.e., kindergartens and preschools) set a baseline for later formal primary education, and aids to achieve better education outcomes. Formal education from primary to secondary is another pivotal stage to learn and acquire life skills to effectively transition into adulthood. In this section, progress achieved to date with regards to early childhood development (ECD) and education will be discussed highlighting inequalities that exist. This section will illustrate relevant indicators within Goal 4 of the SDGs “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities”.

2.2.1 Access to early childhood care and learning

Egypt has set early childhood development at the forefront of its developmental agenda, with it being an essential part of its National Development Plan: Vision 2030. Early childhood care and learning encompasses a holistic view of a child's early years, giving her/him the opportunity to reach their full potential. Providing young children with nurturing care including health care and nutrition, as well as a stimulating environment and responsive care during early years sets the child on the right developmental track. The previous section discusses breastfeeding and nutrition, as well as postnatal care and vaccinations, which all contribute to proper development. This section focuses on care and engaging activities that promote children's learning and development including a supporting and stimulating home and organized learning opportunities.

Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI)

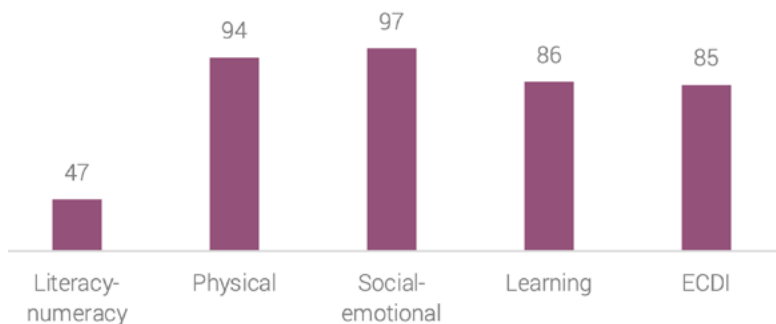
The developmental status of children could be assessed utilizing ECDI which is a population-based measure of early childhood development. The index is composed of 10 items covering four domains of early childhood development: Literacy-numeracy, the physical domain, the social-emotional domain, and learning (UNICEF, 2023c). Each domain measures a specific developmental area as described below:

- **Literacy-numeracy domain:** This assesses the child's early numeracy, language, literacy and communication. A child is considered on track in literacy-numeracy if s/he can do at least two of the following: identify/name at least 10 letters of the alphabet; read at least 4 simple, popular words; and/ or know the name and recognize the symbols of all numbers from 1 to 10.
- **Physical domain:** This assesses child health and fine motor development. If the child can pick up a small object with two fingers, such as a stick or rock from the ground, and/or the mother/primary caregiver does not indicate that the child is sometimes too sick to play, then he is developmentally on track in this domain.
- **Social-emotional domain:** This domain assesses the child's social and emotional development. A child who demonstrates at least two of the following: gets along well with other children; does not kick, bite or hit other children; does not get distracted easily, is considered on track in this domain.
- **Learning domain:** This covers executive functions and approaches to learning. The child is considered on track in this domain if s/he follows simple directions on how to do something correctly and/or when given something to do is able to do it independently.

The EFHS 2021 indicated that 85 per cent of children aged 3-4 years old were developmentally on track in at least three of the four domains assessed (see *Figure 2.13*). Minor disparities are observed across wealth quintiles, place of residence and mother's education. Children living in households in the lowest wealth quintile (82 per cent), those whose mothers have no education or some primary education only (82 per cent and 76 per cent, respectively), and those from urban governorates (81 per cent) recorded the lowest percentage on the ECDI. ECDI level and disparities are about the same as those reported in the "formative research and development of an evidence-based positive parenting intervention in Egypt" carried out in 2019 among nationally representative sample of *Takaful* CCT beneficiaries.

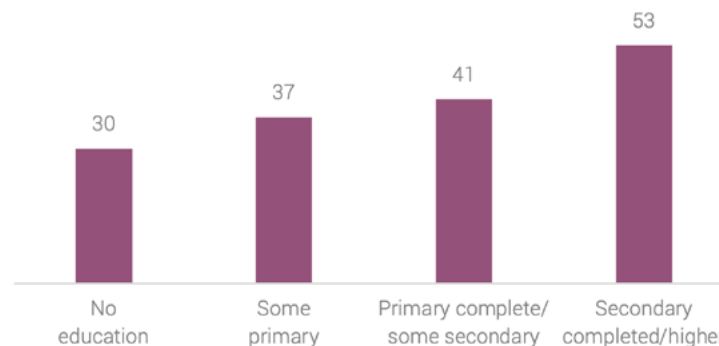
Despite the observed high percentage of children who are developmentally on track, more than half of the children are behind track in the literacy-numeracy domain specifically. Disparities are more profound across this domain (see *Figure 2.14*), where only 30 per cent of children whose mothers have no education are on track, which is 23 percentage points lower than for children whose mothers have completed their secondary education or higher (53 per cent). Similarly, only 34 per cent of children in the lowest wealth quintiles are on track for the literacy-numeracy domain compared to 58 per cent among those in the highest wealth quintile. It should be noted that the learning domain is the second lowest domain following literacy-numeracy.

Figure 2.13 Children aged 3-4 years who are developmentally on track in specific domains and overall ECDI, Egypt 2021



Source: CAPMAS. 2022a. EFHS 2021. Table 12.7

Figure 2.14 Children aged 3-4 years who are developmentally on track in literacy-numeracy, by mother's education, Egypt 2021



Source: CAPMAS. 2022a. EFHS 2021. Table 12.7



Stimulating and supporting home environment

Caregivers' engagement with children in activities such as talking, singing, drawing, imaginary pretend play, reading and many other activities create a nurturing home environment for development and learning and in turn improve the chances of children being developmentally on track in the various aforementioned domains. Results from the EFHS 2021 revealed that only 1 in 10 children are living in households that have 3 or more children's books with astounding variations across background characteristics. Children in rural areas, whose mothers are of a lower educational level and those in the lower wealth quintiles are much less likely than their peers to have access to books at home. For instance, only 3 per cent of children whose mothers had never been to school live in households with 3 or more books compared to 14 per cent among children whose mothers had completed secondary education or higher. Also, children in the highest wealth quintiles are three times more likely than children living in households in the lowest wealth quintile to live in a household with 3 or more books.

The availability of playthings for children within their households offers more opportunities for learning, skill development and exploring. Similar to books, playthings also help caregivers in engaging and interacting with children. The EFHS 2021 results showed that about half of the children under-five years of age play with two or more playthings, including homemade toys, manufactured toys, and household items or objects found outside the home. Three quarters of under-five children play with manufactured/store-bought toys, 6 in 10 children play with household objects such as pots and bowls, or objects found outside their home such as sticks and rocks, whereas only 12 per cent play with homemade toys. The availability of toys and the number of playthings available for children is associated with the household's economic status. Forty-six per cent of children from the lowest wealth quintile have two or more playthings versus 59 per cent among those in the highest wealth quintile (see *Figure 2.15*). Additionally, children in the most vulnerable households are the least likely to have manufactured toys and are the most likely to play with household objects or objects found outside their home.

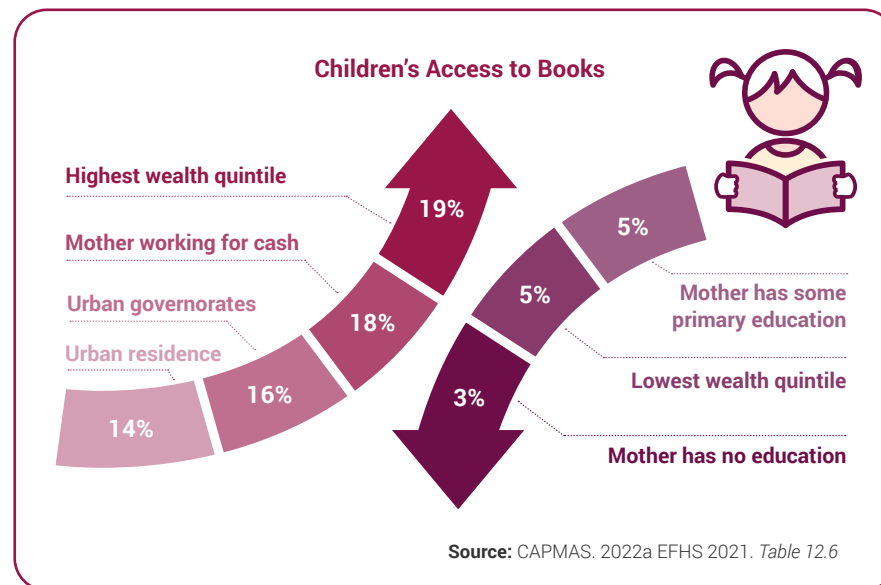
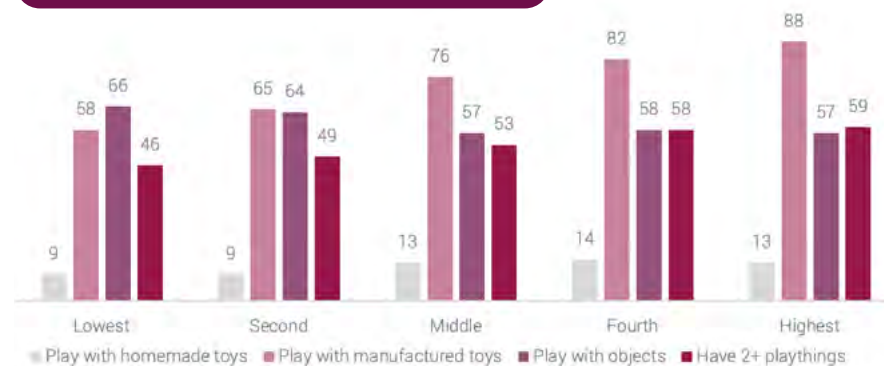


Figure 2.15 Disparities in the proportion of children under-five who play with various things, by wealth quintile, Egypt 2021



Source: CAPMAS. 2022a. EFHS 2021. Table 12.6

Adult engagement in learning activities and responsive care for children

Overall, the involvement of adult family members in activities that promote learning and development for children is high. Data from the EFHS 2021 indicated that 88 per cent of children aged 2-4 years had an adult household member engaged with them in any activity that promotes learning and development, which is 10 percentage points higher than the reported percentage among *Takaful* beneficiaries in the 2019 survey of “Formative research and development of an evidence-based positive parenting intervention in Egypt” (77 per cent). Looking at MICS related indicators (TC49.a, b, c), 50 per cent of children aged 24-59 months were engaged in four or more activities to provide early stimulation and responsive care in the last 3 days prior to the survey with any adult household member and 38 per cent were engaged in four or more activities with the mother. Unfortunately, this percentage drops to only 4 per cent among fathers²⁴.

Results from the EFHS 2021 suggest that economic vulnerability and lack of education are associated with low levels of engagement with children in activities promoting their cognitive, social-emotional, and learning development. Almost two thirds of children aged 2-4 years from the highest wealth quintile were engaged in 4 or more activities with their mother, which is 3 times higher than the percentage reported among those from the lowest wealth quintile (21 per cent) (see *Figure 2.16*). Similarly, as *Figure 2.17* shows, children whose mothers had completed a secondary education or higher were four times more likely to be engaged in 4 or more activities with their mother than those whose mothers had never been to school.

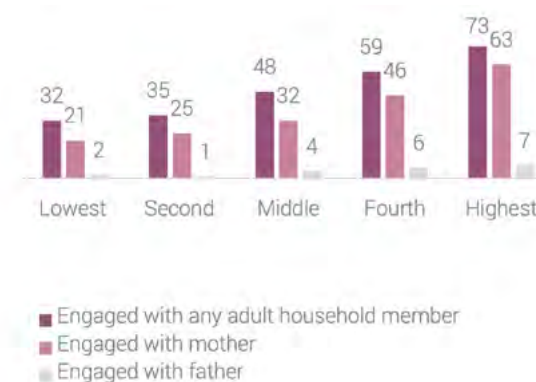


The involvement of adult family members in activities that promote learning and development for children is high.



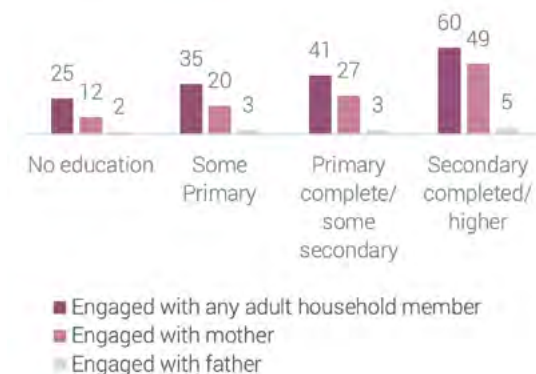
²⁴ The EFHS 2021 questionnaire adopted the MICS module and addressed 6 activities adult household members could get engaged with. Activities include: (A) Reading books to or looking at picture books with the child, (B) Telling stories to the child, (C) Singing songs to or with the child, including lullabies, (D) Taking the child outside the home, (E) Playing with the child and (F) Naming, counting, or drawing things to or with the child.

Figure 2.16 Children aged 2-4 years who were engaged in 4 or more stimulating activities, by wealth quintile, Egypt 2021



Source: CAPMAS. 2022a. EFHS 2021. Table 12.5

Figure 2.17 Children aged 2-4 years who were engaged in 4 or more stimulating activities, by mother's education, Egypt 2021



Source: CAPMAS. 2022a. EFHS 2021. Table 12.5

Organized learning/ pre-primary education

Egypt's preschool education is mainly offered through kindergartens within MoETE schools, and nurseries are either private or under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS). The MoETE has given special attention to pre-primary education in its strategic plan and is continuing to expand coverage of pre-primary schools and classrooms making it more accessible to the whole population. According to the MoETE Statistical Yearbook 2023/2024, the number of schools offering pre-primary education has increased 9.6 per cent (12 thousand in 2018/2019 to 13.3 thousand in 2024), and the number of classes grew at a lower rate of 3.9 per cent (38.5 thousand in 2018/2019 to 40.0 in 2023/2024). Despite the reported increase in the number of preschool schools and classes, the number of preschool students has surprisingly dropped since 2019/2020 by about 15 per cent. Data from the MoETE indicates that there had been a 5 per cent increase in the number of enrolled students in pre-primary education in the 2019/2020 school year, compared to the 2018/2019 school year. However, this was followed by a dip in the 2020/2021 school year and the number slightly increased in 2023/2024, with 1.27 million students being enrolled in preschools (see *Figure 2.18*). The earlier dip could be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent school closure. Nevertheless, data illustrates that in 2023/2024 the numbers did not recover to pre-pandemic levels.

The Ministry's Statistical Yearbook also indicates that in the school year 2023/2024, the Net Enrolment Rate (NER) for pre-primary education was 19.8 per cent and the Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) was 23.3 per cent with astounding discrepancies by governorate. *Figure 2.19* shows that children from Fayoum, Minya, Dakahlia, Sharkia and Behera are the least likely to attend preschools whereas children from the Port Said and South Sinai are by far the most likely to attend preschool.

The number of **schools offering pre-primary education** has increased from

12,000 in 2018/2019 → **13,300** in 2023/2024.

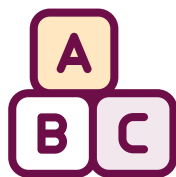
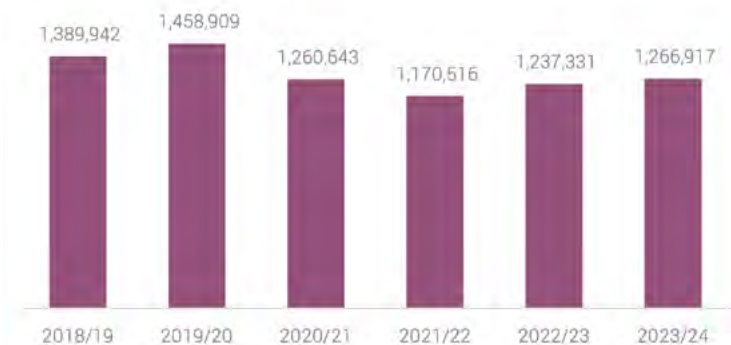


Figure 2.18 Trend in number of enrolled preschool students in 2023/2024



Source: MoETE Statistical Yearbook 2023/2024, chapter 1.

Figure 2.19 Variations in Net Enrolment Rate (NER) for preschool by governorate in 2023/2024



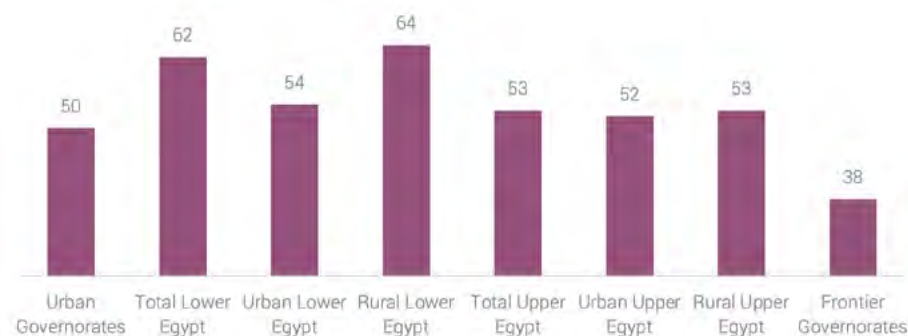
Source: MoETE, Statistical Yearbook 2023/2024, chapter 5.

EFHS 2021 collected data about children aged 3-5 years and enrolment in any organized/structured pre-primary programme, which promotes learning and prepares them for primary education, including formal preschools or nurseries. The data revealed that change to: 59 per cent of children aged 3-5 years have ever attended an organized early childhood education programme and 56 per cent are currently attending one. Variations in current attendance levels and overall attendance were found to be linked to the mother's education, wealth, and place of residence. The gap in the percentage of currently attending an organized early education programme is remarkable between urban and rural areas of Lower Egypt, in favour of rural areas, where attendance of early education programme in rural Lower Egypt is 10 percentage points higher than urban areas (see *Figure 2.20*). In contrast, there is no variation in attendance of early education programme between urban and rural areas of Upper Egypt. Yet, overall, Lower Egypt has a higher attendance rate than Upper Egypt. Results also indicate that Frontier Governorates have the lowest attendance rate (38 per cent).

Results from the EFHS 2021 also indicate that wealth is associated with children's attendance of organized early learning programmes. Less than half of children aged 3-5 years from the lowest wealth quintile are attending a preschool/nursery program, which is 15 percentage points lower than the reported rate among children from the highest wealth quintiles.

Another important aspect of pre-primary education is the quality of service offered. Although there is limited literature or data available to deeply understand the quality level of pre-primary education, a single measure of quality is class density, which is reported by the MoETE in the yearly statistical book. Results suggest that class size in pre-primary schools has improved overtime from 36.1 student per classroom in the school year 2018/2019 to 32.2 in the school year 2023/2024. Classroom density is much higher in public schools than private schools, where in 2023/2024 public preschools had 33.8 students per class versus 28.3 students per class for private schools. Although the physical size of the class in square meter and the number of qualified teachers per class are other important factors to assess quality, this reported class size is considered quite high for preschool and is higher than the target set in the Ministry's education plan of 25 students per class by year 2027. Smaller class size gives teachers the opportunity to cater to individual needs of students and allows for a more engaging classroom environment. Calculating the pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) from the MoETE Statistical Yearbook of 2023/2024, results indicate a PTR of 23.5:1 in public schools (i.e., 952,365 students and 40,540 teachers), which is about 4 more than the target set for 2027 (i.e., PTR of 19). Finally, it is worth noting that if such high classroom density and PTR are evident at a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of only 23 per cent, higher enrolment rates are very likely to exacerbate issues of crowdedness, and maintaining an acceptable PTR will likely become even more challenging.

Figure 2.20 Gap in proportion of children aged 3-5 years currently attending an early education programme by place of residence, Egypt 2021



Source: Author's own calculations based on data from EFHS 2021

2.2.2 Access to free, quality education

The Egyptian Constitution, Article 19, stipulates that education is compulsory and free of charge from the primary level until the completion of secondary stage or its equivalent, and it also stipulates that government spending on pre-university education must be no less than 4 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), which shall gradually increase to comply with international standards. The article articulates that “the State shall supervise education to ensure that all public and private schools and institutes abide by its educational policies.”

The MoETE strides to improve the quality of education services through a number of reform strategies and expanding school coverage, number of classes and teachers. The following section looks at changes in the accessibility to education, attendance rates, as well as some measures of quality.

Access to education, attendance rates and dropouts

Data from the MoETE indicates that the Ministry has expanded the number of schools for all educational levels. In 2018/2019 the Ministry records indicate having 18,762 primary schools across the country; this number has increased to 20,073 in 2023/2024 school year. Similarly, 1,704 preparatory schools were established between 2018/2019 and 2023/2024, 1,099 more general secondary schools, and 998 technical secondary schools were built during the same period. During the same period, the number of classes for all three stages has also increased considerably to provide broader coverage and reduce the number of students per class.

Results from the 2014 EDHS and the EFHS 2021 indicate a slight increase in net attendance ratio (NAR) for primary, preparatory and secondary levels (see *Table 2.2*). Results from both surveys reveal that the gap in NAR and gross attendance ratio (GAR) across economic status has been narrowed at the secondary level. For instance, secondary school NAR has increased from 63.1 in 2014 to 75.6 in 2021, narrowing the gap between the lowest and the highest wealth quintiles from around 27 percentage points in 2014 to 18 percentage points in 2021. Analysis has also revealed that at the secondary level, the gender parity index (GPI) for the NAR increases with wealth, indicating a gender gap in favour of males among the lowest wealth quintiles.

Table 2.2 Gap in NAR and GAR across wealth quintiles

	Primary NAR		Primary GAR		Preparatory NAR		Preparatory GAR		Secondary* NAR		Secondary GAR	
	2014	2021	2014	2021	2014	2021	2014	2021	2014	2021	2014	2021
Lowest quintile	90.9	92.7	99.6	98.5	71.5	80.8	90.1	92.6	53.9	68.7	69.1	87.4
Second quintile	91.4	92.9	98.9	97.9	75.2	81.6	94.4	93.6	56.9	65.1	74.7	85.3
Middle quintile	94.6	93.3	104.2	98.3	78.6	84.9	93.7	96.4	65.4	79.2	83.1	97.7
Fourth quintile	92.7	94.6	100.5	98.4	79.9	85.1	96.9	95.5	62.0	80.6	82.5	100.2
Highest quintile	92.2	92.0	99.3	96.9	83.7	82.5	100.1	90.8	80.8	87.0	104.4	104.9
Total	92.3	93.2	100.5	98.0	77.3	82.8	94.7	93.8	63.1	75.6	81.8	94.5

Source: Estimated by author based on data from the EDHS 2014, *Table 14.5* and EFHS 2021 *Table 12.8*

* Include both general and technical secondary education.

Despite the high attendance ratio for primary and preparatory education, student and teacher absence from school is a concern. The pre-university education sector analysis (ESA) 2021 indicated that many students are absent from school on a regular basis, which impacts their learning advancement. About one quarter of Grade 4 students were regularly absent (i.e., absent once a week or more) in 2016 and 34 per cent of Grade 8 students were regularly absent in 2019. This absence rate is four times higher than the international average of 8 per cent among countries participating in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). Teacher’s absences are also noted to be a challenge to the education process, where 36 per cent of primary school head teachers and 47 per cent of preparatory head teachers consider teacher absence a moderate or serious problem (MoETE, 2021).

Dropout rates for primary education between the schooling years 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 was 0.29 per cent and 0.66 per cent for preparatory education (MoETE, 2024), while the Ministry's Statistical Yearbook does not cover the dropout rates for secondary education. The transition rate from preparatory to general secondary level is quite low, reaching a total of 43.85 per cent with more females transitioning to general secondary education than males (48.58 per cent and 39.28 per cent, respectively). Cairo governorate reported the highest transition rate (59.22 per cent) followed by Red Sea (55.78 per cent). Furthermore, students transitioning from preparatory to general secondary level (63.91 per cent) in urban areas account for more than double the percentage reported among those rural areas (26.84 per cent). Looking at the technical education, the transition rate from preparatory to technical secondary between years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 was 35.26 per cent: 39.92 per cent among males and 30.44 per cent among females. Students are more likely to transition to industrial and commercial schools rather than to agricultural and hospitality schools (MoETE, 2024).

The ESA report shows promising progress in the numbers and percentage of out-of-school children (see *Table 2.3*). The share of out-of-school children of primary and preparatory school age (6-14 years) declined from 7 per cent in 2012 to 4 per cent in 2017/2018. Also, a decline was documented among of secondary school age children (15-17 years) from 19 per cent in 2012 to 15 per cent in 2017/2018.



Table 2.3 Estimated number and percentage of out-of-school children

Age group	2012	2015	2017/2018
% Estimated			
6-14	7%	6%	4%
15-17	19%	17%	15%
Estimated number			
6-14	1,040,000	1,040,000	680,000
15-17	940,000	840,000	790,000

Note: The estimates are obtained by applying the estimated share of out-of-school children for each age group from HIECS to the corresponding population in that age group from the UN Population Division.

Source: The pre-university education sector analysis (ESA) 2021, *table 12*. Table is calculated based on open access micro data initiative (OAMDI) 2014, 2017, 2020 and UN Population data.

Utilizing the EFHS 2021 data, special analysis was conducted by the author to estimate the percentage of out-of-school children which shows continued downward trend. Analysis indicated that 3.4 per cent of primary children are out-of-school and 3.6 per cent of preparatory school age children are out-of-school. The percentage of out-of-school children of secondary school age reached 12.2 per cent which is almost 3 percentage points lower than the reported share in 2017/2018. This translates into about 1.4 million children estimated to be out-of-school: about 444,600 of those are aged 6-10 years, 207,000 children aged 12-14 years, and about 739,000 of children aged 15-17 years. Analysis from the EFHS 2021 indicated that the share of out-of-school children is highest among children from Upper Egypt and those from the lowest wealth quintile (see Annex *Tables A.5, A.6 and A.7*). In addition, gender disparity is noticeable in secondary education, where females are more likely than males to be out of school in secondary education than males (14.9 per cent versus 9.7 per cent are out of school, respectively). It is also worth noting that the vast majority of children with disabilities (CwDs) are out of school. Further details on CwDs' educational status is provided in Section 3 of this report.

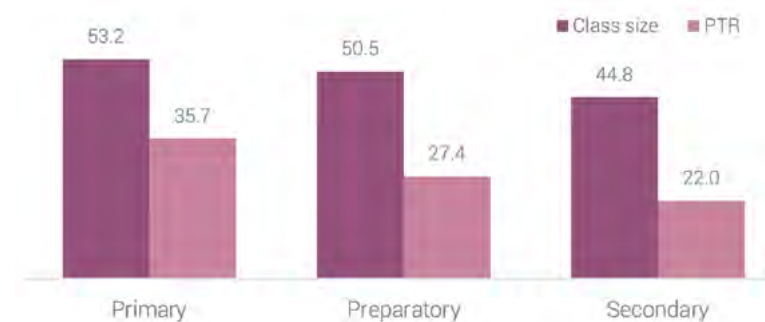
Measures of education quality

The MoETE data revealed that the class size for the school year 2023/2024 was 50.1 students for primary classrooms, 48 students for preparatory classrooms and 41.5 for secondary ones. Expectedly, classes are even more crowded in public schools, reaching 53.2 students per class for the primary level, 50.5 student per class in the preparatory level, and 44.8 in the general secondary level (see *Figure 2.21*). This is far from the targeted KPIs set by the MoETE for the year 2027, where it aspires to achieve a class size of 37.8 students for primary, 38 for preparatory and 30 for secondary. Similar challenges are reported for the PTR, where the ratio is higher than the threshold set by the Ministry of 26 for primary level, 21 for preparatory and 21 for secondary level.

To adjust for shortage in school buildings, many public schools operate on a shift basis resulting in reduced instructional time for students in those schools (full day schools operate on a six-hour schedule versus double shift schools that operate for only 5 hours). Around 40 per cent of public schools run on a full day schedule (MoETE, 2024). Analysis presented in the ESA indicated that on average students in schools that operate on shifts lose roughly 190 hours annually compared with students who are enrolled in a full day school. This cumulative loss of instructional time decreases the learning opportunities and accordingly constitutes negative implications on quality.

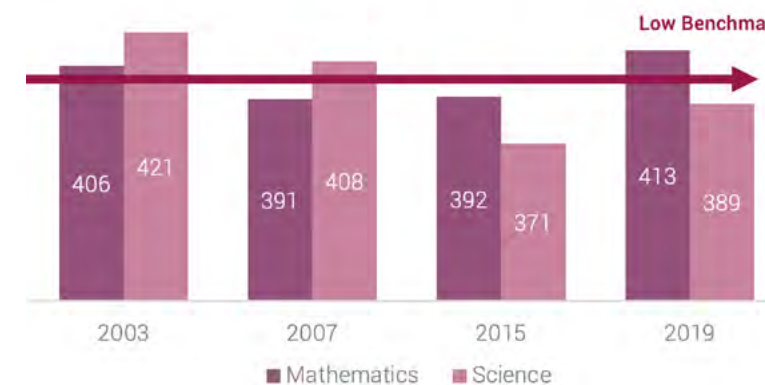
MoETE has developed and implemented a number of reform strategies and programmes to improve the quality of the educational system. In 2018, the MoETE launched the “Education 2.0” reform project to improve the learning experience in public schools via adopting new learning approaches and assessment methods. Nonetheless, the quality of education remains compromised requiring more efforts to provide high quality education services. Egypt ranked number 56 out of 57 countries on the 2021 International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS²⁵), which is an international assessment that measures reading achievement at the fourth-grade level. Egypt scored 378 on the PIRLS 2021 scale, setting it below the low international benchmark. Additionally, more than half of grade 4 students (55 per cent) did not even reach the low international benchmark indicating lack of basic level of reading skills, which in turn reflects on the ability to learn other subjects (Mullis & et al., 2023).

Figure 2.21 Class size and PTR in public schools by educational level in 2023/2024



Source: MoETE Statistical Yearbook 2023/2024

Figure 2.22 TIMSS-2019 results in mathematics and science for Egypt 2019



Source: TIMSS 2019 International Results in Mathematics and Science

²⁵ PIRLS is an achievement scale for reading comprehension in the fourth grade, which describes achievement at four points along the scale as International Benchmarks: Advanced International Benchmark (625), High International Benchmark (550), Intermediate International Benchmark (475) and Low International Benchmark (400).

Looking at an assessment of the learning achievements from the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS²⁶), Egypt achieved an average score of 413 in 2019 for grade-eight mathematics, and 389 for grade-eight science, meeting the low benchmark for math and scoring below the low benchmark for science (see *Figure 2.22*). Egypt achieved low levels among participating countries in TIMSS ranking 34th of 39 countries of grade-eight students in mathematics, and 37th out of 39 countries of grade-eight students in science. Additionally, the education index, which is a component of the Human Development Index published yearly by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) entails that Egypt is ranked 104th globally.

The ESA also highlighted key challenges within the examination system. The examination system is not aligned with *Education 2.0* nor with international benchmarks as there are no standardized national learning assessment. Thus, the education system relies on exam results to monitor learning achievement. The ESA highlights the astounding gap between the final grade-nine exam results, where 99 per cent of students passed the exam, while less than 30 per cent of grade-eight students reach the intermediate benchmark on the TIMSS 2019 results. The ESA suggest that the grade-nine exam measures rote learning and memorization, whereas the international assessment measures competencies, acquired learning and application of skills. The analysis also indicated that the Thanawiya Amma exam administered at the end of the general secondary education emphasizes memorization and rote learning, and thus Thanawiya Amma scores do not appear to reflect reality of learning outcomes (MoETE, 2021).

“

MoETE has developed and implemented a number of reform strategies and programmes to improve the quality of the educational system.

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²⁶ TIMSS 2019 which is the seventh assessment cycle of TIMSS since 1995, providing 24 years of trends in mathematics and science achievement at the fourth and eighth grades, but data for Egypt is only available for eight grades. Low international benchmark for eight grade mathematics suggests that students only have some knowledge of whole numbers and basic graphs, whereas for eight grade science it means that Students show limited understanding of scientific principles and concepts and limited knowledge of science facts.

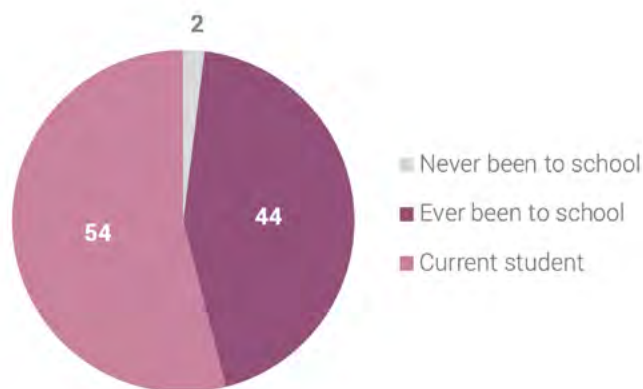
2.3 Adolescence to youth: Progress and inequities

This section is concerned with understanding the situation of youth aged 15-24 years in Egypt. The most recent data available is utilized focusing on key thematic areas of health and nutrition, protection, employment, and civic engagement. This section seeks to identify differentials across vulnerable groups, geographically and by gender. In addition, the profile will shed light on areas that require more collaborative efforts and partnerships to yield better outcomes.

Youth profile. Youth in Egypt represent a significant percentage of the total population. Egypt's young population (15-24 years) is rapidly growing and according to the CAPMAS Statistical Yearbook, youth aged 15-24 years have totalled more than 18 million in 2023 (17.5 per cent of total population) (CAPMAS, December 2023b). Data from the EFHS 2021 indicated that more than half of the youth (15-24 years) are current students, and only 2 per cent have never been to school (see *Figure 2.23*). Data also indicated that around 80 per cent of those in the age group 15-19 are currently in education, while in the age group 20-24, only 39 per cent are still in school. This is because many in this age group have already completed their education (i.e., usually by age 21 or 22 years a student would finish their undergraduate university education). The EFHS 2021 indicated that 97 per cent of never-married youth are literate with limited differences between males and females in favour of females (96 per cent and 98 per cent respectively). There are no significant variations in literacy rate by region or urban-rural resident, while there are some differences by wealth quintiles. Literacy rate is 95 per cent among youth in the lowest wealth quintile, while 100 per cent of youth in the highest wealth quintile are literate.

Use of digital media is widespread among youth reflecting improvement in education among younger generations compared to older ones. More than 8 in 10 never-married youth use the internet at least once a week, and this increases to 92 per cent among highly educated youth. Internet usage also increases significantly among youth in the highest wealth quintile (98 per cent). Among interviewed never-married youth (15-29 years), 61 per cent of males and 12 per cent of females were working at the time of the survey, indicating low female labour market participation rate.

Figure 2.23 Education status of youth aged 15-24 years, Egypt 2021



Source: Estimated by the author based on data from EFHS 2021

2.3.1 Access to adolescent health and nutrition

Health and nutrition of adolescents and youth are very important at this time of rapid physical growth and development. There has been much emphasis on early childhood nutrition due to the critical nature of this stage, yet adolescents' nutrition and health is as important, as it sets them on the right track for a healthy adulthood. Access to health care services is important for maintaining good health and receiving care when needed. There have been significant improvements in the health system in Egypt, however, challenges still exist especially for poor and vulnerable populations. The GoE started to apply the universal health insurance coverage as a pilot in six governorates and is planning to achieve full coverage by 2032, which will benefit all people, including poor children, adolescents, and youth.

Health insurance coverage. Data from EFHS 2021 indicated that 40 per cent of never-married youth aged 15-29 years are covered by health insurance. The coverage of health insurance increases to 42 per cent among male youth compared with 36 per cent among female youth. Additionally, younger youth aged 15-19 years are more likely to be covered by health insurance than older ones in the age group 20-24 years (51 per cent compared to 27 per cent, respectively).

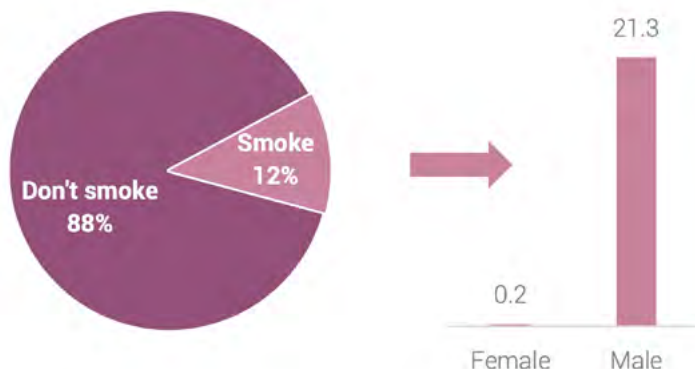
Smoking. The habit of smoking is common among males in Egypt. Findings from the EFHS 2021 indicated that around 12 per cent of never-married youth aged 15-24 years are currently smoking; this percentage decreases among female youth to be 0.2 per cent only, while it significantly increases among male youth to reach 21 per cent (see *Figure 2.24*).

Looking at male youth in the age group 15-24 years, around 21 per cent are currently smoking, while 34 per cent of male youth aged 20-24 years and 12 per cent of those aged 15-19 years are currently smoking.

The results presented in *Figure 2.25* indicate that there is some decline in the prevalence of smoking among male youth in 2021 compared to the 2015 (Egypt Health Issues Survey (EHIS, 2015)). It is worth noting that youth are fully aware that smoking is a dangerous habit that could have adverse implications on health (98 per cent), and they are also aware that passive smoking is dangerous.

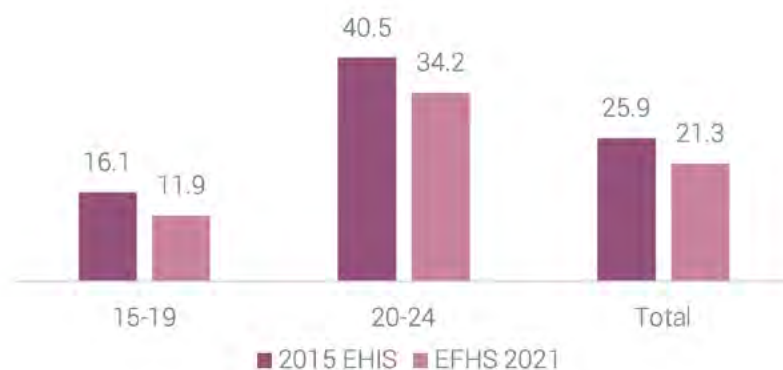


Figure 2.24 Proportion of youth aged 15-24 years who smoke, Egypt 2021



Source: Estimated by the author for total for 15-24 based on data from EFHS 2021.

Figure 2.25 Trend in percentage of male youth aged 15-24 years currently smoking by age group, Egypt 2015-2021



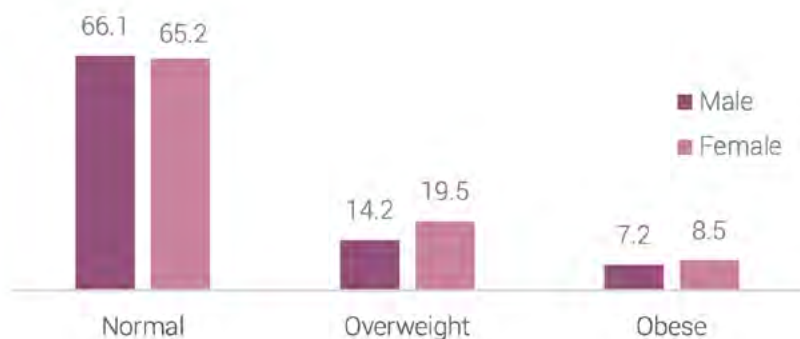
Total for 2021 is estimated by the author based on data from EFHS 2021

Menstruation. Puberty in girls represents a transitioning point from childhood to adulthood. Practicing good menstrual hygiene is crucial to ensure good health, avoid infections and develop healthy habits. The age at which the menstrual cycle starts varies from one girl to another, although most girls have their menstrual cycle for the first time between the ages of 11-13 years. The EFHS 2021 collected information from never-married female youth aged 15-29 years about the implications of menstrual cycle on school attendance. The results indicated that the menstrual cycle affected female school attendance, where about 37 per cent of never-married females in the age group 15-29 years reported that their menstrual cycle impacted their school attendance. This percentage increases in urban areas (40 per cent) compared to rural areas (35 per cent). The proportion of females whose menstrual cycle affects their school attendance generally increases with the educational level of the mother and wealth quintile. Also, the survey results indicated that around half of the females were only provided with messages/information about puberty and signs of menstruation, with the source being the mother, followed by friends/relatives, and then school. However, there is no data available with regards to receiving information on how to best meet menstrual needs, including the proper selection and disposal of sanitary pads.

Nutritional status. Nutritional status indicators are important to identify risk factors that may affect future growth and health of adolescents and youth. There is limited data available about nutrition indicators for adolescents and youth; some indicators are available for adolescents only in the age group 10-19 years from the EFHS 2021 and the 2014 EDHS, in addition to data for ever-married women aged 15-24 years from the same surveys.

Results from the EFHS 2021 indicated that around two thirds of never-married adolescent males and females are within normal weight range (see *Figure 2.26*). 20 per cent of females are overweight, which is higher than the reported percentage for males (14 per cent), while limited differences in obesity levels are reported between males and females (7.2 per cent and 8.5 per cent, respectively). Looking at ever-married women aged 15-19 years, only around one third have normal weight, while 38 per cent are overweight, and 28 per cent are considered obese (68 per cent are either overweight or obese).

Figure 2.26 Nutrition status of adolescents aged 10-19 years by sex, Egypt 2021



Source: CAPMAS. 2022a. EFHS 2021. Tables 11-10-1, 11-10-2

Figure 2.27 Trend in percentage of adolescents aged 10-19 years who are overweight/obese by sex, Egypt 2014-2021

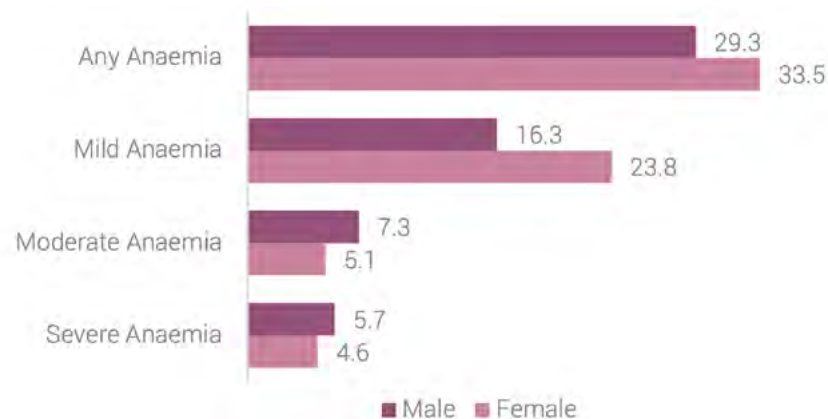


Source: Estimated by the author based on data from 2014 EDHS and EFHS 2021

There is documented improvement in nutritional status indicators among adolescents, where overweight has declined significantly in 2021 compared with 2014 for the age group 10-14 years among both males and females (see *Figure 2.27*). The decline in overweight was less evident among adolescents aged 15-19 years, meaning that more efforts and interventions are needed targeting adolescents, especially secondary school students. The percentages of ever-married women aged 15-19 years who are overweight or obese remained almost at the same level between 2014 and 2021 (42 per cent and 39 per cent, respectively).

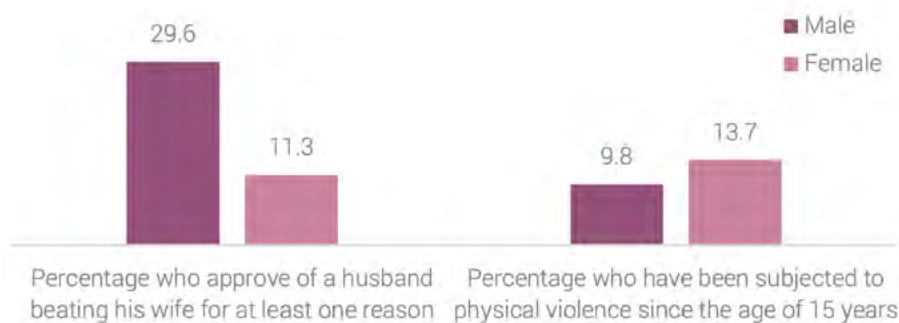
Another indicator for nutritional status of adolescents is anaemia level. Findings from the EFHS 2021 indicated that anaemia level is quite high among adolescents aged 10-19 years. *Figure 2.28* presents the prevalence of anaemia which has reached around 34 per cent among females and 29 per cent among males, with the majority of cases being mildly anaemic (24 per cent among females, and 16 per cent among males). Nevertheless, moderate and severe anaemia are higher among males than females. There was a significant increase in anaemia levels among adolescents in the age group 10-19 years in 2021 compared to the levels reported in the 2014 EDHS. According to the 2014 EDHS, anaemia levels among females aged 10-19 years was 21 per cent, with only 1 per cent suffering from moderate anaemia, while the prevalence among male adolescents was 18 per cent, with only 3.4 per cent being moderately anaemic (estimated based on data from 2014 EDHS). As for ever-married women in the age groups 15-19 years, the level of reported anaemia was around 34 per cent in 2021, which is higher than the level observed in the 2014 EDHS by around 9 percentage points.

Figure 2.28 Anaemia status of youth aged 10-19 years by sex, Egypt 2021



Source: Estimated by the author based on data from EFHS 2021

Figure 2.29 Attitudes and exposure to violence among never-married youth aged 15-29 years by sex, Egypt 2021



Source: : CAPMAS. 2022a. EFHS 2021. Table 16.7 and 16.8

2.3.2 Right to protection

All children should be provided with protection against any violence, abuse, or exploitation. Facing physical, verbal or psychological violence impacts children and adolescents' health and wellbeing. In addition, children also need to be protected against unlawful child labour. Moreover, girls are potentially at risk of gender-based violence, including FGM, child marriage and accordingly childbearing in adolescent age, as well as physical and emotional abuse.

Violence and disciplinary practices with children and adolescents

Violence can occur at home, school, on the street and within the community. Females are more likely to endure violence than males as violent practices against females are to some extent accepted, according to data collected from EFHS 2021 asking respondents whether it is justifiable for a husband to beat his wife for certain reasons. Results indicated that close to one quarter of never-married youth aged 15-29 years, agree that wife beating is justified (22 per cent). *Figure 2.29* demonstrates that never-married male youth aged 15-29 years are more likely to agree that wife beating is justified (30 per cent) than female youth (11 per cent). The EFHS 2021 also collected data on the exposure to physical violence from any person since the age of 15. Results indicated that females are more likely to be exposed to violence since age 15 than male youth. Overall, around 14 per cent of never-married females aged 15-29 years reported exposure to physical violence compared with 10 per cent among male youth.

The EFHS 2021 survey also collected information on domestic violence against ever-married women aged 15-49 years; an estimate calculated by the author for ever-married women aged 15-24 years concerning domestic violence indicated that 26 per cent of women aged 15-24 years were exposed to physical violence by the husband, 20 per cent were exposed to emotional violence, and 6 per cent exposed to sexual violence (see *Figure 2.30*). 29 per cent of ever-married women aged 15-24 years were exposed to any type of violence. Analysis also revealed that domestic violence against women is highest among women in the lowest wealth quintile and those who have not completed primary education. Furthermore, the results of EFHS 2021 indicated that there is no significant decline in practicing violence against women compared to the levels observed in the 2014 EDHS.

Figure 2.30 Exposure of ever-married women aged 15-24 years to spousal violence, Egypt 2021

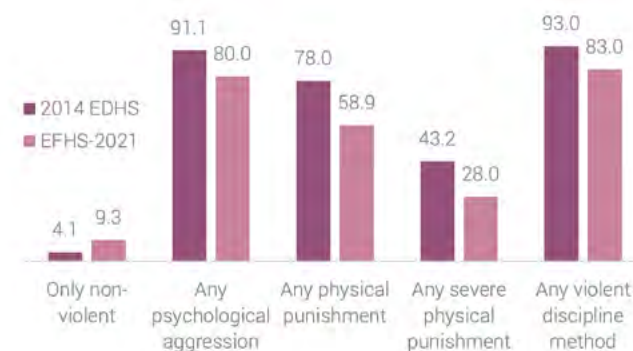


Source: Estimated by the author based on data from EFHS 2021.

In Egypt, violent disciplinary practices²⁷ are commonly adopted by parents. The EFHS 2021 indicated that only 9 per cent of children aged 1-14 years experienced non-violent disciplinary methods, while 83 per cent were exposed to violent disciplinary practices in the month prior to the survey (see *Figure 2.31*). During the month prior to the survey, around 59 per cent of children aged 1-14 years were exposed to any physical violence, and 28 per cent of children were exposed to severe physical violence such as hitting or slapping the child on the face, head or ears and/or hitting the child over and over extremely hard. Also, around 80 per cent of children aged 1-14 years experienced emotional violence in the last month before the survey. Although violent disciplinary methods are common across all subgroups, results indicated that children in the wealthier households are less likely to be exposed to violent disciplinary practices than children living in poorer households, and highly educated mothers are less likely to use violent disciplinary methods than less educated mothers. Also, girls are less likely than boys to suffer from violent discipline.

²⁷ Violent disciplinary practices include: psychological aggression (shouting, yelling, and calling the child name), physical punishment (shaking the child, hitting or spanking on parts of the body other than the face) and severe physical punishment (hitting or slapping the child on the face, head or ears and hitting the child over and over as hard as you can).

Figure 2.31 Trend in child discipline among children aged 1-14 years, Egypt 2014-2021



Source: CAPMAS. 2022a. EFHS 2021. *Table 13.12*. MoHP, El-Zanaty & Associates, and ICF international. 2015a. EDHS 2014. *Table 14.198*.

Results also indicated that there is a decline in practicing violent disciplinary methods, with results of the EFHS 2021 showing a lower percentage of violent methods used. Severe physical punishment declined from 43 per cent in the 2014 EDHS to 28 per cent in the EFHS 2021, and a similar decline was observed in the other types of violent practices.

“Although violent disciplinary methods are common across all subgroups, results indicated that children in the wealthier households are less likely to be exposed to violent disciplinary practices than children living in poorer households”

Bullying and harassment. One of the violent practices that children and adolescents bear is bullying. Bullying is defined as any form of repeated aggressive behaviour intended to cause psychological, social or physical harm.²⁸ There are limited studies available on bullying, and even the available ones are small scale studies. Bullying can happen anywhere: at school, at work, at home, online, or via text messaging. However, bullying among school students has increased nowadays, and became a very serious problem that can negatively affect children and adolescents on various dimensions, such as adversely impacting their mental health or causing poor academic achievement.

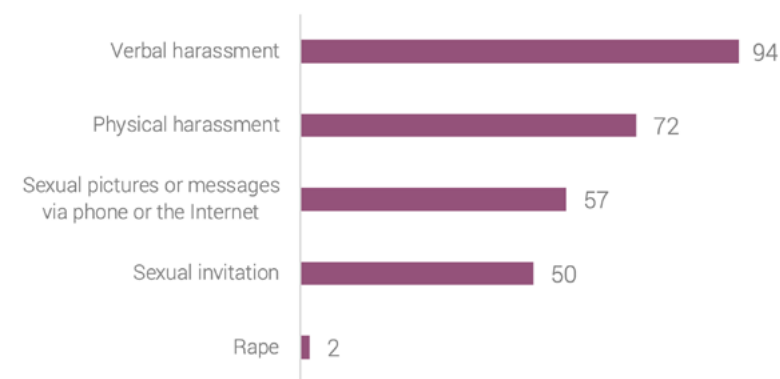
The “Violence against Children in Egypt” study was launched in 2015 and covered a sample of 2,400 households and 110 schools in Cairo, Alexandria and Assiut governorates (NCCM & UNICEF, 2015). Results of the study indicated that one in three students aged 13-17 years suffer from peer bullying. The study indicated that among children aged 13-17 years about 39 per cent in Cairo, 30 per cent in Alexandria, and 27 per cent of those in Assiut have experienced sexual harassment, mostly verbal harassment such as perpetrator describing their bodies/private parts or generally talking about sex (NCCM and UNICEF, 2015). In 2018, the NCCM in collaboration with UNICEF, EU and MoETE issued “Bullying and Our Children” publication sharing some data from the child helpline on bullying. The released publication indicated that 70 per cent of reported bullying happens in schools and that bullying is more common among boys than girls reaching 70 per cent among males (NCCM, UNICEF, MoETE, EU, 2018).

A small-scale cross-sectional study was conducted on 350 primary and preparatory school students in Tanta district, Gharbia Governorate, asking students about their experience with different bullying behaviours, types, and their implications (Khalil NA, et. al., 2021). The results indicated that 315 of sampled students were exposed to some type of bullying. Among those who have experienced bullying, 53.1 per cent suffered physical bullying and 49.8 per cent tolerated verbal bullying. About 56 per cent of students who experienced bullying were males, while 44 per cent were females. The study also indicated that bullying happens inside and outside the school, as well as online (i.e., internet) or over the telephone.

²⁸ <https://www.unicef.org/egypt/bullying>, Retrieved on 25-11-2023

²⁹ Tadween 2022: unpublished

Figure 2.32 Forms of sexual harassment among women, Egypt 2021



Source: Fahmy, Amel and Ahmed Bader. 2021 Sexual Harassment in Egypt: Study of means of support and Protection and reporting mechanisms. Tadween Center for gender studies, Cairo, Egypt.

Harassment is another form of violence that the Egyptian law addresses in its penal code. The word “harassment” was first introduced in 2021 through amendments to the Penal Code of 2014²⁹, in Article No. 306a, and 306b. However, and in spite of the law, harassment levels are still high. In a study conducted in 2021 through social media that covered 5,534 females, results indicated that 94 per cent of females were exposed to verbal harassment, 72 per cent were exposed to physical harassment, and round 57 per cent received sexual messages or photos through their cell phones (see *Figure 2.32*). In addition, 2 per cent of female respondents were exposed to rape. Surprisingly, around one third of interviewed women were subjected to sexual harassment for the first time during childhood (at the age of 2-9 years). Finally, the study revealed that public spaces and transportation means were the most reported places for harassment (Fahmy, Amel & Ahmed Bader, 2021).

Harmful traditional practices. One of the most common violent practices against girls is FGM. Fortunately, FGM has started to decline over time especially among younger generations, however, the prevalence of FGM is still high. Results from the EFHS 2021, presented in *Figure 2.33*, indicate that about two fifths of never-married female youth in the age cohort 15-24 years have been circumcised. The data indicated that there is clear decline in FGM among adolescents since the 2015 EHIS. Data indicated that circumcision among never-married females aged 15-19 years declined from 65.4 per cent in 2015 to 38.2 per cent in 2021. Also, FGM declined from 65.5 per cent among never-married females aged 20-24 years in 2015 to 41.3 per cent in 2021. FGM is more common in rural areas than urban, especially in rural Upper Egypt, and prevalence is higher among less educated female youth and among those in the lowest two wealth quintiles. Results from the EFHS 2021 and the 2014 EDHS among ever-married women in the age 15-24 years also document a decline in FGM but at a lower rate than among never-married women. In 2014, 88 per cent of ever-married women aged 15-24 years have been circumcised; this percentage decreases to 71 per cent in 2021. The decline was more profound among the age cohort 15-19 years where the prevalence of FGM dropped from 88 per cent in 2014 to 67 per cent in 2021. The highest level of decline was reported among ever-married women in the fourth wealth quintile and among those in the age cohort 15-19 years (see Annex *Tables A.20 and A.21*). It is worth noting that the reported decline in FGM, especially among older age groups is unjustified and raises a concern about data reliability and the accuracy and transparency of respondents' answers in the EFHS 2021.

The age at which FGM is performed is associated with puberty, where the majority of FGM performed is between the age of 9 and 12 years. More efforts and interventions are needed to eliminate this practice.

Data indicated that **circumcision among never-married females** aged 15-19 years declined from

65.4% in 2015 \longrightarrow to \longrightarrow **38.2%** in 2021

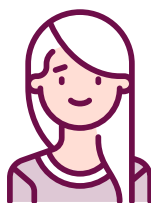
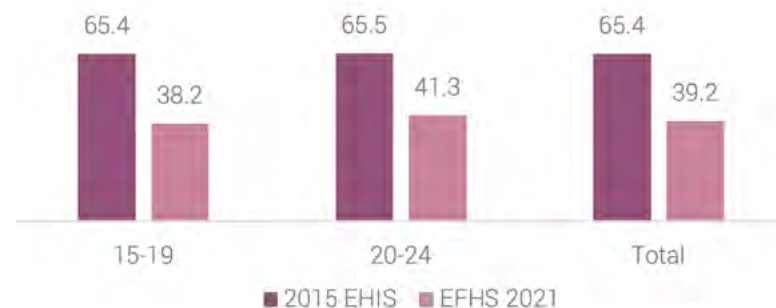


Figure 2.33 Trend in percentage of circumcision among never-married female youth aged 15-24 years*, Egypt 2015-2021



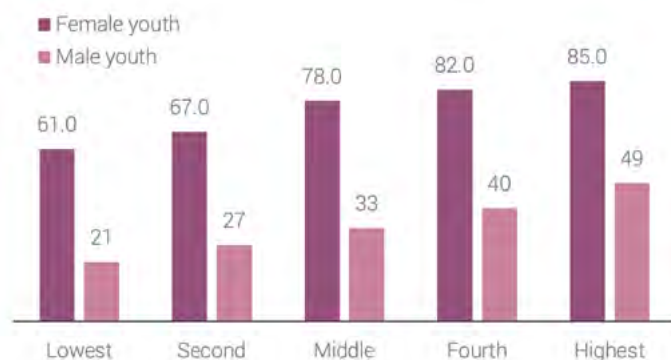
* Total is estimated by the author based on data from EFHS 2021

Analysis from the EFHS 2021 dataset, indicated that one quarter of male and female youth have recently received information about FGM. Primary sources for receiving information about FGM were Television (66 per cent) and relatives and friends (42 per cent). When youth were asked if they believe circumcision is a religious requirement, 18 per cent of never-married male youth aged 15-24 years and 15 per cent of never-married female youth in the same age group believe that circumcision is a religious requirement. By educational level, female youth who have never been to school are the most likely to report that circumcision is a religious requirement (33 per cent). On the contrary, never-married male youth with a secondary education or higher are more likely to report that circumcision is a religious requirement (22 per cent) compared to male youth of a lower education attainment. By place of residence, never-married female youth living in rural areas of Upper Egypt and never-married male youth residing rural areas of Lower Egypt are more likely to say that circumcision is a religious requirement compared to their counterparts residing elsewhere. Concerning female youth beliefs regarding women's attitudes towards FGM, about three quarters of female youth mentioned the practice should stop and only 13 per cent reported that it should continue. Among never-married male

youth, one third reported that the practice should stop, 20 per cent think the practice should continue and 47 per cent were undecided. For both male and female youth, opposing the practice increases with wealth (see *Figure 2.34*).

Medicalization of FGM is a significant problem since the majority of never-married female youth aged 15-24 years are circumcised by a doctor (71 per cent) and 7.5 per cent of circumcisions are performed by nurses. In 2022, an amendment to the FGM law took place to increase the penalty to 10-15 years of imprisonment for doctors who perform the practice as well as the guardians/parents in an attempt to curb medicalization.

Figure 2.34 Never-married youth who want the practice of FGM to stop, by wealth quintiles, Egypt 2021



* Estimated by the author based on data from EFHS 2021 dataset

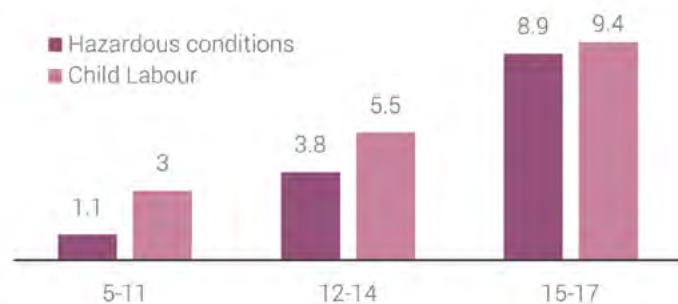
Child labour. Child labour is criminalized in Egypt. Article 80 of the Egyptian Constitution of 2014 clearly prohibits employing children before they reach the age of having completed their primary education and prohibits their employment in jobs that expose them to risk. In addition, as part of Egypt’s Vision 2030, which is in line with the SDGs, the Government, in collaboration with the ILO and supported by UNICEF, has developed “*The National Action Plan for Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour and Supporting Family (2018-2025)*”.

Despite all the laws and efforts to eliminate child labour, 4.9 per cent of children aged 5-17 years are engaged in child labour activities, according to the EFHS 2021. This figure represents a decline from 7 per cent in the 2014 EDHS and 9.3 per cent in the 2010 national child labour survey (IPEC, CAPMAS, 2010). The current figure indicates that around 1.3 million children aged 5-17 years are engaged in child labour activities with about 900,000 children exposed to hazardous work environment (UNICEF, 2023a). By sex, 7 per cent of male children aged 5-17 years are involved in child labour compared to 3 per cent among female children. The EFHS 2021 results revealed that child labour rate in rural areas is twice the rate in urban areas (6 per cent versus 3 per cent, respectively). Also, 10 per cent of children aged 5-17 years and in the lowest wealth quintile are engaged in child labour activities compared to only 1.5 per cent among those in the highest wealth quintile. It is worth noting that the highest level of child labour is observed among those whose mothers are deceased (13 per cent). School attendance of children involved in child labour is of concern since 10 per cent of out of school children are working, compared to 4 per cent of children attending school (CAPMAS, 2022a).

Utilizing the EFHS 2021 data, logistic regression analysis was conducted to examine factors associated with child labour. The model results indicated that male children are three times more likely than females to be involved in child labour, and children aged 15-17 years are also three times more likely than children aged 5-11 years to be involved in child labour (See *Figure 2.35*). In addition, results confirm that children in the most economically vulnerable households (i.e., lowest two wealth quintiles) are twice as likely to be engaged in child labour than children living in households in the higher wealth quintiles. There is a clear significant impact on child labour if the mother dies where children whose mothers are deceased are slightly more than 2 times more likely to be engaged in child labour than children whose mothers are alive. Results have also indicated that children in rural areas are 1.5 times more likely to be involved in child labour than children in urban areas (See Annex *Table A.26*).

Data on children’s exposure to the worst forms of child labour, such as drug trafficking, forced beggary, and commercial sexual exploitation, was not collected through the EFHS 2021. There is no published data or estimates on the number of children exposed to those forms of child exploitation.

Figure 2.35 Children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour and working under hazardous conditions by age, Egypt 2021



Source: CAPMAS, 2022a. EFHS 2021. Table 12.11

Child marriage. Marriage is illegal in Egypt for any person below the age of 18. Child marriage is considered a violation of human rights, and it also places a burden on children and society and bears lasting consequences. Moreover, child marriage in Egypt could increase gender-based violence, dropping out of school, and result in higher fertility rates. Data from the EFHS 2021, indicated that around 1 per cent of women aged 15-19 years interviewed in the survey were married by age 15. Additionally, 17.6 per cent of women aged 20-24 years were married by the age of 18. These figures are slightly lower than what was observed in the 2014 EDHS, where 1.2 per cent of ever-married women aged 15-19 years were married by age 15 or younger, and 19.4 per cent of those aged 20-24 years were married by age 18. Results from the EFHS 2021 also indicated an increase in the age at first marriage among younger cohorts. Only 2 per cent of women aged 20-24 years were married by age 15, and 16 per cent were married by age 18, much lower than the rates reported among older women. Data from the EFHS 2021 has also indicated that child marriage is higher in rural areas than urban areas.

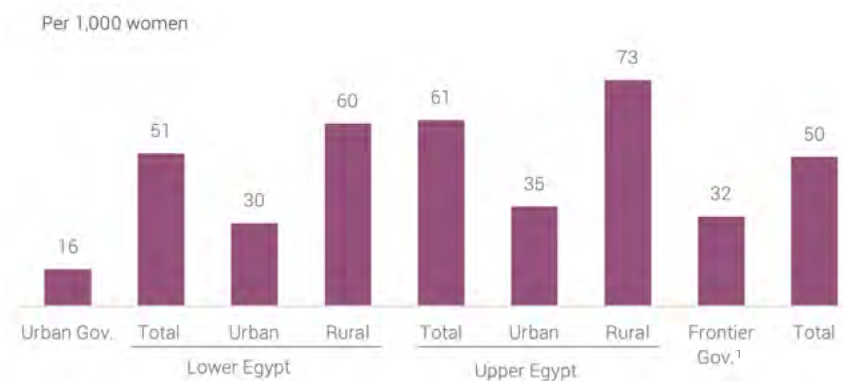
Adolescents' fertility and birth rate. Teenage fertility is a major health concern because teenage mothers and their children are at high risk of illness and death. The EFHS 2021 results indicated that the overall fertility rate for women aged 15-19 years is 50 births per 1,000 women, with significant differences between regions; *Figure 2.36* clearly shows that the

fertility rate in rural areas of Upper Egypt is double the fertility rate in urban areas, where fertility rate in rural Upper Egypt is 73 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years compared to 35 births per 1,000 women in urban areas of Upper Egypt. The same pattern was observed in Lower Egypt.

Urban governorates showed the lowest level of fertility rate among women aged 15-19 years. Overall, the fertility rate of teenage women declined compared to the level observed in the 2014 EDHS, yet it is about the same rate observed in the 2000 EDHS.

Adolescent childbearing among women aged 15-19 years has reached 6.2 per cent, where around 1 per cent of women aged 15-19 years are currently pregnant with their first baby, while 5.3 per cent already have children (see *Figure 2.37*). Variations are clear by region and educational level; childbearing is more prevalent among women from rural areas, and those never enrolled in school or those who have not completed their primary education (CAPMAS, 2022a).

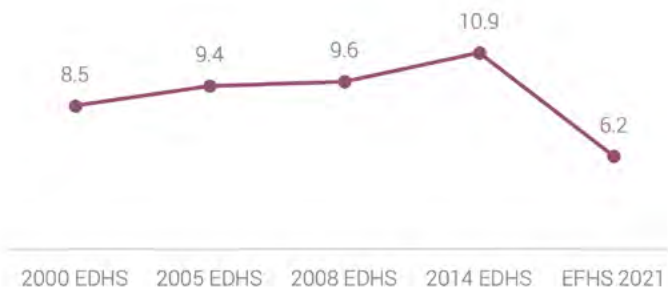
Figure 2.36 Fertility rate among adolescents aged 15-19 years by place of residence, Egypt 2021



¹ Does not include North Sinai governorate

Source: CAPMAS, 2022a. EFHS 2021. Table 4.1

Figure 2.37 Trend in prevalence of adolescents aged 15-19 years, childbearing, Egypt 2000-2021



Gender roles

Achieving gender equality and women's empowerment are among Egypt's priorities, and the establishment of the National Council for Women (NCW), is an example of Egypt's efforts to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment. Despite of all efforts and the commitment of the leadership to empowering women, gender equality remains an issue.

Data has been collected in the EFHS 2021 about the opinion of youth aged 15-29 years about gender roles and the difference between men and women. Around half of never-married youth believe that gender equality is part of the Egyptian tradition and culture, and this proportion is much higher among females (62 per cent) compared to males (37 per cent). The vast majority of male youth (84 per cent) and the majority of female youth (54 per cent) believe that a woman's most important role is to take care of the home and cook for the family. In addition, only 38 per cent of female youth agree that it is more important for a woman to marry than to have a career, compared to 70 per cent of male youth. Surprisingly, while male and female youth are both highly supportive of female education, men are significantly less supportive when it comes to women's employment: around 42 per cent of male youth believe that a married woman should have the same right to work outside the home, while 72 per cent of female youth agree. Furthermore, additional results confirm women's limited autonomy and decision-making. For example, most male youth (84 per cent) agree that the man must have the final say inside home, while around 46 per cent of female youth agreed to that. Similar results were reported from the small-scale 2016 International Men and Gender Equity Survey (IMAGES). In general, there are very limited data and studies targeting gender roles and equality, and thus more studies are needed to investigate the progress in gender equality in Egypt.

2.3.3 Access to employment and civic freedoms

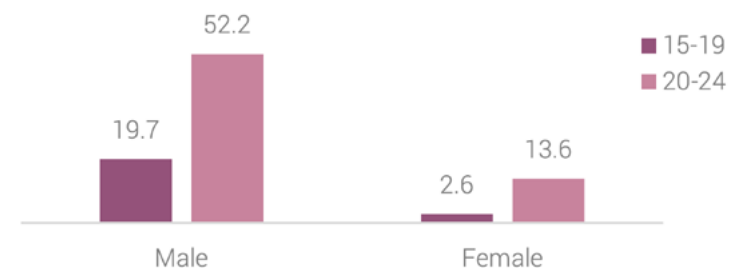
Previous data indicated that there was significant improvement in NER for education and a decline in the dropout rate among school-aged children and adolescents. Along with that, there has been substantial improvement in the literacy rate among youth aged 15-29 years. Nevertheless, further progress is needed with regards to digital literacy. The current university education does not equip youth with the skills needed to be engaged in the labour market. In 2023, a study investigating unemployment among youth indicated that there is a mismatch between labour market demands and skills of university graduates (UNICEF, 2023b). This mismatch also leads to longer unemployment periods, and jobs that do not meet youth's qualifications. Limited data is available about youth aged 15-24 years who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET)³⁰ in Egypt. In a recent study, it was estimated that around 30 per cent of Egyptian youth aged 15-24 years were NEET in 2020, and the study illustrated that this figure was even higher in 2010 (33 per cent), but lower in 2017 at 26.9 per cent (Ahmed & Omar, 2023). This may be one of the implications of the COVID-19 epidemic, which led to a months-long lockdown in late 2020. The latest figure reported in 2022 by the World Bank utilizing the ILO database estimated that the NEET in Egypt was 28.7 per cent, which is considered higher than the average of developing countries (World Bank, 2022b). Also, NEET is much higher among female youth than male youth (42 per cent compared to 17 per cent, respectively).

Youth employment and unemployment

According to the 2023 CAPMAS Annual Bulletin of Labor Force Survey, around 30.1 million are in the labour force in Egypt, out of which 27.9 million are employed, and 2.2 are unemployed. Females in the labour force are estimated to be 5.1 million, and males are around 25 million. With regards to youth aged 15-24 years in the labour force, it is estimated that less than one million of females aged 15-24 years are in the labour force (670.8 thousand) and around 3.6 million male youth aged 15-24 years are in the labour force. This indicates that youth in the age group 15-24 years represent around 14.2 per cent of the labour force, with females having a much lower participation percentage in the labour force compared to males.

³⁰ NEET is defined by the World Bank as the proportion of young people who are not in education, employment, or training to the total population of young people (ages 15-24) or (25-29) or both groups.

Figure 2.38 Participation rate in economic activity by age and sex, Egypt 2022



Source: CAPMAS. 2023. Annual Bulletin of Labor Force Survey 2022

The 2022 CAPMAS Annual Bulletin of Labor Force Survey indicated that participation in economic activity is much higher among males than females, where around 19.7 per cent of males aged 15-19 years are employed compared to only 2.6 per cent among females in the same age bracket (see *Figure 2.38*). Also, around 52 per cent of male youth aged 20-24 years are employed, compared to only 14 per cent of female youth.

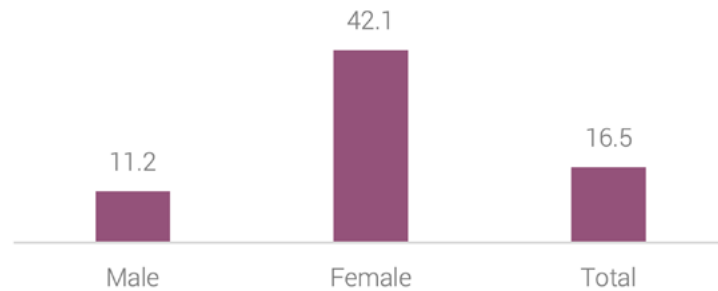
Youth in the age group 15-24 years represent around

14.2%

of the labour force, with females having a much lower participation percentage in the labour force compared to males.



Figure 2.39 Unemployment rate among youth aged 15-29 years by sex, Egypt 2022



Source: CAPMAS. 2023. Bulletin of Labor Force Survey 2022

Unemployment

According to CAPMAS (2023), in 2022, unemployment among youth aged 15-29 years was estimated to be 16.5 per cent, with the rate being much higher among female youth than males (42 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively) (see *Figure 2.39*). Results also indicated that unemployment is higher among highly educated youth compared to less educated youth and among wealthier than poorer ones.

Looking at trends in the unemployment rate among youth aged 15-29 years since 2016, data presented in *Figure 2.40* shows that there has been a continuous decline in the unemployment rate among male youth, followed by a plateau in 2020 and 2021, before slightly increasing again in 2022. On the other hand, unemployment among female youth increased over time since 2017 to reach around 46 per cent in 2018, then started to decline again to reach around 36 per cent in 2021. Overall, there has been a decline over time in the unemployment rate among male youth from a level of around 26 per cent in 2016 to 15 per cent in 2020 and a continuation of this level in 2021 before increasing again in 2022 to reach 16.5 per cent, with a significant increase among females.

In a study conducted by UNICEF in 2023 about youth unemployment in Egypt utilizing the ELMPS 2018 survey, the study concluded that unemployment is linked to education. The results showed that around 34 per cent of youth with secondary or higher education are

Figure 2.40 Trend in unemployment rate among youth (15-29 years) by sex, Egypt 2022



Source: CAPMAS. 2023. Annual Bulletin of Labor Force Survey 2022 and CAPMAS. 2022. Annual Bulletin of Labor Force Survey 2021.

unemployed compared to only 13 per cent among those with no education. Also, the study results indicated that unemployment is higher among the richest youth aged 15-24 years than the poorest (41 per cent and 19 per cent, respectively) (UNICEF, 2023b). This study also addressed the issue of low pay and temporary jobs, where around 55 per cent of those who are working reported working in a temporary job. Despite this, according to a phone survey conducted in 2021, around 83 per cent of youth reported their satisfaction with their current job (UNICEF, 2021).



Unemployment is higher among highly educated youth compared to less educated youth and among wealthier than poorer ones.



Civic engagement

Youth participation in volunteer work in their community usually develops their life skills, increases their awareness about their rights as citizens, and allows them to play a positive role in their community. Results from a recent study conducted among young people aged 18-29 years and carried out by the Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC) about youth interest indicated that participation in voluntary work is only at 10.9 per cent (The Egyptian Cabinet: IDSC, 2021). This result is close to the findings from the 2018 ELMPS survey, where only 7 per cent of youth aged 15-24 years were participating in any voluntary work during the 12 months preceding the survey. In addition, the survey revealed that older youth are more likely to participate in voluntary work compared to younger ones, and it also indicated that youth participation is higher in Upper Egypt compared to Lower Egypt, and that it is higher among females compared to males. Results from the 2014 Survey of Young People in Egypt (SYPE) indicated that 14 per cent of youth aged 15-29 years were involved in voluntary work during the 12 months preceding the survey. These results suggest that voluntary work is very limited among youth in Egypt, and also indicates the need to conduct more studies to understand what motivates youth to participate in voluntary work.





03.

Groups at risk of being left behind: Thematic analysis

By nature, children are particularly vulnerable due to their developing bodies and reliance on adults for their basic needs, protection, and care. In addition, their childhood and lives are shaped and often impacted by decisions made by others. Displaced children, children on the move, those with disabilities, and children in need of alternative care are the most vulnerable subgroups. Those children are at risk of being violently abused, exploited, forced into labour or trafficking, engaged in child marriage, and other illegal activities. Although the Egyptian constitution guarantees the fundamental rights and freedom to all children and young people living in Egypt, at-risk children and young people are prone to significant challenges. This section of the situation analysis report seeks to understand the magnitude of challenges and inequalities facing children-at-risk.



3.1 Children and young people on the move

Children and young people on the move refer primarily to migrant and displaced populations, although some organizations have a broader umbrella covering children who have been trafficked or living on the streets (IOM, 2015). The International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC) defines children on the move as children who have been directly or indirectly affected by migration and displacement, either internationally across borders or within the same country. According to IDAC, the term “children on the move” includes “child migrants; children in need of international protection, such as refugees and asylum-seekers; internally displaced children; children indirectly affected by migration and displacement, such as children who stay behind while parents or caregivers migrate; stateless children (stateless in the context of migration and displacement) and child victims of cross-border trafficking” (IDAC, 2023).

There is very limited data related to children in street situations and the number of cases of child trafficking. Experts in Egypt estimate the number of children in street situations to be between 200,000 and one million (UNODC, 2023). Accordingly, this section will focus on refugee and asylum seeker children, including those who are unaccompanied or separated, to shed light on their numbers and the diverse protection challenges those children bear when they are forcibly displaced.

As of June 2024, Egypt was hosting 672,000 registered refugees and asylum-seekers, primarily from Sudan, Syria, South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, as well as smaller numbers from Yemen and Somalia. UNHCR reported that 40 per cent of registered refugees and asylum-seekers are children in the age cohort 0-17 years (UNHCR, May 2024). With regards to unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), numbers from UNHCR bulletin indicated that Egypt had 7,314 UASC at the end of May 2024, representing about 3 per cent of the total number of registered refugee and asylum seeker children (i.e., a total of 248,198 children at the end of May 2024). This represents an increase of 50 per cent compared to the number of UASC by the end of 2022.

3.1.1 Progress and inequities in outcomes in the rights of refugee children and young people

Egypt ratified the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol in 1967. In 1954, GoE signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNHCR designating UNHCR to provide services of registration, documentation, and refugee status determination on behalf of the government. The GoE also continues to reiterate its commitment to expand health and education services available to refugees and asylum-seekers.

Regular vulnerability assessments conducted by UNHCR for refugees and asylum-seekers indicate an upward trend in vulnerability level. The vulnerability assessment report indicated that 19 per cent of refugees are extremely poor, 20 per cent are poor, and 33 per cent are near poor (UNHCR, 2018). The deteriorating economic situation, rising prices and increased cost of living have further impacted the well-being of refugees and UNHCR Egypt reports an increase in suicide attempts, violent incidents, and substance abuse (UNHCR, 2023).



Progress and inequalities in education

The GoE is continuously partnering with UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and other UN and international organizations to identify and respond to refugees' needs. The government is committed to expanding education services to refugees and asylum-seekers, yet not all nationalities have access to the public education system. Realizing the vital role of education in empowering refugee children, strengthening their skills, and improving social cohesion, UNHCR works with various partners to provide necessary support and achieve desired goals. Below are some examples of the key progress achieved:

- Refugee and asylum-seeker children from Syria, Sudan, South Sudan, and Yemen have access to governmental public schools.
- In addition to public schools, there is a small number of community schools and schools run by diplomatic missions for refugee children offering the national curricula from their home countries (MoETE, 2021).
- Enrolment rates among refugees are high, where in 2022, 85 per cent of refugee children were enrolled in primary education and 79 per cent were enrolled in secondary education (UNHCR, 2023).
- In 2023, UNHCR provided a total of 56,200 education grants to refugee children to enrol in public, private, and community schools: 46,400 went to refugee children to enrol in basic education, 9,200 to enrol in upper secondary education and about 600 enhanced education grants for children with disabilities (UNHCR, 2023). As of June 2024, UNHCR had provided 73,000 children with education cash grants to cover the cost of enrolment of refugee students in public schools and refugee community learning centres, facilitate access to safe transportation to school, and to contribute to the cost of needed stationery (UNHCR, June 2024).
- During the academic school year 2022/2023, a total of 596 refugees from Syria, Sudan, Yemen, South Sudan, Iraq, Eritrea, and Somalia benefited from the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarships. DAFI scholarship provides an opportunity for young refugee men and women to enrol in higher education. Although children do not directly benefit from this scholarship, it offers a path forward for young people's education and gives them the opportunity to pursue higher educational degrees (UNHCR, 2023).



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- In 2023, UNICEF, along with other partners, supported 14,705 Kindergarten students with education cash grants, of which about 10,000 were for Sudanese and sub-Saharan nationalities. Additionally, UNICEF provided educational materials to 473 Sudanese students and delivered winterization clothes at UNICEF Learning Spaces in Aswan for 920 Sudanese students (UNICEF, December 2023).
- UNICEF, in collaboration with various partners, offered catch-up classes for Sudanese students across Greater Cairo. Overall, 1,000 Sudanese students benefited from catch-up classes delivered face-to-face or online (UNICEF, December 2023).

UNICEF and partners supported



14,705

Kindergarten students

with education cash grants



Challenges and inequalities in refugees' education

Refugee children from nationalities other than Syria, Yemen, Sudan, and South Sudan cannot enrol in Egyptian public schools.

In 2022, **only 42.3 per cent of refugee children are enrolled in the national educational system, leaving more than 50 per cent behind.** The language barrier makes it difficult to include those nationalities within the public schooling system (UNHCR, 2023).

Despite the high enrolment rate, **primary enrolment rate is much lower among refugees** compared to the national levels reported in the EFHS 2021.

More than half of UASC were not enrolled in school for the academic year 2022/2023. However, no data is available on the number of school-aged children within UASC population (UNHCR, 2023).

The dropout rate among refugee children for the secondary education is concerning at 20 per cent (UNHCR, 2023).

Despite the high enrolment rate reported by UNHCR among refugee children, data on Sudanese children reveals otherwise. A phone-based survey indicated that **45 per cent of Sudanese displaced children were not enrolled in school** as of May 2024 declining from 55 per cent in November 2023, although almost all of them were enrolled in schools in Sudan. Such low enrolment rates are mainly due to fees and associated education expenses, and some parents reported other reasons such as challenges with providing official documents required and concerns for discrimination and bullying (UNICEF, WB, WFP, 2023).

The majority of Sudanese children (72 per cent) are enrolled in Sudanese private/international schools and Sudanese community schools, while **only 12 per cent are enrolled in Egyptian public schools and 11 per cent are enrolled in Egyptian private/international schools.**

Progress and inequalities in health care

Access to health care is another fundamental right for all refugees and asylum-seekers. Overall, UNHCR Egypt reported that 85.6 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers have access to health services. UNHCR has advocated for the inclusion of refugees into the Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHS); however, a number of hurdles are in the way of realizing this goal. A study on the feasibility of including refugees in UHS estimated that most refugees would not be able to contribute monthly to the insurance plan either because they would not be able to afford it or it would impact their expenditures and they would fall short to meet basic needs (ILO, UNHCR, Kingdom of the Netherlands, 2023). Although the public treasury provides contributions to the UHS to cover for contributions that should have been made by vulnerable populations, a question is raised about the ability of the GoE with the current economic situation to provide for all vulnerable groups.



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Overall, positive outcomes are documented among refugee and asylum-seekers:

- Most births to refugees and asylum seekers were assisted by skilled health personnel, but no data is available on postnatal care for newborns (UNHCR, 2023).
- 96 per cent of children aged 9 months to five years have received measles vaccination (UNHCR, 2023).
- In addition to the MoHP, UNCHR, WFP, and other health partners provide support for health care services.
- The MoHP 100 Million Healthy Lives Campaign mobile units delivered health screening services to Sudanese individuals across Greater Cairo, showcasing commitment to inclusive health care (UNICEF, December 2023).
- Under the first 1,000 days programme, the WFP and MoSS provide unconditional monthly cash transfers to pregnant refugees and breastfeeding refugee mothers of children under the age of 2 years to ensure they receive necessary nutrition. This is delivered along with awareness sessions on nutrition to promote proper breastfeeding and nutrition for mothers and their young children (WFP, October 2023).
- UNICEF supported the development of the RapidPro interactive messaging platform as a means for refugee populations to access information on health care and psychosocial support services, emergency contact numbers, and also provides guidance on vaccination schedules and nutrition and feeding practices. In 2023, RapidPro has registered 1,600 Sudanese, providing them with unique medical numbers to efficiently access health care information (UNICEF, December 2023).

Challenges and inequalities in refugees' health care

Data on **health outcomes related to refugee children is limited.**

Financing is the main constraint to include refugees in UHIS as well as to offer health care services through UNHCR. Also, UNICEF's Humanitarian Situation Report issued in December 2023 indicated a **47 per cent funding gap in the health and nutrition sector** (UNICEF, December 2023).

Progress and inequalities in protection and inclusion

Refugees and asylum-seekers flee their home countries looking for a safe environment and protection. Basically, all refugees and asylum-seekers arriving to Egypt have access to asylum; physical, legal, and social protection; civil identification; and other national services. In the following are the key highlights:

- 90 per cent of refugee children under-five have their birth registered within civil authority and all registered refugees and asylum-seekers have legally recognized identity documents or credentials (UNHCR, 2023).
- 90 per cent of refugee children at heightened risk were supported by a Best of Interests Procedure (BIP), which is a guideline developed by UNHCR to help them and other partners improve the protection outcomes for refugee children. The BIP works to situate the best interest of refugee children within a comprehensive child protection system and enhance case management for them (UNHCR, 2023).
- Emergency protection housing assistance was provided to 2,163 refugee households, including individuals in urgent need of relocation, those who are homeless, and those exposed to violence or abuse (UNHCR, 2023).
- WFP provides food assistance through cash transfers to vulnerable refugees to address poverty and food insecurity. This cash transfer can be redeemed in partner retail stores. WFP assisted about 100,000 registered vulnerable refugees with monthly cash assistance to help secure their basic food needs (WFP, October 2023).
- Among Sudanese refugees, more than 80,000 displaced individuals have been reached through the WFP-UNICEF Emergency Cash Assistance Programme, and 3,744 displaced Sudanese households have been supported through the UNHCR-UNICEF cash assistance programme (UNICEF, December 2023). About two fifths of the emergency cash assistance programme beneficiaries are children under the age of 18.



Challenges and inequalities in refugees protection and inclusion

The refugee registration process at UNHCR is lengthy due to long queues, leading to extended completion times.

The GoE doesn't issue Convention Travel Documents for refugees and asylum-seekers. Also, the short validity and the centralized procedures of obtaining residence permits for refugees and asylum-seekers are key challenges (UNHCR, 2023).

According to UNHCR, in 2022, **84 per cent of refugees were living below the poverty line** (WFP, May 2023).

As of December 2022, the UNHCR Egypt office recorded a waiting list of about 19,700 families with about 54,000 individuals, of whom **54 per cent are not receiving any kind of assistance.** In response to this challenging situation, the UNHCR issued one-time assistance targeting families on the waiting list (UNHCR, 2023).

Only one third of economically vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers receive cash transfers or in-kind assistance (UNHCR, 2023).

Only 21 per cent of unaccompanied and separated children are in alternative care arrangements (UNHCR, 2023).

The number of unaccompanied and separated children has increased by about 50 per cent between the end of 2022 and the end of May 2024 (UNHCR, 2023 and UNHCR, May 2024).

UNHCR reported multiple challenges in emergency housing, resulting in significant unmet needs for refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt. **Challenges stem from the increasing number of homeless cases, who are exposed to high protection risks, along with the inflation and economic crisis reflecting on housing costs** (UNHCR, 2023). However, the number of refugees and asylum-seekers in need of housing protection has not been published.

3.2 Children and adolescents in alternative care

Children in alternative care refers to children who are not living with at least one of their parents either because their parents are unwilling or unable to care for them. The UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children outline several different forms of alternative care, including kinship care, residential care and foster care (Chrissie, G, 2021). The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) acknowledges that a family is the natural growing environment for a child. Article 20 stipulates that if a child is temporarily or permanently deprived from their family environment, the government should provide protection, assistance, and ensure alternative care in line with the law. The UNCRC considers adoption or Islamic *Kafala* as the preferred alternative family environment, with institutional placement being a secondary option³¹. Over the past decade, the GoE has made numerous changes to the alternative care system to align with the UNCRC and the UN General Assembly guidelines for alternative care. Next, is a discussion of the progress achieved and inequalities in relation to the alternative care framework and children or adolescents in need of those services.

“

Article 20 of the UNCRC stipulates that if a child is temporarily or permanently deprived from her/his family environment, the government should provide protection, assistance, and ensure alternative care in line with the law.

”

³¹ UNCRC article 20 “1. A child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State; 2. States Parties shall in accordance with their national laws ensure alternative care for such a child; 3. Such care could include, inter alia, foster placement, kafalah of Islamic law, adoption or if necessary placement in suitable institutions for the care of children. When considering solutions, due regard shall be paid to the desirability of continuity in a child's upbringing and to the child's ethnic, religious, cultural, and linguistic background.



3.2.1 Progress and inequities in rights outcomes for those in need of alternative care

In April 2021, MoSS, in partnership with UNICEF, issued the “National Strategy for the Alternative Care of Children and Youth in Egypt”. The strategy adopts the UN General Assembly guidelines for alternative care, promoting family-based care over residential care. The strategy calls for deinstitutionalization, which aims to reduce institutional care and seeks to provide alternative family care first within extended family and then turning to other promising families if the extended family is not an option. MoSS has been working on deinstitutionalizing alternative care and reducing the number of social care institutions, as well as expanding and facilitating procedures for family-based care via *Kafala*.

Children under two years and in need of alternative care are placed within the Childhood and Motherhood Care Centres. According to the new law, once the child reaches 3 months of age, they are eligible for *Kafala* and placement within an alternative family. If children are not placed in an alternative family, they are moved to sheltered nurseries until they reach 6 years of age, and then they are transferred to social care institutions. Children in institutional care who reach 18 years receive further support from the government, with the Ministry of Housing providing apartments for care leavers, the Ministry of Higher Education exempting those joining universities from the tuition fees, the MoHP providing them with health insurance, and the Ministry of Labour preserving a certain quota of vacant jobs for them, etc.

In 1996, Child Law No. 12 was published, introducing a separate article on alternative care arrangements, and was amended by Law No. 126 of 2008. Article 46 states, “The system of alternative care aims at providing social, psychological, health and professional care to children of more than two (2) years of age, whose circumstances prevented them from being brought up within their natural families and provide them with a sound upbringing making up for lost care and affection” (NCCM, 2008). Article 46 has been changed several times over the years. In 2014, the minimum age for *Kafala* was changed to start from birth, which was then annulled to three months in 2016 (El Azzazy, H, 2023).

An executive regulation was developed in 1997, stipulating criteria for children who could benefit from the alternative family-based care system. Several adjustments followed the executive regulations regarding foster care, introducing important guidelines for children in

residential care and establishing procedures for children with unknown parents. The latest one provided specific conditions for alternative families providing *Kafala*, and allowed for orphaned children and those with unknown parents to carry the family name of alternative families. Additionally, in 2010, and for the first time, an amendment gave single mothers the right to apply for *Kafala*. While in 2016, amendments allowed families with one non-Egyptian spouse to apply for *Kafala*; this was then reintroduced in 2020 as an exception that requires the approval of the Higher Committee for Alternative Families.

Alternative care in numbers: Limited data is available with regards to alternative care. CAPMAS issues an annual bulletin of social statistics which provides data on the number of children within family-based alternative care and the number of children within residential care: Shelter nurseries for those between 2-5 years and social care/residential institutions for children aged 6-18 years. However, there is no data available on the quality of alternative care and reasons for being in alternative care. *Table 3.7* illustrates the change in alternative care noticed throughout the years. CAPMAS data reveals that there is a 63 per cent increase in children placed in family-based alternative care between 2018 and 2021. In line with the MoSS strategy to deinstitutionalize alternative care, the number of social care facilities for children aged 6-18 years has declined from 471 in 2016 to 456 in 2018; however, it increased again in 2021 to reach 468 facilities. There have also been noticeable fluctuations in the number of children in social care institutions reaching the highest level in 2018. A similar pattern was observed for the number of sheltered nurseries offering services for children aged 2-5 years. However, there was a noticeable rise in the number of children placed in sheltered nurseries in 2021 compared to previous years (CAPMAS, 2021). Overall, in 2021, data indicates that 54 per cent of children in alternative care are placed within alternative families and the remaining 46 per cent are in residential care. The former Minister of Social Solidarity Dr. Nevine El-Kabbaj, had announced during a meeting in October 2023 that the number of children in family-based alternative care has increased beyond 20,000 children. It is expected to see the shift towards alternative families reflected in future data reports.

Table 3.1 Change in number of alternative families and number of children in family-based alternative care, as well as number of facilities and children in institutional care over the years

	Family-based alternative care		Social care institutions		Sheltered nurseries	
	No. of alternative families	No. of children	Number of facilities	No. of children	No. of nurseries	No. of children
2014	N/A	N/A	448	9202	83	214
2016	N/A	N/A	471	9729	86	1451
2018	9373	7666	456	10061	33	599
2021	12237	12513	468	9187	42	786

Source: CAPMAS. 2023. Annual Bulletin of Social Services Statistics, December 2022.

Challenges and inequalities in alternative care

Although the number of children in family-based alternative care has increased dramatically between 2018 and 2021, **the number of children in social care institutions remains high.**

There is almost **no data available** to monitor and evaluate both alternative and institutional care in relation to the quality of care provided.

The GoE has implemented numerous initiatives and programmes to combat and mitigate factors that can lead to the loss of parental care, such as violence and poverty. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that there is no clear set of preventive measures and procedural follow-ups for cases subject to alternative care to prevent unnecessary separation of children from their families.

3.3 Children and young people with disabilities

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2006, opened for signature in March 2007, and became effective in 2008. Article 1 of the CRPD states that “Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.” Article 7 of the CRPD discusses children with disabilities and stipulates that they “have full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children”, “In all actions concerning children with disabilities, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration”, and that “States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have the right to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, their views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, on an equal basis with other children, and to be provided with disabilities and age-appropriate assistance to realize that right.” (UNGA, 2006). In 2008, Egypt signed and ratified the CRPD, but it has not signed the Optional Protocol to the UNCRPD.

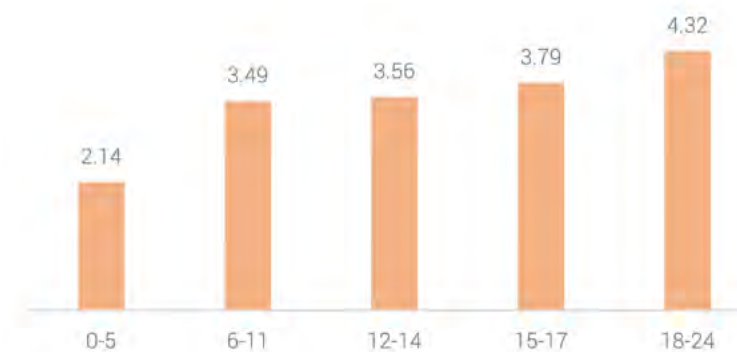
In 2022, analysis from the CAPMAS National Disability Survey³² revealed that 3.4 per cent of children and youth aged 0-24 years have some degree of disability, and 1.6 per cent are reported to have severe disability or are unable to perform their daily activities at all. This indicates improvement compared to the 2017 Population, Housing, and Establishments Census, where about 5 per cent of children aged 5-17 years had some degree of functional difficulties in their daily activities, and 2.61 per cent have moderate to severe disability. Additionally, 5.2 per cent of adolescents aged 18-19 years face functional limitations. The data also indicate that the prevalence of difficulties and disabilities increases with age.

³² This is the first national survey of persons with disabilities in Egypt covering a national sample of 112,000 households with about 450,000 individuals. The survey questionnaires were based on the Washington Group on Disability Statistics question sets. The Washington Group defines persons with disabilities as those who are at greater risk than the general population of social exclusion due to limitations in their basic functioning, such as walking, seeing, hearing, or memory.

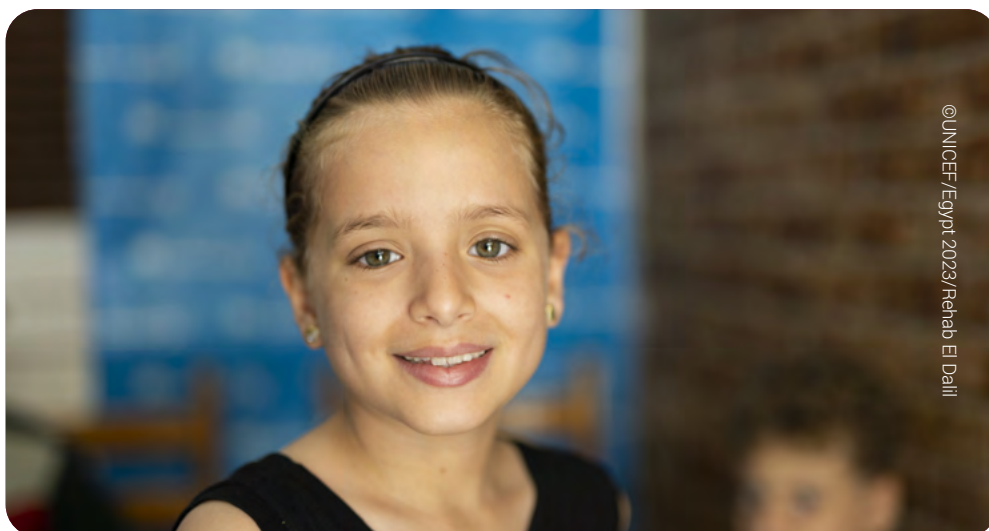
Analysis from the National Disability Survey 2022 shows a higher disability level among boys than girls. Overall, 4 per cent of boys aged 0-24 years have some level of functional difficulty compared to 2.75 per cent among girls. As shown in *Figure 3.1*, the prevalence of disability increases with age, from 2.14 per cent among children under the age of six to reach its highest level among those in the age 18-24 years (4.32 per cent). It is noted that the prevalence of disability is highest among children and youth aged 0-24 years in Damietta (5.93 per cent), followed by those from Beni-Suef, El-Sharkia, and Giza (4.18 per cent, 4.05 per cent, and 4.02 per cent, respectively).

A recent national study on the prevalence and risk factors of disabilities among Egyptian preschool children was conducted in 2019. The survey targeted a sample of 21,316 children aged 1-6 years from eight governorates and adopted the screening questionnaire of the WHO ten-question survey tool validated for identifying seven disability categories. The survey results indicated that 8 per cent of children had at least one disability: speech/communication (4.4 per cent), mobility/physical (2.5 per cent), seizures (2.2 per cent), comprehension (1.7 per cent), intellectual impairment (1.4 per cent), visual (0.3 per cent), and hearing (0.2 per cent) (Metwally, A. M., et al.,2023).

Figure 3.1 Prevalence of disability, by age, Egypt 2022



Source: Special tabulation from the National Disability Survey 2022.



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Analysis from the National Disability Survey 2022 shows a higher disability level among boys than girls.

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3.3.1 Progress and inequities in rights outcomes for children and young people with disabilities

The Egyptian constitution asserts that all citizens have equal rights, freedom and duties without any discrimination based on religion, belief, gender, race, disability, etc. (Article 53). A number of other articles deal with the rights of PwDs, and Article 80 specifically tackles children. Article 80 stipulates that for any children with disabilities, the state is required to ensure their rights, rehabilitation and integration in society. Also, the Rehabilitation Law 39/1975 amended by Law 49/1982, increased the employment quota for people with disabilities from 2 per cent to 5 per cent. In 2018, Egypt issued its first comprehensive law on the rights of PwDs, clearly defining disability, degrees of disability, and setting criteria for inclusion within the educational system. The law also grants rights to PwDs in employment, health, political engagement, training, and legal protection.

In 2012, the National Council for Disability Affairs was established via Decree No. 410/2012 issued by the Prime Minister, then in 2019, Presidential Decree No. 11/2019 established the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) in lieu of the previously established council. The Council works to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities (PwDs). The council is headed by the Prime Minister, Vice President and 19 members, including the ministers of health, education, social solidarity, housing, planning, administrative reform and manpower. Such representation of ministries demonstrates the government's commitment to relevant SDG goals on education, growth and employment, inequality, and data, monitoring and accountability for PwDs.

Disability and education

The 2018 Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities specifies that public and private education institutions must commit to giving equal opportunities for children with disabilities as for other children. The MoETE is also committed to offering special needs education based on the nature and level of disability. Additionally, the law allocates PwDs not less than 5 per cent of the total admissions in schools, whether public or private. Furthermore, the Strategic Plan for Pre-University Education 2014-2030 calls for children with disabilities (CwDs) to be offered high-quality and peer-equitable learning opportunities. Finally, the Education 2.0 reform programme calls for the development of education curricula responsive to the needs of CwDs, along with improving teachers' instructional capabilities and skills to deliver inclusive education.

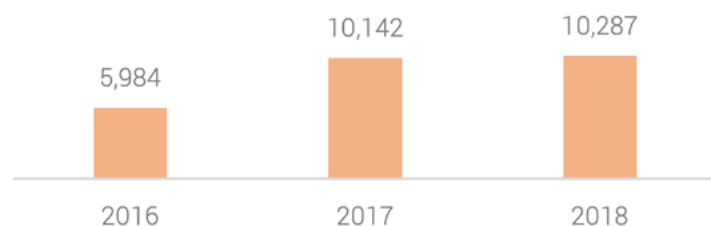
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Nurseries for CwDs under the auspices of MoSS work on developing the abilities and skills of children to be independent as much as possible.

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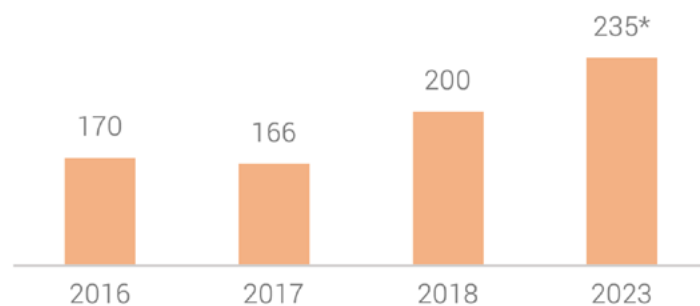
Nurseries for children with disabilities under the auspices of MoSS are rehabilitation units equipped to provide rehabilitation services and care for children with special needs. The nurseries work on developing the abilities and skills of children to be as independent as possible. A child has to be 3-8 years old to be accepted, should be free from infectious diseases, seizures, unstable epileptic seizures or mental illness, and living within a family that takes care of their affairs and cooperates with the nursery in their upbringing to prepare the child for the next stages in life. The Annual Bulletin of Social Services Statistics 2018 published by CAPMAS in 2020 provides data on the number of children with special needs who are enrolled in MoSS nurseries for CwDs. The annual bulletin data indicates an increase in the number of children with special needs enrolled in those nurseries from 5,984 in 2016 to 10,287 in 2018; nevertheless, there is no official published data beyond 2018 to report on the current status and the number of CwDs enrolled in nurseries supervised by MoSS (see *Figure 3.2*). In 2016, the Ministry had 170 nurseries for CwDs; this number increased to 200 in 2018, and according to reports shared through media outlets, the number of nurseries for CwDs reached 235 in 2023 (see *Figure 3.3*). It is also worth noting that there is no data available in relation to the number of qualified teachers per child with special needs in those nurseries.

Figure 3.2 Trend in number of children with special needs enrolled in MoSS nurseries for CwDs, Egypt 2016-2018



Source: CAPMAS. 2020. Annual Bulletin of Social Services Statistics, 2018.

Figure 3.3 Increase in number of MoSS nurseries for CwDs, Egypt 2016-2018 and 2023



Source: CAPMAS. 2020. Annual Bulletin of Social Services Statistics, 2018.
El-Watan news. October 2023.

According to the Education Sector Analysis conducted in 2021, most children and youth with disabilities are out of school, and they account for the lion's share of out-of-school children. Approximately 108,000 children with special needs are currently enrolled in mainstream schools at all education levels, and 44,000 in special education schools – a total of 152,000 students. This compares to the estimated 1.3 million children and youth aged 5-17 years in Egypt who have a range of disabilities from slight to severe. This means that only 12 per cent of children with disabilities in this age group are in school.

Although enrolment of children with disabilities in the education system has increased significantly, the vast majority of children and youth with disabilities are out of school. The National Disability Survey 2022 shows that 36 per cent of children with disabilities aged 12-14 years had never been enrolled in education and around 19 per cent of those aged 6-11 years dropped out.

Data from the MoETE Statistical Yearbook 2023/24 documents the increase in coverage of schools offering special needs education and, accordingly, the increase in utilization of the service as the number of students has increased over the years as well. Since the academic year 2018/2019, there has been an inclusion of an additional 162 schools offering special needs education accompanied by 266 classes. As a result, 7,135 additional students with special needs were enrolled in the system between the academic years 2018/2019 and 2023/24 (see *Table 3.2*). The number of schools and classes offering special needs education is much higher in urban than rural areas (4,107 versus 1,023 classes, respectively), indicating inequality as vulnerable children are more likely to reside in rural settings and are at a higher risk of having at least one type of disability compared to their counterparts in urban areas (Metwally, A. M., et al.,2023).

The Pre-University Education Sector Analysis indicates that youth aged 15-17 years and with a disability are, on average, twice as likely to be out of school as those with no disability (30 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively). This is reflected in the literacy rates, where only 38 per cent of persons with disabilities who are 15 years or older are literate compared to 66 per cent among those without a disability (MoETE, 2021).

The USAID 2017 Needs Assessment of Persons with Disabilities in Egyptian Public Universities and Regional Technical Colleges identifies barriers faced by students with disabilities during pre-higher education in Egypt. For example, barriers faced by students with visual disabilities include limited training in braille and various assistive technologies that are needed for success in higher education. Success in higher education for students with hearing disabilities is hindered by limited access to quality education and accommodations such as Egyptian sign language. Similarly, students with physical disabilities face barriers related to transportation to school and physical infrastructure barriers at school, including classrooms on higher floors, no elevators and/or inaccessible toilets.

Disability and employment

The 2018 Disability in the Arab Region report by UNESCWA indicated that 7.4 per cent of women with disabilities are employed versus 18.5 per cent among those without disabilities. Similarly, men without disabilities are twice as likely as those with disabilities to be employed (66.5 per cent compared to 33.7 per cent, respectively). Looking at the unemployment rates, women without disabilities are slightly more likely to be unemployed compared to women with disabilities (23.7 per cent and 21.2 per cent, respectively). On the contrary, 19.5 per cent of men with disabilities are unemployed, which is more than twice the percentage reported among those with no disabilities (8.7 per cent).

Meshwary programme has been implemented in Egypt since 2008 under the auspices of the Egyptian Cabinet and led by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), in partnership with UNICEF, civil society, development partners and private sector stakeholders. The programme is designed to support adolescents in Egypt to acquire skills needed to help them find employment opportunities. Recently, the programme added another dimension involving Innovation Labs, where marginalized groups such as girls, migrants and refugees, and young people with disabilities, can work with trainers to develop their ideas and business plans.



Table 3.2 Number of schools, classes and students enrolled in special needs education over the years

Academic year	No. of schools	No. of classes	No. of students
2018/2019	1,018	4,710	39,859
2019/2020	1,078	4,841	42,255
2020/2021	1,116	4,906	43,719
2021/2022	1,139	4,914	44,373
2022/2023	1,164	5,130	46,393
2023/2024	1,180	4,976	46,994

Source: MoETE: Statistical Yearbooks 2022/2023 and 2023/2024.

Protection, equality and other services for PwDs

The Egyptian constitution and law stipulate many rights pertaining to the care and protection of PwDs to provide increased accessibility and an inclusive environment. Within the protection field, children with disabilities are given priority in service provision. MoSS offers many services to care for CwDs and rehabilitate them. The Ministry issues a disability and integrated services card, which allows its holder to receive a comprehensive set of services. To date, the Ministry has issued 123,157 cards for children with disabilities. Additionally, the Ministry delivered 4,100 prosthetic devices and aid equipment for students, as well as 2,400 laptops for students with visual impairments in secondary education or higher.



Challenges and inequalities in disability

The vast majority of children and youth with disabilities are out of school, and they account for the lion's share of out-of-school children.

The quality of services offered to children with disabilities, especially in the education sector, **has not been assessed lately.**

Unemployment rates among PwDs is more than twice the rate reported among persons without disabilities.



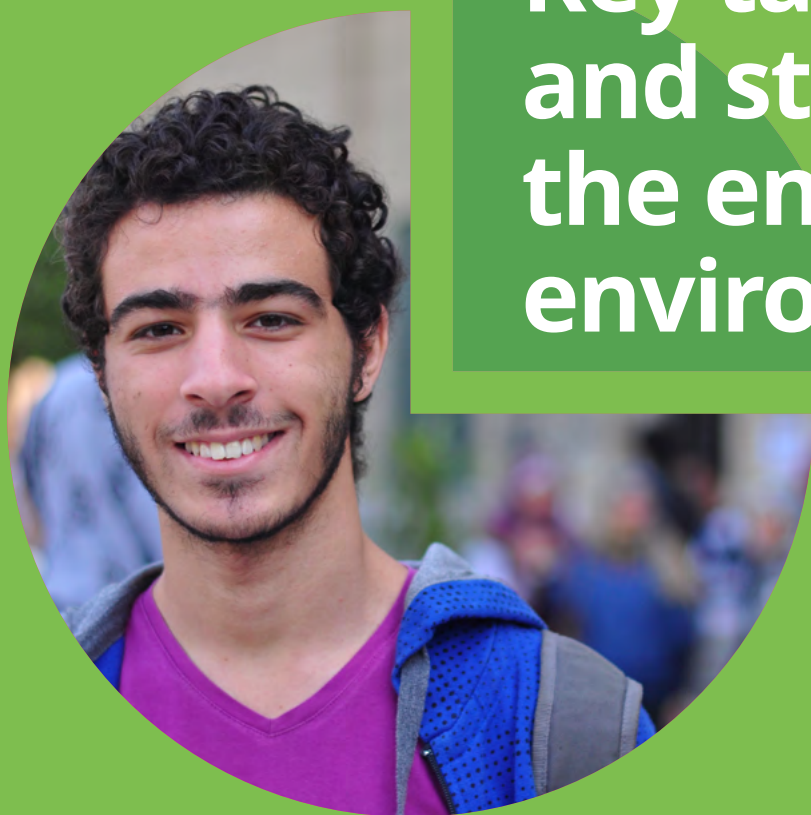
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04.

Key takeaways and strengthening the enabling environment



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This section discusses the main challenges and opportunities related to children's rights in various domains. It will address progress related to initiatives, policies, and legislation for children and youth, focusing on recent changes, and will also attempt to highlight gaps within the current policies or legal frameworks, thus identifying possible amendments that would benefit children and youth in Egypt. Moreover, this section will pinpoint the main challenges children face, concerns within service delivery systems, as well as prospects to improve the status of children in Egypt.

The first part of this section will discuss legislation and policies strengthening as an enabling environment for children and youth in Egypt. Followed by this, takeaways will be presented based on the thematic areas of health, nutrition and survival, education, learning and development, protection, and participation in society. Within each thematic area, data will be presented to highlight gaps, needs and opportunities. Finally, public financial allocations will be discussed.

4.1 Legislation and policy

4.1.1 International treaties

Egypt has pledged its commitment to fulfil children needs, rights and have the best interests of the child at the forefront of legislations, policies, and strategies. In 1990, Egypt ratified the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**, a legally binding treaty that recognises, respects, and protects the rights of every child, and sets childhood until the age of 18 years. The Convention acknowledges the fundamental rights of all children equally to survival and development, protection, education, expression of opinion, and to be primarily living with parents or relatives. Egypt has also ratified two optional protocols that were later added to the UNCRC. In 1981, Egypt has also ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 protocol. In 1999, Egypt ratified the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (1973), which requires states to set a minimum age for admission to employment and to develop relevant national policies which in turn would protect children from unlawful child labour practices. Thereafter in 2002, the GoE ratified the ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Moreover, in 2008, Egypt ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In addition to signing and ratifying UN treaties, the GoE has ratified other agreements with international entities supporting child rights and protection, while addressing gaps within the Egyptian legislative system that may hinder the realization of those rights.

“

Egypt has made strides in strengthening the enabling legislative and policy environment to better serve the rights of children.

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Table 4.1 Ratification of main UN Conventions relating to child rights

	Year of ratification
Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1981
Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees	1981
CRC - Convention on the Rights of the Child	1990
CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	2002
CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	2007
CRPD - Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2008

Source: OHCHR.

4.1.2 National legislation

Egypt has made strides in strengthening the enabling legislative and policy environment to better serve the rights of children. So, along with the legislative changes the GoE is formulating policies and strategies to foster a more supportive enabling environment. The legislative framework in Egypt gives special attention to children. Article 80 of the Egyptian constitution asserts child rights and mandates that the State should work towards achieving the best interest of children. The article stipulates that “a child is considered to be anyone who has not reached 18 years of age”. Article 80 also states that a child has the right to health, shelter, family care or alternative, protection, education, and in cases of disability, the right of integration into the society and rehabilitation. Article 81 further asserts the rights of People with Disabilities and article 82 addresses the rights of youth.

The Child Law No. 12 of 1996 amended by Law No. 126 of 2008 was issued in compliance with UN conventions and other relevant international treaties enforced by Egypt. The amendments made in 2008 resulted in important gains for children in Egypt. For instance, the 2008 amendments involved replacing Article 3 with a

new article ensuring that the law will realize key principles and rights related to a child's: a) life, survival, and development, b) protection from all forms of discrimination, c) expression of own opinions and access to information that empowers him/her to form and express informed opinions. Additionally, Egypt made positive changes to the foster care system to better serve children's interest and encourage family care instead of institutional care. Another example is Article 31, which was added to establish nurseries within every prison for women, where children of imprisoned women shall remain until they reach the age of 4 years. Also, amendments were made to improve the alternative care system, giving the priority for children to be brought up in a family environment and changing the age of *Kafala* so that it could start from 3 months of age.

The Child law has been aligned with other laws, including the Penal Code and Civil Code. A new article that has been added in accordance with Law No. 126 of 2008 to Law No. 143 of 1994 on Civil Status with regards to the minimum age of marriage for both sexes at age 18 years. With child law amendments, other articles were added to the Penal Code issued by Law no. 58 of 1937 protecting children from all sorts of violence including FGM, trafficking, sexual, economic or commercial exploitation and penalties have been set and the age of criminal responsibility has been raised from 7 to 12 years old. Nevertheless, a child in the age cohort of 7 to 12 years who commits a crime may be subject to training, rehabilitation and community service in lieu of placement in social care institutions. The Child Law also mandates the formation of Child Protection Committees (CPCs) in all governorates. The Child Protection Mechanism (CPM) system was developed and endorsed as a national policy. Furthermore, Child Law article 120 indicates that each governorate should host at least one child court. Child courts have exclusive jurisdiction to hear cases against children in conflict with the law and children at risk. The law further stipulates that child courts are composed of three judges and are assisted by two specialised social experts of whom at least one should be a woman. To date, the Ministry of Justice has established three child courts in Cairo, Giza, and Assiut governorates.

Other laws and decrees have been issued or amended to further provide protection for children and their welfare. The Labour Law No.12 of 2003 aligns with articles in the Child Law sets the same working hour limit and prohibits employing a child between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m. Recently, a draft of the new labour law has been passed through the Egyptian Senate, which modified the eligible age for training to be 14 years instead of 12 years as in the previous law, and also proposed a fine of 1,000-2,000 EGP per case on business owners who violate the law



with double the fine for repeat offenses, as well as the possibility of forced closure to businesses in violation for up to 6 months. However, it is worth noting that the proposed fine is relatively low. Additionally, a decree (Ministerial Resolution No. 118 of 2003) by the Ministry of Manpower (currently Ministry of Labour) outlines specific employment conditions and terms for children, as well as vocations and industries in which it is prohibited to employ children under the age of seventeen. In 2021, the Egyptian Ministry of Manpower issued Decree No. 215 that updated the Ministerial Decree No. 118 of 2003 on hazardous work and professions list in which children are being prohibited from being employed or trained in. However, it is worth noting that the law does not address domestic child labour. Furthermore, Law No. 64 of 2010 on combating human trafficking stipulates in article 2 all forms of exploitation that are considered a crime of human trafficking, including beggary.

Egypt issued its first comprehensive Law on the Rights of PwDs (Law No. 10 of 2018) tackling all aspects related to PwDs such as housing, employment, education, health insurance, accessibility, inclusion, rehabilitation, sports, tax exemptions and more. The new law grants PwDs 5 per cent of jobs in public sector institutions that have at least fifty employees. The Law also gives children with disability equal opportunity to enrol in public and private education institutions. Additionally, Article 12 states that “the admission rate for persons with disabilities shall not be less than 5 per cent of the total admissions in the governmental and non-governmental educational institutions of all types, in cases where the number of applicants to the institution exceeds that percentage. The Executive Regulation of this Law shall determine the conditions, rules and procedures for admission of these children in these institutions,” (NCW, NCCM, SIS, 2020).

Law No. 82 for 2016 on Combating Illegal Migration and Smuggling of Migrants protects the rights of smuggled migrants while prioritizing women and children. Article 3 of chapter one mandates the NCCM to be the legal representative of unaccompanied children whose families or legal representatives cannot be identified. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on dealing with children at risk offers child victims of illegal migration or smuggling referrals to the national protection system (UNICEF, 2020).

In 2021, the Egyptian cabinet approved a draft law amending articles 242-bis and 242-bis-A of the Egyptian Penal Code to toughen penalties against FGM practice. Under the new law, anyone who performs FGM will be subject to not less than 5 years of imprisonment, not less than 7 years if that act resulted in a permanent disability, and not less than 10 years if it resulted in death of the female undergoing FGM. Additionally, if the perpetrator is a doctor or a nurse the imprisonment increases to be at least 7 years in case of a permanent disability and 15 to 20 years in case of death. Furthermore, after completing their prison sentence, the perpetrator is prohibited from practicing the profession for a period of not less than 3 years and not more than 5 years.

4.1.3 Policy and institutional capacity

The GoE, including various ministries and the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), have devoted tremendous efforts to achieve child rights. The Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS): Egypt Vision 2030 represents a concerted step towards the government’s commitment towards achieving inclusive sustainable development for all its citizens, especially children. Numerous sectoral and intersectoral strategies and policies safeguarding children’s rights and protecting their holistic needs have been designed in place, including:

- Strategic Framework and National Strategy of Childhood and Motherhood, 2018-2030,
- Strategic Plan for Pre-University Education, 2014-2030,
- Education 2.0 Reform Strategy, 2018-2030,
- National Strategy to Reform and Develop Technical Education 2.0, 2022,
- Education Sector Plan, 2023-2027,
- National Early Childhood Development Strategy, 2024-2029,
- National Food and Nutrition Strategy, 2022-2030,
- The National Action Plan for Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour and Supporting Family, NAP, 2018-2025,
- The National Strategic Framework for Ending Violence against Children in Egypt, 2018-2030,
- National Strategy for the Prevention of Early Marriage, 2015-2020,
- Egypt’s National Youth Strategy, 2022-2027
- National Strategy for the Alternative Care of Children and Youth in Egypt, 2021-2030,
- National Action Plan (NAP) for FGM Abandonment, 2022,
- National Strategy for Empowering the Family and Combatting FGM, 2016-2020, and the
- National Strategy for Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Persons, 2016–2021.

In Egypt, a number of governmental entities are responsible for policymaking and implementing programmes for children and young people. The NCCM is the national entity in charge of policymaking, planning and monitoring the implementation of child protection programmes. NCCM monitors the implementation, provides technical supervision and coordinates several services in the area of child protection through the Childhood Protection Committees in each of Egypt's governorates and the General Department of the Child Helpline, which administers the NCCM Child Helpline. Additionally, MoSS works in various areas supporting children and adolescents in Egypt. The Ministry delivers *Takaful* and *Karama* programmes that strengthen the social safety net by providing cash support for vulnerable populations, such as orphans under 18 years, PwDs, poor families and mothers of children in school. In addition, the Ministry contributes to the provision of basic social services of health care, education, sanitation and safe drinking water, food security and housing. MoSS also provides social care services for children who are placed in institutional alternative care and offers nurseries across the nation delivering services related to early childhood development. Other ministries such as MoETE, MoHP, and MoYS are concerned with developing policies and service delivery within their relevant sectors as well.

Egypt has embarked on a major reform in the health sector. The Universal Health Insurance Law (UHIL) No. 02/1028 was issued in line with the Egypt's 2030 Sustainable Development Vision and Egyptian constitution. In education, a new reform project "**Education 2.0**" was launched to improve the quality of education and learning experience in public schools, adopting new learning approaches, assessment methods, as well as different approaches to acquiring knowledge using the existing curriculum. Along with EDU 2.0, the MoETE adopted a new system for technical and vocational education (**Technical Education 2.0**) that meets international standards. In parallel to those reforms, EDU 1.0 was put in place to provide improvements to currently enrolled students in the education system, primarily those in higher grades where the EDU 2.0 is still not in place. In the field of child protection, the NCCM has launched the SOPs for the Protection and Assistance of Child Asylum-Seekers, Refugees and Victims of Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons, following the provision of Article 214 of the Constitution. The SOP manual creates pathways for the protection and assistance of asylum-seeker and refugee children, as well as victims of trafficking or exploitation. Furthermore, the GoE collaborates with various partners and UN organizations to implement programmes targeting



the realisation of the aforementioned strategies. With regards to youth empowerment and participation, MoYS has developed and implemented several strategies to empower youth with skills, encourage their community and political engagement, leadership, and capacity development.

Within the judicial system, the Public Prosecution Office (PPO) established Child Protection Bureau (CPB) and Child Prosecution Offices (CPOs). The CPB is concerned with child judicial protection within the Judicial Inspection Department. The CPB is responsible for dealing with children at risk who are referred to prosecutors through the NCCM Child Helpline, Child Protection Committees (CPCs) and other relevant authorities. CPOs have been established to deal with children in conflict with the law, children at risk and also to supervise the implementation of judgments (OECD, 2023). The CPOs receives reports through the police, the NCCM Helpline and CPCs. The CPOs takes all necessary measures to protect the child and acts in place of the PPO in cases of trials. The PPO issued Circular Book no. 7/2018 activating the positive role of the CPOs and consolidating the effectiveness of CPCs.

4.1.4 Challenges within the enabling environment

Egypt is progressively improving the supportive legislation and policy environment to safeguard child rights. Although finetuning is still needed within legislation, the main challenge lies within law enforcement, the execution of policies and service delivery. The current child law puts the child's best interest first, yet there is a need for the criminal law to move from being more on the punitive side to adopting a child rights approach. For instance, raising the criminal responsibility age from 7 to 12 years old and going for alternatives to jail time to better serve children, is a positive approach. However, based on her/his criminal act, a child aged 13-17 years could also better benefit from training, rehabilitation and community service instead of being imprisoned. A number of children who end up in the justice system could be there due to lacking responsiveness and gaps within the welfare and social services. Enhancing institutional capacity and effectiveness to deliver psychological and social support services could prevent children from engaging in illegal and socially unacceptable activities (UNICEF, 2022).

The Egyptian child law does not explicitly prohibit violent disciplinary practices and corporal punishment. Article 7-bis(a) does not allow potential justification of incidences of physical punishment; however, it confirms the "right to discipline" for parents and caretakers. There is also a ministerial decree against corporal punishment in schools that is not enacted in legislation, similar to alternative care and day care settings. Furthermore, not all forms of sexual violence

are spelled out in the legislation. Another example is the legal age of marriage that is set to be at least 18 years old for both men and women; however, there are no criminal penalties for families arranging child marriages through religious ceremonies or what is known as customary marriage (i.e., Urfi). In 2022, a draft law was discussed in the House of Representatives to penalize any person who participates or facilitates the marriage of a minor, but the law has not been issued yet.

Law enforcement mechanisms and monitoring is another prominent issue. Taking FGM as an example, although the law criminalizes the practice, about two fifths of unmarried females aged 15-24 years are circumcised and a higher percentage is reported among ever-married women. Furthermore, the vast majority are circumcised by doctors despite harsh penalties of 5-20 years of imprisonment for the doctors- if the case is reported- and prohibition from practicing their profession for at least 3 years after that. Studies have shown that some doctors are likely to perform FGM in an attempt to save the female from having circumcision done by unprofessional personnel, many doctors support the practice due to rooted social norms or for religious reasons, and others make financial gains by performing the procedure (Leye et al., 2019). This indicates a strong need to strengthen the understanding and knowledge of medical providers about human rights and ethical guidelines, as well as consequences for violating the code of ethics and the law. Additionally, there is a need to raise the capacity of both doctors and the health care system to act as advocates for the abandonment of the practice, providing consultation to those seeking FGM. Thus, it is essential to utilize multiple channels and work with all society members on changing such perceptions.

Within child labour, there are no available data on the number of labour inspectors within the Ministry of Labour to understand any existing gaps in law enforcement. Despite that, the "2021 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour: Egypt" report indicate that the number of labour inspectors is not sufficient and that the Ministry of Labour needs to recruit about 1,897 inspectors to monitor violations in relation to the Labour Law.



Although Egypt offers public justice services for children, including Child Courts and Child Prosecution Offices (CPOs); they are however very limited. In December 2023, the first child-friendly court was inaugurated in Upper Egypt in Assiut to be the third of a total of three child courts in Egypt. Thus, there is a need to further expand child-friendly courts and judicial and prosecutorial staff to provide national coverage. A study conducted by the OECD recommends the establishment of specialized child courts and justice services across the country based on existing needs, appointing child judges and child prosecutors, as well as increasing the capacity of all staff in contact with children via training (OECD, 2023).

Looking at service delivery, the 2023/2024 MoETE Statistical Yearbook reported that GER is 23.3 per cent for kindergartens. Along with that, there is reported overcrowding with a high classroom density of 33.8 students per class in public preschools and 28.3 students per class for private schools, as well as high PTR. So, although the Ministry's Education Sector Plan calls for expanding kindergarten classrooms, recruiting more teachers and raising their capacity, the channels to achieve those objectives are not clear. The ability of the MoETE to increase the education budget allocation or to reallocate their resources to invest in such expansions are valid questions, and a precise implementation plan is needed to have a realistic way forward.

Similar challenges are noticeable within the health care system, where Egypt has only met 26.9 per cent of the WHO threshold for Primary Health care (PHC) facility density in 2020 (UNICEF, September 2023). Additionally, reported rates of caesarean deliveries are far beyond the recommended range and needs investigation to understand the root cause behind the steady increase. This might lead to revisiting the implementation and follow-up of delivery protocol, the training of specialists, and educating pregnant women on the benefits of natural delivery.

The Child Helpline is a well-established mechanism administered by NCCM that refers child cases to relevant ministries and refers cases to the CPCs present in all governorates for the fulfilment of the case management of each reported case. NCCM also refers child abuse cases to prosecutor's office and provides psychological support for children who are victims of various forms of abuse or violence. Data from NCCM indicates that during the period between July 2021 until the end of June 2022, the Child Helpline received 14,333 reports with an average of 40 reports per day. The Helpline received more cases concerning boys

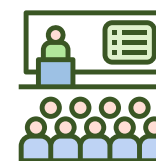
than girls. In two fifths of the cases, the reported perpetrator of violence or abuse was a parent: 28 per cent are fathers and 14 per cent are mothers. However, no data provided is available on the number of referral cases to CPCs or prosecutor's office, as well as the outcome of referral. Another challenge lies within the lack of a sufficient number of social workers who can provide psychosocial support to deliver necessary support services to all those in need. Currently, MoSS has case management units in 14 governorates. There is a need to expand the service to cover remaining governorates and also strengthen their capacities to handle and follow-up cases of children at risk. In addition, exploring the application of the Child Vulnerability Index (CVI) developed with UNICEF for identifying households with children at risk, particularly within the *Takaful* and *Karama* programmes, is expected to help estimate the vulnerability levels of TKP-covered households, allowing for prioritization of the most at-risk families for social worker visits..

Overall, a multi-sectoral comprehensive implementation plan of the Strategic Framework of Childhood and Motherhood needs to be put in place to maximize desired outcomes. This would also require effective coordination mechanisms and robust protocols for effective collaboration. Specifically with regards to ending violence against children, various stakeholders are involved but coordination efforts are lacking, and therefore, there is no clear vision for the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder.

Reported overcrowding with a high classroom density of

33.8

students per class
in public preschools



and **28.3**

students per class
for private schools.

4.2 Opportunities and challenges in fulfilling child rights

4.2.1 The right to health, nutrition, and survival

The Egyptian health care system is pluralistic, comprising a variety of health care providers from the public as well as the private sector. The government ensures basic universal health coverage, although private services are also available for those with the ability to pay. Egypt has more than 5,000 health care units covering villages and cities, as well as hospitals that are more likely to be located in urban areas. Due to social and economic pressures, Egypt's health care system is subject to many challenges. However, several recent efforts took place to improve the quality and access to health care.

Over the past decades, there has been great improvement in health, nutrition and survival indicators for children and youth in Egypt, nevertheless many gaps and challenges exist and need to be addressed. Child survival indicators remain persistently challenging. The neonatal mortality rate (NMR), infant mortality rate (IMR), and under-five mortality rate (U5MR) stayed about the same level between the 2008 EDHS and EFHS 2021. The highest mortality rates are observed in Upper Egypt, especially rural areas, indicating a need to pay more attention to the quality of care provided in those areas, as well as reducing other contributing factors such as child marriage and early childbearing.

Caesarean delivery has become a seriously alarming phenomena that needs strategic action. Not only does the procedure incur a huge economic and capacity burden on the government, the health care sector and/or families, but it also associated with delaying breastfeeding and has negative health outcomes. A number of epidemiologic studies indicated that children delivered by caesarean section more commonly to develop respiratory and neurological disorders (Słabuszewska-Jóźwiak, A., et. al., 2020). The caesarean delivery rate of 72 per cent reported in the EFHS 2021 by far surpasses the WHO ideal rate of 10 to 15 per cent and puts Egypt as the highest country performing caesarean deliveries worldwide. Also, caesarean section deliveries are higher in the highest wealth quintiles and in urban Lower Egypt (more than 80 per cent). Furthermore, some governorates are reporting much higher rates than others and need special attention, such as Port Said (91 per cent), Damietta, Dakahlia, Kafr El-Sheikh, and Gharbia (reporting rates that exceed 80 per cent).



Although immunization coverage is very high and almost universal for some vaccines, the recent data from EFHS 2021 indicated that more in-depth analyses and interventions are needed for Urban Governorates, where full immunization coverage declined significantly. Full immunization coverage is at 80 per cent in Urban governorates compared to 93 per cent in Lower Egypt, and 90 per cent in Upper Egypt.

Exclusive breastfeeding is an issue where only 40 per cent of children aged 0-6 months are exclusively breastfed, and only 21 per cent of children aged 4-5 months are exclusively breastfed. This calls for more effort through the 1,000-day Program promoting exclusive breastfeeding and promoting vaginal deliveries. An opportunity also exists within the high rates of postnatal care, where such visits could be utilized to deliver knowledge messages and raise awareness on the importance of exclusive breastfeeding.

Results from the EFHS 2021 indicated slight improvement in minimum acceptable diet indicators for children less than two years, with clear differentials according

to the wealth quintiles. Nutritional status indicators for children under-five and adolescents elucidate an issue within their diets. Thirteen per cent of children under-five are stunted, 3 per cent are wasted, 4 per cent are underweight, and 12 per cent are overweight or obese. Among adolescents aged 10-19 years, overweight and obesity seems to be the more serious problem where 38 per cent of girls aged 15-19 years old and 27 per cent of boys aged 15-19 years old are overweight or obese. It is also noted that consumption of food rich with micronutrients is much lower among children aged 6-23 months from the lowest wealth quintiles than those in the highest wealth quintiles. Taking that into account, and the fact that the current economic status and high inflation rates will magnify existing inequalities and disparities, interventions to curb the impact of such economic shocks, especially for marginalized and vulnerable groups, is crucial to avoid further deterioration of malnutrition and to perhaps improve it.

There has been great improvement in access to water and improved sanitation, nevertheless, around 20 per cent in rural Lower Egypt have no access to improved toilet facilities. These improvements are attributed to several programmes implemented throughout the past decade including the Decent Housing Programme “*Sakan Karim*”, which was launched in 2018, and also “*Haya Karima*”, which is the national initiative that started in 2019 and focuses on improving all living conditions of citizens in rural areas.



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There is a potential for improving NMR, IMR, U5MR rates by capitalizing on the high levels of **regular antenatal care coverage and medically assisted deliveries** to provide quality prenatal and delivery care.

Health care system, public and private, should leverage the opportunity during antenatal care visits to **educate pregnant women on the benefits of natural delivery**.

Postnatal care provides a window of opportunity to encourage exclusive breastfeeding.

Interventions are needed to mitigate the impact of the increase in prices, which is likely to be impacting food consumption, especially among poor families, and accordingly impact the nutritional status of children and adolescents.

4.2.2 The right to education, learning and development

All children should be provided with early learning opportunities and a stimulating environment to enrich and facilitate their early childhood learning. Early childhood learning develops children's abilities, skills, knowledge and sets them on track to a successful educational experience. Additionally, access to quality education is key to equip young children with skills needed to prepare them for adulthood. Challenges and opportunities derived from the previously presented early learning and education indicators will be discussed in this section.

Overall, most children aged 3-4 years are developmentally on track in at least three of the four assessed domains. However, some challenges with regards to the literacy-



numeracy domain have been highlighted. Slightly less than half of the children are on track for the literacy-numeracy domain. Discrepancies were observed in the literacy-numeracy domain according to the mother's education and wealth; however, even within the highest wealth quintiles, only 58 per cent of children are developmentally on track.

Only half of the children aged 24-59 months were engaged in four or more activities to provide early stimulation and responsive care in the last three days prior to the survey with any adult household member. Raising awareness on simple and easy stimulating activities to be done with children is needed to engage more children in early learning activities with their family members. Such interventions will need to focus on engaging fathers in this process as results indicated negligible engagement from fathers in their children's stimulating activities. Analysis of the background characteristics of households also suggest that more support is needed in rural areas of Upper Egypt and among economically vulnerable populations, where the children are the least likely to be engaged in four or more stimulating activities.

Low enrolment rate for preschool education remains a challenge with more than three quarters of children not enrolling in preschool education. Disparities are remarkable by governorate whereas NER ranges from 12.2 per cent in Fayoum to 56.9 per cent in Port Said. Children from Fayoum, Minya, Dakahlia and Behera, are the least likely to attend preschools and thus special attention is needed to investigate the reasons behind such low NER. Estimates suggest that preschool classrooms are overcrowded with 33.75 students per class in public schools. On the other hand, the MoETE has been investing in the preschool infrastructure, and data revealed an increase by 10 per cent in the number of schools offering pre-primary, and by two per cent in the number of classes between the academic years 2018/2019 and 2023/2024. The government needs to boost their investment in infrastructure and teachers, to be able to absorb more children into kindergarten classes, while reducing class crowdedness.

Results from the EFHS 2021 indicate a slight increase in the net attendance rate (NAR) compared to 2014, where 93 per cent of children aged 6-11 years are attending primary education, 83 per cent of preparatory age students are attending preparatory education, and 76 per cent of children aged 15-17 years are attending secondary education. NAR for secondary level education increases with wealth from 69 per cent among children in the lowest wealth quintile to 87 per cent among those in the highest wealth quintile. However,

MoETE data indicates a low transition rate from preparatory to general secondary education with urban students more than twice as likely as those in rural settings to transition to secondary education.

Despite the Ministry's efforts to expand the number of schools for all educational levels and to considerably increase the number of classes, classroom density remains a serious issue requiring much more investment. Similar challenges are reported for the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR), where the ratios reported in the Ministry's Statistical Yearbook 2023/2024 are higher than the threshold set by the Ministry to be achieved in 2027 as per the Education Sector Plan 2023-27, indicating a need to hire qualified teachers. The education and learning outcome indicators suggest that students in the Egyptian education system are at the low benchmark for math, science and reading. This calls for revisiting the public education process and system to achieve better outcomes.

Egypt provides access to refugee and asylum-seeker children from Syria, Sudan, South Sudan and Yemen to public schools. Also, additional support was provided by UNHCR to promote Syrian and Yemeni refugee and asylum-seeker children to enrol in Egyptian public schools in the academic year 2023/2024. Nevertheless, only 51.6 per cent of refugee children are enrolled in the national educational system leaving more than 48 per cent behind (UNHCR, 2024). The language barrier makes it difficult to include non-Arabic speaking nationalities within the public schooling system. Additionally, more than half of the UASC were not enrolled in school for the academic year 2022/2023. Furthermore, regarding children with disabilities, there is a gap observed in the number of schools and classes offering special needs education between urban and rural areas, favouring urban areas. In addition, according to findings from a recent telephone-based survey on the situation of the Sudanese displaced population in Egypt, 99 per cent of respondents reported that they used to have their children enrolled in school in Sudan, while almost 55 per cent of respondents reported that their children are now enrolled in school since arriving in Egypt (UNICEF, 2024).

Designing a module of stimulating activities that can be done at home by family members and educating them on the importance of such stimulating activities is essential. Additionally, there is a need to raise awareness among fathers to encourage their positive engagement with their young children.

The MoETE needs to increase the number of schools, classes and teachers for all educational levels; yet kindergarten is the most in need. Furthermore, the substantial inequity in terms of distribution of education resources and outcomes needs to be addressed.

Improvements are needed to deliver a higher quality of education, with priority to be given to programmes that improve learning outcomes, particularly foundational skills of literacy and numeracy. **The MoETE needs to report on the number of qualified teachers as a better measure than the total number of teachers regardless of their qualifications.**

Data on the educational outcomes of **schools catering to children with disabilities (special needs education)** needs to be available.

4.2.3 Opportunities and challenges in fulfilling children's rights to protection, a family environment and alternative care

In Egypt, violent practices are common, and they involve various forms starting at home with violent disciplinary practices against children and adolescents, and extending outside the home, including schools and streets, in the form of corporal punishment, bullying, and harassment.

Despite the improvements in the indicators of violent discipline against children between the EFHS 2021 and the 2014 EDHS, most children aged 1-14 years have been subjected to some type of violent disciplinary method. The improvement is more promising for physical punishment rather than psychological aggression, whereas children's exposure to any physically violent disciplinary method went down from 78 per cent in 2014 to around 59 per cent in 2021, and severe physical punishment declined from 43 per cent to 28 per cent during the same period. This suggests an opportunity to capitalize on successful programmes and interventions that helped with the reported decline in violent disciplinary methods applied against children via replicating, expanding or rolling out. Additionally, data implies the need to dedicate more efforts towards poorer families as well as giving consideration to the gender dimension, as children living in poorer households are more likely to be exposed to violent disciplinary methods than wealthier children, and boys are more susceptible to violent disciplinary methods than girls.

The national strategy and action plan for Ending Violence against Children (EVAC), the development of the national parenting programme, established national task force on EVAC, the existing Child Helpline, CPCs, and the improve legislative framework are solid grounds for an effective and responsive child protection system. There is a need for more emphasis on provision of improved services, better coordination mechanisms across relevant partners, and effective monitoring and follow-up to achieve desired outcomes.

Adolescents are much less likely to report exposure to violence, yet challenges remain within perception of violence, especially among male adolescents where 30 per cent of never-married youth accept wife-beating. Accordingly, immediate efforts are needed



to raise awareness and change perspectives to end the vicious cycle and stop intergenerational transmission of violence.

Despite the decline in child labour over time, 1.3 million of children aged 5-17 years remain engaged in child labour activities, and about 900,000 are exposed to hazardous work environments. A recent analysis conducted by UNICEF in 2023 to examine the factors contributing to child labour in Egypt indicated that children aged 15-17 years are three times more likely than children aged 5-11 years to be involved in child labour. It was also found that in cases where the mother is deceased, children are twice as likely to be engaged in child labour than others whose mothers are alive. Additionally, children in rural areas are 1.5 times more at risk of child labour than children in urban areas.

The same analysis shows that the risk of being involved in child labour is reduced by 60 per cent for girls compared to boys. Moreover, children attending school or living in the upper three wealth quantiles are 40 per cent less likely to be in child labour. The high education level of both parents also reduces the likelihood of the child being engaged in child labour by almost 30 per cent. Furthermore, children whose fathers have a paying job reduces their risk to child labour by around 20 per cent.³³

Literature suggests that conditional cash transfer schemes tend to lower both the prevalence and time intensity of child labour and they also contribute to lessen the impact of economic shocks that may push children into work (ILO, 2008). Accordingly, the well-established social protection programmes in Egypt could be an enabler to achieve further decline in child labour. Expanding the existing *Takaful* programme to support families with children at risk of being involved in child labour and providing cash stipends based on children's school attendance (i.e., number of days attended per month) could be an effective way to stop foreseen child labour activities. Additionally, if proper monitoring mechanisms are put in place, cash transfers could be conditional upon verifying that the child (between 5-17 years) is not engaged in child labour activities. Furthermore, the *Child Helpline* and Child Protection Committees available across the country could be more effective in eliminating child labour via strengthening the inspection mechanism and monitoring system to identify and refer child labour cases, as well

³³ UNICEF. 2024 Child Labour: Eradicating Child Labour in Egypt



1.3 million

children aged 5-17 years remain engaged in child labour activities, and about



900,000

are exposed to hazardous work environments.

as strengthening the coordination mechanism with various partners to integrate child labour indicators into the Information Management System (IMS) for case management (UNICEF, 2023a).

In Egypt, one of the most common violent practices and historically socially normalised practices is FGM. Trends in FGM show decline over the years especially among daughters, but still more acceleration is needed to achieve a significant decline. The EFHS 2021 results show that around 39 per cent of never-married females aged 15-24 years are circumcised, which is 26 percentage points lower than the level reported in EHIS 2015. Such results document successful outcomes for various interventions, policies and programmes that were implemented to this regard, which need to continue until the FGM practice is eliminated. Special efforts should focus on rural areas, especially rural Upper Egypt, and for the most economically vulnerable population as results indicate higher level of FGM among those two subgroups. As mentioned earlier, despite the law that criminalizes the FGM practice, most FGM procedures are performed by medical providers, which poses both a challenge and an opportunity. With proper training and capacity building, medical personnel can provide



effective medical guidance and counselling to empower their patients to make the right decision to stop this harmful practice. Training of medical personnel should address knowledge and awareness, ethical and legal obligations, and enhance their skills to educate women and their families about the adverse physical and psychological consequences of FGM. Capacity building could start during the early years of medical/nursing schools by integrating FGM awareness and prevention content within the medical or nursing curricula. That is in addition to the need to effectively implement FGM laws and specific interventions tailored for doctors to change their attitude and subsequently behaviour. It is noted that the tremendous decline in FGM, among young but also specifically older women, could be due to underreporting as a result of fear.

Over the years, Egypt has made great achievements in decreasing the prevalence of the harmful practice of child marriage, which subsequently reduces pregnancy and childbearing during the adolescent years. An increase in age at first marriage among younger cohorts has been reported in the EFHS 2021; only 2 per cent of women aged 20-24 years were married at age 15 which is much lower than the rates reported among older women.

The GoE has been providing protection for refugees and asylum seekers living in Egypt. UNHCR reports indicate that 90 per cent of refugee children under-five years have their birth registered with civil authority (UNHCR, 2023). The GoE, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF and other partners cooperate closely to protect refugees and asylum seekers through providing cash transfers, food assistance, housing assistance and legally recognised identity documents. Nevertheless, some challenges are identified; while the number of UASC increased by about 18 per cent between 2021 and 2022, there has been an increase of 77 per cent in the number of UASC between the end of September 2021 and the end of May 2024.

Egypt adopted a number of approaches to promote family-based alternative care and putting children's best interest first. Data indicates that the number of children within family-based alternative care has increased dramatically in recent years showing promising opportunity. However, the number of children in social care institutions remains high, creating a challenge for deinstitutionalization. Besides that, data on alternative care, its quality and reasons leading children to this setting is very limited, thus limiting knowledge and understanding of the situation children without parental care.

Efforts to promote positive parenting and foster non-violent discipline need to continue to build on the leverage achieved.

Programmes and initiatives should address psychological aggression more deeply to ensure parents' understanding of what constitutes physiological violence and how to avoid it while cultivating self-control and positive parenting methods.

Interventions tailored to adolescents are needed to change their attitudes and perceptions with regards to violence in all its forms.

Effective implementation of FGM law needs to take place along with tailored interventions for medical personnel including doctors and nurses.

Continued enhancement of multisectoral responses to child protection including strengthening case management and referral system is required.

More data needs to be collected and reported regularly on alternative care including the quality of care interventions.

4.2.4 Opportunities and challenges in fulfilling children's right to full participation in society

The Child Law in Egypt empowers children and endorses their rights to form and express their own opinions and be heard in all matters related to them including judicial and administrative procedures. Also, one of the main pillars of the NCCM's Strategic Framework of Childhood and Motherhood 2018-2030, is focused on strengthening children's rights to express their opinion and empowering them to participate in the decision-making process for matters that affect them. Additionally, Egypt's vision 2030 preserves children's rights to participation as a one of the goals under pillar 5.

Egypt hosts the annual World Youth Forum (WYF) of which five editions took place. The forum brings young people from around the world and engages them in discussions on developmental issues. Also, Egypt effectively participates in the Arab Parliament for the Child (APC) hosted by United Arab Emirates. In 2022, four Egyptian children were select to represent Egypt in the first session of the APC and were accompanied by a representative from NCCM. Representatives of the Egyptian children have also participated in the second and third rounds of the APC. Also, Egypt hosted the Convention on Climate Change (COP27) where the first youth-led climate forum was created and also introduced the first ever "Children and Youth Pavilion" to promote youth involvement. Overall, about 14,000 youth attended the conference.

Participation in economic activities is challengingly low especially among female youth: around 52 per cent of male youth aged 20-24 years are working, compared with only 14 per cent of female youth. Also, the rate of those who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET) is 29 per cent among youth aged 15-24 years. Data indicates that there has been a continuous decline in the unemployment rate among male youth, however, in contrast there has been an upward trend in unemployment among female youth. It is more challenging that unemployment is found to be associated with education, whereby unemployment increases as educational level increases, and that it is also higher among the wealthier groups than the poorer ones. Creating job opportunities for highly educated youth/young adults that match their skill level is highly important to improve the unemployment rate, to increase enrolment rates in general secondary education (when students foresee opportunities awaiting them if they advance with their education), and to prevent the phenomenon of "brain drain" of highly skilled labour.



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Youth participation in their community is very low in Egypt indicating missed opportunities to improve their life skills and to play a positive role in the community. Data indicates that only 11 per cent of youth participate in volunteer work. Thus, a special programme and efforts are needed to promote civic participation among youth (The Egyptian Cabinet: IDSC, 2021).

Challenges and opportunities have also been highlighted regarding the participation of PwDs in economic activities. Although data was not available for youth but data on adult males and females draws the picture for future expectations. Unemployment rates among women without disabilities is slightly lower than that among women with disabilities. On the other hand, men with disabilities are twice as likely as men with no disability to be unemployed.

There is very limited data to assess children's and youth's full participation in society; however, some data from active initiatives and programmes document some level of engagement and participation. Overall, UNICEF estimates around half a million adolescents and youth to have benefited from various programmes and interventions. For example, *Meshwary* is a key programme which provided 270,000 adolescents with life skills, employability skills, skills and social innovation skills, and delivered career

guidance training for 34,500 young people. Another example is *Generation Unlimited (GenU)* Imagen Ventures engaged 13,500 youth in business development and to discuss climate change and actions. *EGYouth4Climate* was established to support youth active participation in environmental and climate challenges. Also, the “Youth for Climate” caravan was launched in 2022 empowering and supporting young generations to engage in climate action. The caravan travelled across different governorates of Egypt and met up with 10,000 children to raise awareness and have a dialogue about pertaining climate issues. *Dawwie* programme has also had a significant impact in engaging youth and adolescents within their communities. The first *Local Conferences of Youth (LCOY)* took place in 2022 and engaged 1,200 young people from 6 governorates in discussions regarding climate change (UNICEF, 2023d).

Mapping job market needs for skill sets and working to equip youth with those skills might help match the market needs and subsequently lower unemployment.

Awareness raising interventions are needed to encourage youth participation in their community.



EGYouth4Climate was established to support youth active participation in environmental and climate challenges.



4.2.5 Opportunities and challenges in filling in data gaps

The preparation of the SitAn encountered some challenges related to data availability. Some data are not up to date, others are not disaggregated by different background characteristics. Also, datasets of some surveys were not available to conduct further calculations and analysis. In the following, data gaps for specific areas are highlighted:

Child labour data and indicators used in this SitAn utilize the EFHS 2021 results. The survey utilized the MICS module of child labour, which was addressed to one child inside the household with limited additional questions on exposure to hazardous conditions. However, in 2023, CAPMAS conducted a comprehensive and specialized survey in child labour (NCLS) including data on children’s exposure to the worst forms of child labour, such as drug trafficking, forced beggary, and commercial sexual exploitation. Unfortunately, the survey report was not published, and data was not available during the preparation of the SitAn. It would be of great value if data was available to shed more light on the exposure of children exposure to the worst forms of child labour, as well as provide more detailed analysis on factors contributing to child labour as well as implications and consequences.

Safe drinking water, while there is no data available for this SDG indicator in Egypt “6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services”, data on improved drinking-water sources are available and used in this report. A safely managed service is defined as an improved drinking water source that is accessible on the premises, available when needed, and free of faecal and priority chemical contamination. Improved water sources include piped water, boreholes or tube wells, protected dug wells, protected springs and packaged or delivered water. Accordingly future household surveys need to test for the water quality used for drinking and cooking inside households to make sure it is safe and reliable.

Data on monetary and multidimensional poverty. Results and data of the 2021/2022 HIECS implemented have not been published and thus the report utilized the 2019/2020 HIECS data. Publication of the latest HIECS would have been useful for the poverty profile section of the report to provide more recent estimates on poverty. There is a

need to promote timely publications and sharing data for the purpose of research and analysis. Given the economic crisis and high inflation rates witnessed in 2022 and 2023, the situation might be quite different compared to 2019/2020 and is expected to impact the poverty level and expenditure pattern on food, education and housing. Finally, the 2023/2024 HIECS survey is currently being implemented and should be analysed once published to identify any changes or gaps compared to this SitAn report. The report also referred to data on multidimensional poverty from 2014 EDHS. There is a need for update, utilising the EFHS 2021 data.

Data on disability is limited in Egypt. At the early stage of preparing the SitAn report data on disability was only available from the 2017 census. In 2022, the CAPMAS conducted a comprehensive national disability survey, but it is not yet released. Few tables were provided by CAPMAS measuring the prevalence of disability by sex, and region for the age group under study (0-24). This report is also missing data related to the quality of services offered to CwDs, including data related to education especially those out of school, health care, and civic engagement and work status for youth.

Education data. Although MoETE publishes data in the yearly statistical books on regularly bases, there are sometimes inconsistency with the data from surveys. In addition, the NER reported in the ministry's Statistical Yearbook exceeds 100 which cannot be the case by definition, so some data need explanation or clarification as well as re-calculation if needed. There is no disaggregated data for children who never enrolled. In addition, the Ministry's Statistical Yearbook does not offer the dropout rates for secondary education.

Children on the move. Egypt in the last few years hosted many children from different countries of conflict (Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Libya) as refugees and asylum-seekers. UNCHR publishes regular data on number of refugees and their origin as well as their residency governorate inside Egypt. The data available for this category does not include displaced children and unaccompanied children. Data related to health outcomes for refugee children is also not available. This also applied to data on children in the street situation and trafficked children.

Data related to alternative care and its quality is also not sufficient. Data is only available on the number of alternative families and children in institutionalized care; however, there is no segregation by background characteristics such as sex and age of child, as well as the

background information on alternative families. Additionally, there is no data available to assess the quality of alternative care children receive.

Protection system. Data on the number of CPOs, CPB and CPCs is not regularly reported. Additionally, data and information about children's legal needs and received support is not publicly shared. There is a need within the child protection system to establish a transparent monitoring and evaluation system that includes indicators to measure progress towards goals, activities and expected results in the case management unit and regularly publish reports on those indicators.

Data on non-Egyptian children is limited. National surveys are limited to collect data from Egyptian population. This results in an information gap about the situation of non-Egyptians in the country, especially on children. Inclusion of non-Egyptians in national surveys, would provide more accurate and comprehensive information to understand their situation, access to services, their needs and challenges. More inclusive and accurate national data systems allow for accurate national planning of public goods and service, as well as guide more effective policies and programmes addressing the needs of all people residing in the country.

Despite the above-mentioned challenges within data availability, Egypt has various opportunities to improve data reporting. CAPMAS, which is the official statistical agency that collects and produces statistics, implements a series of surveys that are regularly conducted such as HIECS, Egypt Labour Force Survey, and recently embarked upon the first round of the EFHS in addition to the child labour and disability surveys that are conducted at lower frequency. Within those national surveys, specific modules could be added to capture information needed. This calls for coordination with various government entities as well as UN and international organizations prior to finalizing the data collection tools to incorporate any necessary data that could fit within the survey in question.

Also, in some cases it takes a long time after the data has been collected and processed by CAPMAS for reports/datasets to be publicly available. For example, the HEICS 2021/2022 has been implemented; however, to date the report has not been published.

Also, CAPMAS has a well-established process for collecting statistics on services, which is beneficial for assessing services availability, but some data are relatively outdated. For example, the most recent annual bulletin of social services statistics is for 2021. Thus, there is a need to increase the frequency of updating services statistics data.

NCCM monitors the implementation and harmonizes several services in the area of child protection including the Child Helpline that is a crucial tool for reporting on children subjected to abuse and violence and thus potential protecting them. The Helpline has been a successful point of contact between children and their families and governmental services and has also been effective to coordinate case management with relevant governmental entities. NCCM publishes data on the number of cases the helpline received; however, it does not publish data on the number of referral cases, assistance provided, and the outcome of referrals.

4.3 Public finance

This section of the report provides a discussion of the government budget allocated for sectors and services which children and young people benefit from. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) as part of its transparency policy produces in collaboration with UNICEF, developed a series of budget briefs showing allocations for social sectors that benefit children directly or indirectly.

Amongst the many introduced PFM (Public Financial Management) reforms the recently passed Unified Public Finance law, which mandates programme-based budgeting presentation will allow for the identification of public spending amounts allocated specifically for child-related issues, which was not the case until the 2022/2023 budget. Despite the nominal increase in allocations for education, health, and social protection, the spending on these social sectors in real terms is barely increasing or in some cases even reducing due to the rise in the inflation rate over the past 2 years (recently dropping to around 27 per cent according to the Central Bank of Egypt).

Table 4.2 shows the allocation of budget by functional classification for the current and last two fiscal years, which indicate that there is an increase over the three fiscal years in

Table 4.2 State budget breakdown by functional classification (2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025)

Functional classification	2022/23 Actuals (Billion EGP)	2023/24 Budget (Billion EGP)	2024/25 Budget (Billion EGP)
Total	1,713.2	1,837.7	2,070.9
General public services	908.1	1,524.3	2,150.4
Public order and public security	107.4	105.6	122.7
Economic affairs	136.4	223.2	147.9
Environment protection	6.7	4	4.8
Housing and community facilities sector	90.6	116.3	205.5
Health	146.5	147.9	200.1
Youth, culture and religious affairs	58.3	60.7	79.8
Education	210.5	229.9	294.6
Social Protection	418.4	477.4	548.7
Other functional activities	101.8	101.6	115.7

Source: MoF general budget financial statement (2024/2025)

the allocated budget related to child well-being, namely: health, education, and social protection. The annual growth rate in the allocated budgets for the current fiscal year (2024/2025) was much more for health and education than for social protection. Despite the growth in allocations for these three social sectors, looking at the allocations as a percentage of the total budget expenditure shows that they have remained approximately the same for health and education in the 2024/2025 budget compared the previous fiscal year, while the allocation share for social protection has slightly decreased.

It is worth noting that the government does not produce an annual children's budget and thus children's share of the total budget or per sector is unknown. The absence of children's budget makes it difficult to detect budget allocation directly benefiting children, and accordingly tracking change over the years in the share of government spendings dedicated to children whether it is a positive increase or decrease. Furthermore, lack of children's budget does not secure and protect funds allocated to programmes benefiting children. Since 2019/2020, the government adopted program-based budget where allocations are directly associated with specific programmes and subprogrammes (MoF & UNICEF, 2022). The government has also been issuing a child budget transparency series to highlight and monitor budget allocations for initiatives that benefit children directly, or indirectly through family allocations. Those are positive steps to improve efficiency and effectiveness of government spendings, yet children's budget should be adopted in future public budgeting.

The 2024/2025 budget allocations sought to improve the inclusiveness of government policies, allocating packages of social protection measures, expand *Takaful* and *Karama* cash transfer programme to more than 5 million households and increasing the benefit levels by 60 per cent..

4.3.1 Health sector

As reported earlier, there was significant improvement in the child and maternal health indicators in the last decade. This is due to many initiatives that aimed to improve the health of people living in Egypt including children; of these initiatives are the *100 Million Healthy Lives Campaign*, the elimination of waiting lists, and the elimination of Hepatitis C initiative. These initiatives led to a year-on-year increase in the health budget allocation, spanning the 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, and 2022/2023 fiscal years (MoF and UNICEF, 2023). In addition, other international institutions such as UNICEF, USAID, WHO and WFP worked closely with the government to improve immunization coverage and the nutritional status of children. The budget allocated for health increased over time to improve the quality of public services.



International institutions such as UNICEF, USAID, WHO and WFP worked closely with the government to improve immunization coverage and the nutritional status of children.



In addition, the Universal Health Insurance Law was issued in 2018 and Egypt established a new programme for universal health insurance coverage for all Egyptians. The Universal Health Insurance is piloted in six governorates (Port Said, Ismailia, and Luxor then expanded to Suez, South Sinai, and Aswan) and will continue to expand to cover all governorates to reach full coverage by 2032. The full implementation of the UHI system will have a positive impact on the population, particularly on children, since currently 62 per cent of health expenditures are out of pocket (World Bank, 2022). In addition, almost one third of households in Egypt struggle with catastrophic health expenditures, which significantly affect their living conditions with around 7 per cent pushed into poverty due to high out-of-pocket expenditures (World Bank, 2022).

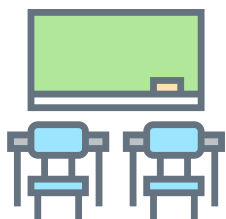
Currently, the major burden of disease comes from non-communicable diseases as opposed to communicable diseases, which increases the burden on the health sector, especially with the high population growth rate.

The budget allocated for health as a percentage of total government expenditure has been decreasing over time with the percentage allocated to the health sector being 7.4 per cent of the total government budget in 2021/2022 and reaching 5.2 per cent in 2024/2025 budget.

In addition, real spending per capita spending on health has been constantly reducing since 2021/2022 using 2018/2019 prices. In 2018/2019 prices spending per capita has reduced from around 1,080 to around 680 in 2023/2024.³⁴

³⁴ The entire population is used to compute the per capita calculations/Population figures for 2023/2024 were estimated by using the growth rates from 2022/2023.

The current budget allocation includes only 1 per cent allocated for preventative care, which is the most cost-effective intervention to avoid many health care cases in need of attention/treatment. As *Figure 4.1* shows, one third of health spending in Egypt is on medical goods, which is high compared to other countries. In addition, 16 per cent of current health spending is on inpatient and 26 per cent of health spending is on outpatient care. Accordingly, more allocation is needed for preventive care.



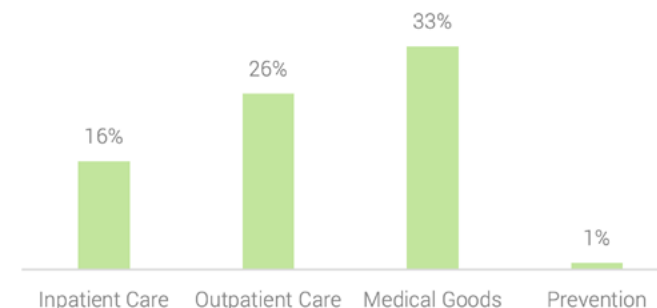
Despite the increase in the enrolment rate in schools at different levels to reach around

22.6 million

students in public schools, still pre-school enrolment rate is very low.



Figure 4.1 Health spending on different health sectors, Egypt 2022



Source: World Bank Group. September 2022a. Egypt Public Expenditure: Review for Human Development.

4.3.2 Education sector

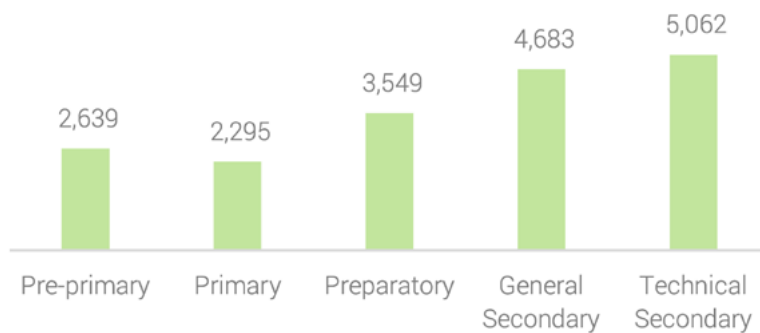
During the last years many children benefited from education services, especially after the series of reforms that took place in this sector. Despite the increase in the enrolment rate in schools at different levels to reach around 22.6 million students in public schools, still pre-school enrolment rate is very low with a net enrolment rate of 20 per cent (MoETE, 2024). In contrast, university education increased significantly to reach 39 per cent, which adds to the burden of the government to invest in university education. It is also worth noting, as discussed earlier, quality remains an issue where PTR and class density are far from the target, as well as the students' academic level and proficiency.

Despite the continuous increase in the budget allocation for education in the last three fiscal years, the share of the education sector of the government budget is less than what is required to accommodate the increasing enrolment rates of children in schools. In addition, refugees from Syria, Sudan, South Sudan and Yemen are allowed to access public schools, which adds more pressure on the education system in Egypt. Accordingly, a higher percentage of the budget needs to be allocated to the education sector.

In 2024/2025, only 1.7 per cent of the GDP in Egypt is budgeted for education and higher education spending. This percentage was 2.3 in 2020/2021 and 2.4 in 2021/2022. The average worldwide expenditure on education is around 4.9 per cent of a country's GDP, increasing to 6.6 in Norway and 6.5 per cent in China (World Bank, 2023). In Egypt, the budget allocated for education covers both basic education and higher education. The data indicates that around 60 per cent of the allocated budget is allocated to the pre-university education and 40 per cent is allocated to university education.

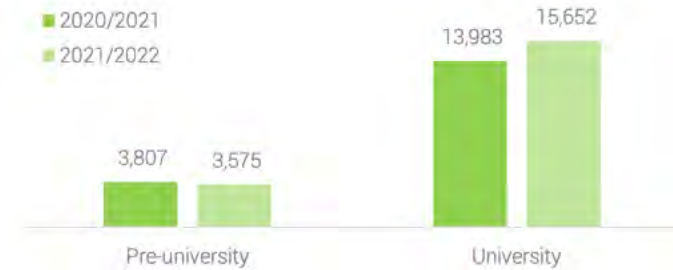
As reported by the World Bank, spending on education should be balanced to cover different inputs, which are: learners are prepared and motivated to learn, teachers are effective and valued, classrooms are equipped, schools are safe and inclusive spaces, and education systems are well managed. Despite that, over 90 per cent of the education budget is spent on wages mainly for teachers' salaries. As is clear from *Figure 4.2*, teacher salary spending per student ranges from EGP 2,295 for primary education to EGP 5,062 for technical secondary.

Figure 4.2 Teacher salary spending per student by education level, Egypt 2022



Source: World Bank Group. September 2022a. Egypt Public Expenditure: Review for Human Development

Figure 4.3 Spending per student for pre-university and university students in 2021/2022



Source: World Bank Group. September 2022a. Egypt Public Expenditure: Review for Human Development.

On the other hand, based on the data available, the average allocation for pre-university education and university per student was calculated from the budget spent in 2021/2022 (MoF 2021) for pre-university and higher education, and the number of students enrolled. The results indicated that in 2021/2022, on average the student share of the education budget is EGP 3,575 for pre-university education which is around one fifth of what is allocated for university students (EGP 15,652). These figures do not differ much from what was spent per student for the prior fiscal year of 2020/2021, where the average spent per student in pre-university was EGP 3,807 and EGP 13,983 for university.

In addition, based on a World Bank analysis, the average government spending on education per-student varies substantially by public universities in Egypt, with the average of allocated per-student for some universities being five times higher than the average of others (Menoufia, New valley, Arish), whereas in other universities the average allocated is half the overall average (Helwan, Zagazig, and South Sinai) (World Bank, 2022a).

Accordingly, increasing funding for pre-university is important, especially for pre-school education with balanced allocations across the various education inputs besides the share dedicated to salaries. In addition, the allocation per governorate needs to be reviewed to take into consideration school/university size and the number of enrolled students.

4.3.3 Social protection

The fifth pillar of Egypt's Sustainable Development Strategy is focused on social protection and notes that "the state will be responsible for providing and expanding social welfare and protection networks." In an effort to provide "protection for the neediest groups", the horizontal and vertical expansion of social safety nets has been a priority for the government.

Although data in the HIECS 2019/2020 showed a decline in the poverty rate to 29.7 per cent (from 32.5 per cent in 2017/2018), the impact of latest economic crises and subsequent high inflationary pressures have possibly led to a drastic increase in the poverty rate; further highlighting the need for social protection measures.

Since April 2022, the GoE has introduced several stimulus packages to lessen the adverse effects of the increasing cost of living on Egypt's most vulnerable families. This has included additional allocations to Egypt's social assistance programme – *Takaful and Karama (TKP)* – benefiting poor households with children, elderly and persons with disabilities, with the aim of both increasing the number of households covered, as well as the value of cash transfers. The government also raised the minimum wage of public sector employees various times to reach EGP 6,000 in the most recent February 2024 increase (up from EGP 2,400 in January 2022). In addition, the government raised tax exemption thresholds on annual income and increased pensions (in the most recent hike, pensions were raised 15 per cent). The government also took measures to control the prices of some basic food commodities.



In an effort to provide “protection for the neediest groups”, the horizontal and vertical expansion of social safety nets has been a priority for the government.



While the 2014 constitution has not put in place a minimum requirement for social protection expenditure³⁵, a 2024 report by the Information and Decision Support Center of Egypt's Cabinet targets an increase in social protection expenditure to reach 23 per cent of total budget expenditure by 2030. Looking at the state budget for the fiscal years 2022/2023, 2023/2024, and 2024/2025, it is evident that despite the absolute (nominal) increase in the amounts allocated for social protection over the three years, the percentage of the allocated budget has declined from 19.2 per cent of the total budget in 2022/2023, to 16 per cent in 2023/2024, then to 14.2 per cent in 2024/2025.

The social protection government budget includes key child-related social protection programmes: social assistance (TKP) covering more than 5 million families with children, elderly and persons with disabilities, *Tamween* food subsidies (ration cards), as well as the National School Feeding Programme.

EFHS 2021 survey results indicates that around 10 per cent of Egyptian households receive TKP cash transfers, with 20.1 per cent of the lowest quintile covered. Despite the fact that poverty programmes target the extremely poor, a review of the distribution of the assistance by wealth quintile indicates that around 14 per cent of households in the middle wealth quintiles or higher are covered by TKP.

³⁵ Egypt's 2014 Constitution has put in place a minimum spending requirement for health (3 per cent), education (6 per cent), and scientific research (1 per cent) as a percentage of GDP.

Meanwhile, around 88 per cent of households have a ration card according to the EFHS 2021, with a 95.3 per cent coverage rate of households in the lowest quintile. At the same time, around 75 per cent of households in the highest wealth quintile and up to 90 per cent of households in the middle wealth quintile have a ration card (CAPMAS, 2022a).

Data from the HIECS 2019/2020 indicates that households that received *Takaful* benefits, saw a decline in poverty rates by 11 percentage points from 74.3 per cent to 63 per cent among beneficiary households. Given the fact that ration cards cover a large segment of the population, including many of the non-poor, poverty rates amongst ration card holders declined at a lesser rate, from 35.7 per cent to 32.2 per cent.

In conclusion, TKP is essential and effective in reducing poverty, however, the impact of the programme would be more pronounced with more efficient targeting since a very high percentage of non-poor households receive TKP coverage. In addition, the budget allocated for ration cards could be significantly reduced if targeting was improved to only include the intended beneficiaries, thereby allowing for this portion to be diverted towards other social protection programmes.

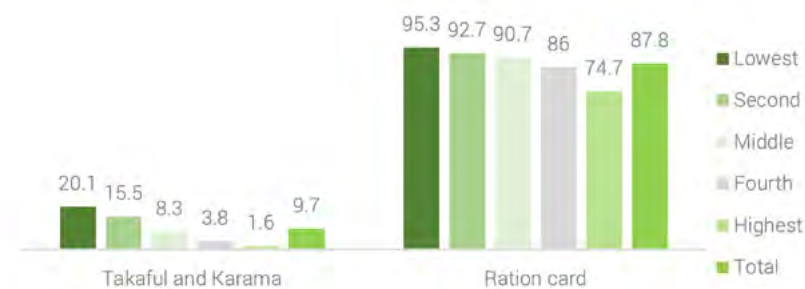
The government's social protection efforts also extend to cover social programmes on social housing to provide low-income households with adequate housing options. This programme absorbs a large amount of funding from the state budget (around 0.4 per cent of GDP) (World Bank, 2022).

As noted earlier, the government has also rolled out social health insurance in several governorates.



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Figure 4.4 Percentage of households receiving *Takaful* and *Karama* and ration card by wealth quintile, Egypt 2021



Source: CAPMAS, 2022a. EFHS 2021, Table 2.10



The budget allocated for ration cards could be significantly reduced if targeting was improved to only include the intended beneficiaries, thereby allowing for this portion to be diverted towards other social protection programmes.





05.

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Annex A: Tables Calculated by the Author

Table A.1 Early childhood education

Percentage of de facto children aged 3-5 years of age who ever attended and who are currently attending any type of nursery, by background characteristics, Egypt 2021

Background characteristic	Percentage ever attending nursery ¹	Percentage currently attending nursery	Number of children
Age			
3 years	36.4	35.2	2744
4 years	63.1	60.9	2728
5 years	74.5	71.0	2999
Sex			
Male	59.1	56.8	4345
Female	57.8	55.4	4126
Urban-rural residence			
Urban	54.5	51.8	2950
Rural	60.6	58.5	5521
Place of residence			
Urban Governorates	53.5	50.4	1035
Lower Egypt	64.5	61.9	3580
Urban	56.7	54.4	884
Rural	67.0	64.3	2696
Upper Egypt	54.7	52.8	3743
Urban	54.2	51.6	958

Rural	54.9	53.3	2785
Frontier governorates ²	38.7	37.7	113
Mother's education			
No education	41.4	39.8	1013
Some primary	46.9	43.8	359
Primary complete/ some secondary	54.5	52.6	1952
Secondary complete/ higher	64.4	61.8	5055
Mother not present in household/missing	52.7	50.5	91
Wealth quintile			
Lowest	49.2	47.2	1538
Second	54.0	52.1	1732
Middle	61.6	59.4	1793
Fourth	62.5	59.8	1842
Highest	64.1	61.5	1566
Total	58.5	56.2	8471

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021

¹ Includes currently attending early childhood education program.

² Does not include North Sinai governorate.

Table A.2 School attendance ratios, 2021

Net attendance ratios (NAR) and gross attendance ratios (GAR) for the de facto household population by sex and level of schooling; and the Gender Parity Index (GPI), according to background characteristics, Egypt 2021

Background characteristic	Net attendance ratio ¹				Gross attendance ratio ²			
	Male	Female	Total	Gender Parity Index ³	Male	Female	Total	Gender Parity Index ³
PRIMARY SCHOOL								
Urban-rural residence								
Urban	92.7	92.2	92.4	0.99	99.0	97.4	98.2	0.98
Rural	94.3	93.1	93.7	0.99	98.5	97.4	97.9	0.99
Place of residence								
Urban Governorates	91.9	90.8	91.3	0.99	99.6	97.1	98.3	0.97
Lower Egypt	95.5	94.7	95.1	0.99	99.6	98.6	99.1	0.99
Urban	95.0	94.9	94.9	1.00	99.9	98.7	99.3	0.99
Rural	95.7	94.6	95.1	0.99	99.4	98.6	99.0	0.99
Upper Egypt	92.5	91.5	92.0	0.99	97.5	96.3	96.9	0.99
Urban	91.8	91.3	91.5	0.99	97.5	96.3	97.0	0.99
Rural	92.8	91.6	92.2	0.99	97.5	96.2	96.9	0.99
Frontier Governorates ⁴	89.3	89.3	89.3	1.00	97.4	96.7	97.0	0.99
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	93.6	91.6	92.7	0.98	98.9	98.1	98.5	0.99
Second	93.5	92.3	92.9	0.99	98.7	97.0	97.9	0.98
Middle	94.4	93.3	93.8	0.99	99.3	97.3	98.3	0.98
Fourth	94.1	95.1	94.6	1.01	98.2	98.7	98.4	1.01
Highest	92.6	91.5	92.0	0.99	98.1	95.7	96.9	0.98
Total	93.7	92.7	93.2	0.99	98.7	97.4	98.0	0.99



Background characteristic	Net attendance ratio ¹				Gross attendance ratio ²			
	Male	Female	Total	Gender Parity Index ³	Male	Female	Total	Gender Parity Index ³
PREPARATORY SCHOOL								
Urban-rural residence								
Urban	81.2	81.5	81.4	1.00	94.0	91.2	92.6	0.97
Rural	84.9	82.9	83.9	0.98	97.2	91.9	94.6	0.95
Place of residence								
Urban Governorates	77.7	79.3	78.5	1.02	92.2	87.7	90.0	0.95
Lower Egypt	87.3	85.9	86.6	0.98	97.9	95.1	96.5	0.97
Urban	86.8	88.1	87.5	1.02	97.6	99.0	98.3	1.01
Rural	87.4	85.1	86.3	0.97	98.1	93.6	95.9	0.95
Upper Egypt	81.7	80.1	80.9	0.98	95.2	89.9	92.6	0.94
Urban	80.4	79.1	79.8	0.98	92.8	89.4	91.2	0.96
Rural	82.3	80.6	81.5	0.98	96.4	90.2	93.3	0.94
Frontier Governorates ⁴	80.7	71.3	75.7	0.88	95.1	78.7	86.4	0.83
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	83.1	78.5	80.8	0.94	96.2	89.0	92.6	0.92
Second	82.9	80.2	81.6	0.97	97.3	89.8	93.6	0.92
Middle	84.4	85.4	84.9	1.01	98.4	94.3	96.4	0.96
Fourth	84.8	85.4	85.1	1.01	97.2	93.9	95.5	0.97
Highest	81.7	83.3	82.5	1.02	89.9	91.8	90.8	1.02
Total	83.4	82.3	82.8	0.99	95.9	91.6	93.8	0.96
SECONDARY SCHOOL								
Urban-rural residence								
Urban	77.5	77.4	77.5	1.00	100.5	95.3	98.0	0.95
Rural	76.1	72.7	74.4	0.95	99.2	85.5	92.3	0.86

Background characteristic	Net attendance ratio ¹				Gross attendance ratio ²			
	Male	Female	Total	Gender Parity Index ³	Male	Female	Total	Gender Parity Index ³
Place of residence								
Urban Governorates	76.4	78.6	77.4	1.03	99.7	100.5	100.1	1.01
Lower Egypt	82.4	79.4	80.9	0.96	102.0	91.9	96.9	0.90
Urban	81.8	78.7	80.3	0.96	98.1	91.3	94.7	0.93
Rural	82.6	79.6	81.1	0.96	103.6	92.2	97.8	0.89
Upper Egypt	71.1	68.2	69.7	0.96	97.5	82.9	90.4	0.85
Urban	75.0	75.2	75.1	1.00	103.4	93.8	99.0	0.91
Rural	69.3	65.4	67.3	0.94	94.6	78.5	86.5	0.83
Frontier Governorates ⁴	70.3	61.4	65.8	0.87	95.5	72.9	84.1	0.76
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	71.1	66.2	68.7	0.93	95.9	78.8	87.4	0.82
Second	67.2	63.0	65.1	0.94	91.9	78.3	85.3	0.85
Middle	77.7	80.7	79.2	1.04	100.5	94.8	97.7	0.94
Fourth	80.9	80.3	80.6	0.99	103.4	97.0	100.2	0.94
Highest	88.6	85.3	87.0	0.96	108.5	101.1	104.9	0.93
Total	76.7	74.6	75.6	0.97	99.7	89.3	94.6	0.90

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021

¹ The NAR for primary school is the percentage of the primary-school aged (6-11 years) population that is attending primary school. The NAR for preparatory school is the percentage of the preparatory-school aged (12-14 years) population that is attending secondary school. The NAR for secondary school is the percentage of the secondary-school aged (15-17 years) population that is attending secondary school. By definition the NAR cannot exceed 100 per cent.

² The GAR for primary school is the total number of primary school students, expressed as a percentage of the official primary-school age population. The GAR for preparatory school is the total number of preparatory school students, expressed as a percentage of the official preparatory-school-age population. The GAR for secondary school is the total number of secondary school students, expressed as a percentage of the official secondary-school-age population. If there are significant numbers of overage and underage students at a given level of schooling, the GAR can exceed 100 per cent.

³ The Gender Parity Index for primary school is the ratio of the primary school NAR (GAR) for females to the NAR (GAR) for males. The Gender Parity Index for preparatory school is the ratio of the preparatory school NAR (GAR) for females to the NAR (GAR) for males. The Gender Parity Index for secondary school is the ratio of the secondary school NAR (GAR) for females to the NAR (GAR) for males.

⁴ Does not include North Sinai governorate.

Table A.3 School attendance ratios, 2014

Net attendance ratios (NAR) and gross attendance ratios (GAR) for the de facto household population by sex and level of schooling; and the Gender Parity Index (GPI), according to background characteristics, Egypt 2014

Background characteristic	Net attendance ratio ¹				Gross attendance ratio ²			
	Male	Female	Total	Gender Parity Index ³	Male	Female	Total	Gender Parity Index ³
PRIMARY SCHOOL								
Urban-rural residence								
Urban	91.4	91.9	91.7	1.01	99.8	98.6	99.2	0.99
Rural	93.2	92.0	92.7	0.99	102.8	99.5	101.2	0.97
Place of residence								
Urban Governorates	90.8	91.2	91.0	1.00	99.5	97.6	98.6	0.98
Lower Egypt	93.8	93.4	93.6	1.00	102.9	100.4	101.7	0.98
Urban	93.2	93.3	93.2	1.00	100.5	99.9	100.2	0.99
Rural	93.9	93.5	93.7	1.00	103.5	100.5	102.1	0.97
Upper Egypt	91.9	90.7	91.3	0.99	101.2	98.3	99.8	0.97
Urban	90.5	91.6	91.0	1.01	99.5	98.7	99.1	0.99
Rural	92.4	90.3	91.4	0.98	101.9	98.2	100.1	0.96
Frontier Governorates ⁴	92.9	87.4	90.2	0.94	100.7	96.5	98.7	0.96
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	91.8	90.0	90.9	0.98	102.3	96.7	99.6	0.95
Second	92.1	90.6	91.4	0.98	100.0	97.9	98.9	0.98
Middle	94.6	94.5	94.6	1.00	105.3	102.9	104.2	0.98
Fourth	92.3	93.1	92.7	1.01	101.0	100.1	100.5	0.99
Highest	92.3	92.2	92.2	1.00	99.9	98.6	99.3	0.99
Total	92.6	92.0	92.3	0.99	101.7	99.2	100.5	0.97



Background characteristic	Net attendance ratio ¹				Gross attendance ratio ²			
	Male	Female	Total	Gender Parity Index ³	Male	Female	Total	Gender Parity Index ³
PREPARATORY SCHOOL								
Urban-rural residence								
Urban	77.3	82.2	79.6	1.06	94.6	99.1	96.7	1.05
Rural	75.8	76.2	76.0	1.01	95.8	91.3	93.6	0.95
Place of residence								
Urban Governorates	77.7	80.2	78.9	1.03	96.8	96.8	96.8	1.00
Lower Egypt	78.5	83.2	80.8	1.06	94.8	97.3	96.0	1.03
Urban	80.8	86.2	83.3	1.07	94.4	101.0	97.4	1.07
Rural	77.8	82.3	80.0	1.06	94.9	96.2	95.6	1.01
Upper Egypt	73.5	72.6	73.1	0.99	95.3	89.8	92.7	0.94
Urban	73.7	80.9	77.1	1.10	92.5	99.7	95.9	1.08
Rural	73.4	68.9	71.2	0.94	96.6	85.5	91.2	0.88
Frontier Governorates ⁴	81.7	66.8	74.2	0.82	104.1	83.6	93.7	0.80
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	71.8	71.3	71.5	0.99	94.7	85.5	90.1	0.90
Second	74.8	75.5	75.2	1.01	95.6	93.1	94.4	0.97
Middle	77.1	80.2	78.6	1.04	93.4	94.1	93.7	1.01
Fourth	76.0	84.4	79.9	1.11	93.0	101.4	96.9	1.09
Highest	83.4	84.0	83.7	1.01	100.1	100.0	100.1	1.00
Total	76.4	78.3	77.3	1.03	95.3	94.0	94.7	0.99
SECONDARY SCHOOL								
Urban-rural residence								
Urban	66.8	69.9	68.3	1.05	91.2	87.8	89.5	0.96
Rural	61.5	58.5	60.0	0.95	83.1	71.5	77.3	0.86

Background characteristic	Net attendance ratio ¹				Gross attendance ratio ²			
	Male	Female	Total	Gender Parity Index ³	Male	Female	Total	Gender Parity Index ³
Place of residence								
Urban Governorates	67.3	69.2	68.2	1.03	90.7	91.3	91.0	1.01
Lower Egypt	68.3	68.0	68.2	0.99	89.1	82.3	85.7	0.92
Urban	72.9	77.1	75.0	1.06	94.4	90.9	92.6	0.96
Rural	66.9	64.8	65.9	0.97	87.5	79.3	83.4	0.91
Upper Egypt	57.1	55.4	56.2	0.97	81.5	68.7	75.0	0.84
Urban	60.7	64.0	62.3	1.05	88.7	81.8	85.3	0.92
Rural	55.6	52.0	53.8	0.94	78.5	63.6	70.9	0.81
Frontier Governorates ⁴	53.1	55.7	54.5	1.05	68.1	64.2	66.0	0.94
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	54.6	53.2	53.9	0.97	72.2	65.8	69.1	0.91
Second	56.5	57.4	56.9	1.02	79.9	70.0	74.7	0.88
Middle	67.3	63.3	65.4	0.94	88.8	77.0	83.1	0.87
Fourth	62.1	62.0	62.0	1.00	88.9	76.6	82.5	0.86
Highest	80.3	81.3	80.8	1.01	106.3	102.4	104.4	0.96
Total	63.5	62.7	63.1	0.99	86.1	77.4	81.8	0.90

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EDHS 2014

¹ The NAR for primary school is the percentage of the primary-school aged (6-11 years) population that is attending primary school. The NAR for preparatory school is the percentage of the preparatory-school aged (12-14 years) population that is attending secondary school. The NAR for secondary school is the percentage of the secondary-school aged (15-17 years) population that is attending secondary school. By definition the NAR cannot exceed 100 per cent.

² The GAR for primary school is the total number of primary school students, expressed as a percentage of the official primary-school age population. The GAR for preparatory school is the total number of preparatory school students, expressed as a percentage of the official preparatory-school-age population. The GAR for secondary school is the total number of secondary school students, expressed as a percentage of the official secondary-school-age population. If there are significant numbers of overage and underage students at a given level of schooling, the GAR can exceed 100 per cent.

³ The Gender Parity Index for primary school is the ratio of the primary school NAR (GAR) for females to the NAR (GAR) for males. The Gender Parity Index for preparatory school is the ratio of the preparatory school NAR (GAR) for females to the NAR (GAR) for males. The Gender Parity Index for secondary school is the ratio of the secondary school NAR (GAR) for females to the NAR (GAR) for males.

⁴ Does not include North and South Sinai governorate.

Table A.4 Education Status of Youth 15-24

Per cent distribution of HH members aged 15-24 years according to Education Status by background characteristics, Egypt 2021

Background characteristic	Never been to school	Currently attending school/university	Ever been to school/university	Number of youth
Age				
15-19	1.3	77.1	21.6	11171
20-24	2.9	27.8	69.3	9910
Gender				
Male	1.5	55.4	43.1	10908
Female	2.5	52.4	45.1	10173
Urban-rural residence				
Urban	1.3	60.2	38.5	8772
Rural	2.5	49.5	48.0	12308
Place of residence				
Urban Governorates	1.6	59.8	38.7	3387
Lower Egypt	1.5	57.2	41.4	8957
Urban	1.1	64.7	34.2	2511
Rural	1.6	54.2	44.2	6446
Upper Egypt	2.8	48.3	49.0	8497
Urban	1.1	56.7	42.2	2705
Rural	3.5	44.4	52.1	5792
Frontier Governorates ¹	3.3	52.8	43.9	239



Background characteristic	Never been to school	Currently attending school/university	Ever been to school/university	Number of youth
Wealth quintile				
Lowest	3.5	47.5	49.0	4353
Second	3.5	45.0	51.5	3928
Middle	2.0	52.7	45.3	4128
Fourth	0.9	56.5	42.5	4321
Highest	0.4	67.1	32.5	4350
Total	2.0	54.0	44.0	21081

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021

¹ Does not include North Sinai governorate.

Table A.5 Primary out-of-school rate

Out of school ratio for primary level, according to background characteristics, Egypt 2021.

Background characteristic	Out of school ratio - primary		
	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Urban-rural residence			
Urban	3.3	3.2	3.2
Rural	3.3	3.7	3.5
Place of residence			
Urban Governorates	3.2	3.0	3.1
Lower Egypt	1.9	2.1	2.0
Urban	1.6	1.5	1.6
Rural	2.0	2.3	2.1
Upper Egypt	4.6	5.0	4.8
Urban	4.7	4.8	4.7
Rural	4.6	5.1	4.9
Frontier Governorates ¹	5.9	7.4	6.7
Wealth quintile			
Lowest	4.0	5.2	4.6
Second	4.3	4.8	4.5
Middle	3.6	2.9	3.3
Fourth	2.0	1.7	1.9
Highest	2.3	2.7	2.5
Total	3.3	3.5	3.4

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021

¹ Does not include North Sinai governorate.

Table A.6 Lower Secondary out-of-school rate

Out of school ratio for lower secondary level, according to background characteristics, Egypt 2021.

Background characteristic	Out of school ratio - lower secondary		
	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Urban-rural residence			
Urban	3.1	4.6	3.8
Rural	2.6	4.3	3.5
Place of residence			
Urban Governorates	3.1	4.7	3.9
Lower Egypt	1.5	2.0	1.7
Urban	1.1	1.5	1.3
Rural	1.7	2.1	1.9
Upper Egypt	4.1	6.6	5.3
Urban	4.9	7.0	5.9
Rural	3.7	6.4	5.0
Frontier Governorates ¹	2.1	13.2	8.0
Wealth quintile			
Lowest	4.5	7.1	5.8
Second	4.1	6.5	5.3
Middle	2.0	2.2	2.1
Fourth	2.0	3.1	2.5
Highest	0.9	2.1	1.5
Total	2.8	4.4	3.6

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021

¹ Does not include North Sinai governorate.

Table A.7 Secondary out-of-school rate

Out of school ratio for secondary level, according to background characteristics, Egypt 2021.

Background characteristic	Out of school ratio - secondary		
	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Urban-rural residence			
Urban	8.4	10.1	9.2
Rural	10.6	18.0	14.3
Place of residence			
Urban Governorates	9.3	9.8	9.5
Lower Egypt	6.4	9.9	8.2
Urban	4.9	6.9	5.9
Rural	7.0	11.0	9.0
Upper Egypt	13.2	21.9	17.4
Urban	10.7	13.2	11.8
Rural	14.4	25.4	19.9
Frontier Governorates ¹	10.6	26.6	18.7
Wealth quintile			
Lowest	15.5	21.4	18.4
Second	17.1	26.2	21.6
Middle	6.8	11.0	8.8
Fourth	5.2	9.6	7.4
Highest	2.0	3.8	2.9
Total	9.7	14.9	12.2

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021

¹ Does not include North Sinai governorate.

Table A.8 Literacy

Percentage of youth aged 15-24 years who are literate, according to background characteristics, Egypt 2021

Background characteristic	Percentage literate ¹	Number
Gender		
Male	96.4	8558
Female	97.9	6757
Age		
15-24		
15-19	97.4	9622
20-24	96.4	5694
Urban-rural residence		
Urban	97.6	6751
Rural	96.7	8565
Place of residence		
Urban Governorates	97.3	2681
Lower Egypt	97.5	6436
Urban	97.4	1901
Rural	97.6	4535
Upper Egypt	96.5	6020
Urban	98.0	2041
Rural	95.7	3979
Frontier Governorates ²	97.0	179

Background characteristic	Percentage literate ¹	Number
Wealth quintile		
Lowest	94.5	3381
Second	94.1	2838
Middle	98.1	2996
Fourth	98.9	3003
Highest	99.7	3098
Total	97.1	15316

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021

¹ Refers to youth who had some preparatory education or higher who were able to read all or part of a sentence.

² Does not include North Sinai governorate.

Table A.9 Use of computers and digital media

Percentage of never-married youth aged 15-24 years who use a computer, the Internet, and social media on a weekly basis, by background characteristics, Egypt 2021

Background characteristic	Uses a computer at least once a week	Uses Internet at least once a week	Uses computer & internet at least once a week	Doesn't use any of the digital media at least once a week	Number of youth
Sex					
Male	30.7	86.3	29.6	12.6	8558
Female	24.8	77.2	23.7	21.6	6757
Age					
15-19	25.3	78.9	24.1	19.8	9622
20-24	32.8	87.9	31.9	11.1	5694
Urban-rural residence					
Urban	37.4	89.4	36.6	9.8	6751
Rural	20.7	76.7	19.4	22.0	8565
Place of residence					
Urban Governorates	42.5	89.7	41.6	9.4	2681
Lower Egypt	26.2	85.5	25.2	13.5	6436
Urban	34.2	91.5	33.6	7.8	1901
Rural	22.9	83.0	21.7	15.8	4535
Upper Egypt	23.7	75.8	22.4	22.9	6020
Urban	34.1	87.5	33.2	11.6	2041
Rural	18.3	69.8	16.8	28.7	3979
Frontier Governorates ¹	27.9	74.3	26.9	24.7	179



Background characteristic	Uses a computer at least once a week	Uses Internet at least once a week	Uses computer & internet at least once a week	Doesn't use any of the digital media at least once a week	Number of youth
Education					
No education	2.6	16.8	0.0	80.6	126
Some primary	6.9	52.3	4.2	45.1	388
Primary complete/some secondary	22.6	75.2	21.1	23.4	7391
Secondary complete/higher	35.1	92.0	34.4	7.3	7411
Wealth quintile					
Lowest	12.5	64.9	11.2	33.8	3381
Second	17.0	70.5	15.4	27.9	2838
Middle	25.4	85.8	24.0	12.9	2996
Fourth	32.8	93.2	31.7	5.8	3003
Highest	53.4	98.0	53.0	1.6	3098
Total	28.1	82.3	27.0	16.6	15316

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021

¹ Does not include North Sinai governorates

Table A.10 Health insurance coverage

Percentage distribution of never-married youth aged 15-24 years with health insurance, including the percentage who covered by different types of health insurance, Egypt 2021.

Background characteristic	Percentage who has any health insurance coverage	Number of youth	Among youth who have health insurance, percentage who reported that health insurance is affiliated with:					Number who have health insurance
			General Insurance Agency	Working treatment system	Unions	Commercial insurance	Other	
Sex								
Male	46.1	8558	94.1	4.6	1.0	0.5	0.5	3943
Female	37.4	6757	88.7	3.2	0.4	0.7	7.7	2529
Age								
15-19	51.4	9622	95.9	0.8	0.2	0.3	3.2	4942
20-24	26.9	5694	79.4	14.4	2.5	1.4	3.6	1531
Residence								
Urban	45.2	6751	91.7	5.0	0.6	0.7	2.8	3053
Rural	39.9	8565	92.2	3.2	0.9	0.5	3.7	3419
Place of residence								
Urban Governorates	48.8	2681	91.9	4.7	0.4	0.3	3.2	1308
Lower Egypt	40.5	6436	93.3	4.1	1.2	0.4	2.1	2608
Urban	42.8	1901	93.8	4.6	1.2	0.3	1.3	813
Rural	39.6	4535	93.1	3.8	1.2	0.5	2.5	1795
Upper Egypt	41.2	6020	90.9	3.6	0.5	0.9	4.5	2482
Urban	42.8	2041	90.1	5.6	0.4	1.4	3.4	873
Rural	40.4	3979	91.3	2.5	0.6	0.6	5.1	1609
Frontier Governorates ¹	41.4	179	84.2	6.1	0.7	1.9	7.4	74



Background characteristic	Percentage who has any health insurance coverage	Number of youth	Among youth who have health insurance, percentage who reported that health insurance is affiliated with:					Number who have health insurance
			General Insurance Agency	Working treatment system	Unions	Commercial insurance	Other	
Education								
No education	0.8	126	*	*	*	*	*	1
Some primary	3.3	388	(46.0)	(38.5)	(0.0)	(7.2)	(8.2)	13
Primary complete/ some secondary	54.8	7391	96.2	0.6	0.2	0.3	3.2	4054
Secondary complete/ higher	32.5	7411	85.2	9.7	1.8	1.1	3.5	2405
Work status								
Working for cash	31.3	5028	84.2	14.6	1.1	0.7	0.5	1574
Not working for cash	47.6	10287	94.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	4.2	4899
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	36.3	3381	92.7	2.6	0.4	0.6	3.7	1227
Second	35.0	2838	91.7	2.6	0.5	0.4	5.6	995
Middle	41.4	2996	94.4	3.5	0.4	0.2	1.8	1239
Fourth	45.5	3003	91.8	5.0	0.9	0.4	2.7	1368
Highest	53.1	3098	90.0	5.5	1.3	1.1	3.2	1644
Total	42.3	15316	92.0	4.0	0.8	0.6	3.3	6473

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

¹ Does not include North Sinai governorates

Table A.11 Smoking and health-preserving behaviours

Percentage of never-married males youth aged 15-24 years who smoke, agree with some statements about smoking tobacco products, and perform certain behaviours to maintain health, by selected background characteristics, Egypt 2021.

Background characteristic	Smoking	Attitudes towards smoking tobacco products		Healthy behaviours				Number of never-married youth aged 15-24 years
	Percentage of smokers	Smoking tobacco products is very dangerous to the health of smokers	Smoking tobacco products has a negative effect on non-smokers	Weight regulation	Healthy food	Playing sports	Stop smoking	
Age								
15-19	11.9	99.0	97.5	25.8	54.7	54.0	4.2	4956
20-24	34.2	99.4	98.1	26.0	55.1	52.2	7.8	3603
Residence								
Urban	25.0	99.0	97.8	29.7	54.9	57.9	7.0	3633
Rural	18.5	99.2	97.8	23.0	54.8	49.8	4.8	4925
Place of residence								
Urban Governorates	26.4	98.6	97.1	28.6	50.3	58.1	4.1	1420
Lower Egypt	19.1	99.4	98.1	29.5	65.1	63.0	6.9	3591
Urban	25.5	99.5	98.3	34.2	67.6	68.6	11.3	1005
Rural	16.6	99.3	98.0	27.7	64.2	60.8	5.2	2585
Upper Egypt	21.4	99.2	97.8	21.1	46.3	41.3	5.2	3455
Urban	22.9	99.3	98.1	27.9	50.5	48.6	6.9	1144
Rural	20.6	99.2	97.7	17.7	44.3	37.6	4.3	2311
Frontier Governorates ¹	23.8	96.4	94.6	22.1	41.7	44.3	2.2	93



Background characteristic	Smoking	Attitudes towards smoking tobacco products		Healthy behaviours				Number of never-married youth aged 15-24 years
	Percentage of smokers	Smoking tobacco products is very dangerous to the health of smokers	Smoking tobacco products has a negative effect on non-smokers	Weight regulation	Healthy food	Playing sports	Stop smoking	
Education								
No education	37.1	98.3	93.3	4.8	49.1	26.6	13.4	58
Some primary	50.5	98.1	95.9	17.0	51.1	30.3	4.7	300
Primary complete/ some secondary	15.3	99.0	97.3	23.1	52.5	51.0	4.3	3971
Secondary complete/ higher	24.6	99.3	98.4	29.4	57.4	57.3	7.0	4228
Work status								
Working for cash	31.3	99.4	97.5	23.0	48.2	46.9	7.1	4452
Not working for cash	10.4	98.9	98.1	29.0	62.0	60.1	4.2	4107
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	20.3	99.2	97.6	17.4	50.0	40.7	4.7	2005
Second	24.4	99.1	97.5	21.4	53.8	45.4	5.3	1643
Middle	24.8	99.0	96.7	26.0	54.1	54.3	7.9	1695
Fourth	20.9	98.9	98.0	31.4	55.4	60.7	5.6	1632
Highest	15.9	99.6	99.1	35.5	62.2	68.3	4.9	1584
Total	21.3	99.2	97.8	25.9	54.8	53.2	5.7	8558

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021

¹ Does not include North Sinai governorates

Table A.12 Nutritional status of females aged 10-19 years

Per cent distribution of never-married females aged 10-19 years by nutrition status categories based on body mass index (BMI) levels, by background characteristics, Egypt 2021

Background characteristic	Severely thin	Thin	Normal	Overweight	Obese	Total per cent	Number of girls ¹
	Percentage below -3 SD	Percentage below -2 SD	Percentage between -2 SD and +1 SD	Percentage between +1 and +2 SD	Percentage above +2 SD		
Age							
Years 10-14	3.1	7.4	68.6	14.6	6.2	100.0	5177
Years 15-19	0.0	1.1	60.3	26.6	12.0	100.0	3558
Mother's nutritional status							
(Thin) BMI <18.5	*	*	*	*	*	100.0	17
(Normal) BMI 18.5-24.9	5.3	9.5	74.9	9.4	0.8	100.0	513
(Overweight/obese) BMI ≥25	2.0	5.2	65.9	18.8	8.0	100.0	6200
Mother in household but missing information on BMI	1.8	5.7	62.0	20.5	10.0	100.0	348
Mother not present or identified	0.1	2.0	60.0	25.2	12.6	100.0	1658
Urban-rural residence							
Urban	1.9	4.4	64.0	20.3	9.3	100.0	4150
Rural	1.8	5.3	66.3	18.8	7.8	100.0	4585
Place of residence							
Urban Governorates	2.0	4.2	65.3	19.1	9.4	100.0	1767
Lower Egypt	1.3	4.0	63.0	21.9	9.8	100.0	3711
Urban	1.5	3.4	62.5	23.2	9.4	100.0	1194
Rural	1.3	4.2	63.2	21.2	10.0	100.0	2517
Upper Egypt	2.3	6.3	67.7	17.1	6.6	100.0	3153
Urban	2.3	5.7	63.4	19.4	9.2	100.0	1112

Background characteristic	Severely thin	Thin	Normal	Overweight	Obese	Total per cent	Number of girls ¹
	Percentage below -3 SD	Percentage below -2 SD	Percentage between -2 SD and +1 SD	Percentage between +1 and +2 SD	Percentage above +2 SD		
Rural	2.3	6.6	70.0	15.9	5.2	100.0	2041
Frontier Governorates ²	3.1	5.5	69.0	15.5	7.0	100.0	105
Mother's education³							
No education	1.5	4.9	67.4	19.4	6.8	100.0	1550
Some primary	3.0	6.7	61.1	18.1	11.1	100.0	613
Primary complete/some secondary	2.1	5.3	65.3	17.8	9.5	100.0	1093
Secondary complete/higher	2.3	5.6	66.1	18.6	7.4	100.0	4094
Mother not present in household/ mother not identified/missing	0.1	1.6	61.8	24.5	11.9	100.0	1385
Wealth quintile							
Lowest	1.6	5.1	66.6	19.9	6.8	100.0	1827
Second	2.2	5.9	65.0	18.3	8.7	100.0	1675
Middle	1.8	4.9	65.0	18.4	9.9	100.0	1703
Fourth	1.9	4.6	64.7	20.6	8.2	100.0	1773
Highest	1.8	3.9	64.7	20.4	9.2	100.0	1758
Total	1.8	4.9	65.2	19.5	8.5	100.0	8736

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021

¹ Table is based on females aged 10-19 years who stayed in the household on the night before the interview. Each of the categories is expressed in standard deviation units from the median of the WHO Growth Reference for school-aged children and adolescents. Table is based on youth with valid measurement of height and weight. An asterisk indicates a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

² Does not include North Sinai governorate.

³ For women who are not interviewed, information is taken from the Household Questionnaire.

Table A.13 Nutritional status of males aged 10-19 years

Per cent distribution of never-married males aged 10-19 years by nutrition status categories based on body mass index (BMI) levels, by background characteristics, Egypt 2021

Background characteristic	Severely thin	Thin	Normal	Overweight	Obese	Total per cent	Number of boys ¹
	Percentage below -3 SD	Percentage below -2 SD	Percentage between -2 SD and +1 SD	Percentage between +1 and +2 SD	Percentage above +2 SD		
Age							
Years 10-14	5.6	13.5	63.2	12.0	5.7	100.0	5030
Years 15-19	0.6	2.2	70.4	17.4	9.4	100.0	3489
Mother's nutritional status							
(Thin) BMI <18.5	*	*	*	*	*	100.0	16
(Normal) BMI 18.5-24.9	8.0	17.4	67.3	5.1	2.3	100.0	504
(Overweight/obese) BMI ≥25	3.8	9.7	65.2	14.2	7.1	100.0	5915
Mother in household but missing information on BMI	2.9	11.7	63.6	15.0	6.7	100.0	377
Mother not present or identified	1.3	3.0	69.4	17.0	9.3	100.0	1706
Urban-rural residence							
Urban	3.5	7.5	63.8	16.3	8.9	100.0	4121
Rural	3.6	10.2	68.3	12.3	5.7	100.0	4397
Place of residence							
Urban Governorates	4.5	7.4	62.4	16.2	9.5	100.0	1704
Lower Egypt	1.9	7.9	66.1	16.4	7.7	100.0	3534
Urban	1.4	7.0	63.2	19.6	8.9	100.0	1123
Rural	2.1	8.4	67.4	15.0	7.1	100.0	2412
Upper Egypt	4.8	10.8	68.0	10.8	5.6	100.0	3187
Urban	4.0	8.1	66.0	13.6	8.3	100.0	1232
Rural	5.3	12.4	69.2	9.1	3.9	100.0	1954
Frontier Governorates ²	3.6	8.8	72.2	10.1	5.3	100.0	93

Background characteristic	Severely thin	Thin	Normal	Overweight	Obese	Total per cent	Number of boys ¹
	Percentage below -3 SD	Percentage below -2 SD	Percentage between -2 SD and +1 SD	Percentage between +1 and +2 SD	Percentage above +2 SD		
Mother's education³							
No education	5.1	10.8	66.6	12.0	5.5	100.0	1512
Some primary	3.9	10.5	66.4	12.4	6.8	100.0	494
Primary complete/some secondary	3.8	11.1	66.9	13.0	5.1	100.0	1100
Secondary complete/higher	3.6	9.6	64.3	14.6	7.9	100.0	3978
Mother not present or identified/missing	1.3	2.7	69.9	17.2	8.9	100.0	1434
Wealth quintile							
Lowest	4.4	9.3	70.1	11.3	4.9	100.0	1744
Second	4.2	10.2	67.1	12.6	6.0	100.0	1595
Middle	3.3	9.3	66.9	14.7	5.8	100.0	1683
Fourth	3.6	8.4	62.3	16.3	9.5	100.0	1720
Highest	2.2	7.4	64.4	16.1	9.9	100.0	1777
Total	3.5	8.9	66.1	14.2	7.2	100.0	8518

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021

¹ Table is based on males who stayed in the household on the night before the interview. Each of the categories is expressed in standard deviation units from the median of the WHO Growth Reference for school-aged children and adolescents. Table is based on youth with valid measurement of height and weight. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

² Does not include North Sinai governorate.

³ For women who are not interviewed, information is taken from the Household Questionnaire.

Table A.14 Prevalence of anaemia in females aged 10-19 years, 2021

Percentage of never-married females aged 10-19 years classified as having anaemia, by background characteristics, Egypt 2021

Background characteristic	Anaemia status by haemoglobin level ¹				Number of girls
	Any anaemia	Mild anaemia	Moderate anaemia	Severe anaemia	
Age					
Years 10-11	24.9	16.8	3.6	4.5	1310
Years 12-14	34.0	26.2	4.7	3.1	1844
Years 15-19	38.3	26.1	6.3	5.9	2125
Urban-rural residence					
Urban	33.6	23.9	5.3	4.5	2485
Rural	33.4	23.8	4.9	4.7	2793
Place of residence					
Urban Governorates	39.0	26.3	7.5	5.2	1074
Lower Egypt	29.8	21.5	3.9	4.3	2265
Urban	25.2	19.1	2.2	3.9	714
Rural	32.0	22.7	4.7	4.5	1551
Upper Egypt	34.7	25.0	5.1	4.6	1879
Urban	33.7	24.6	5.1	4.0	653
Rural	35.2	25.2	5.1	4.9	1227
Frontier Governorates ²	36.9	30.4	4.4	2.2	61
Mother's education³					
No education	34.8	24.4	5.3	5.1	934
Some primary	33.7	23.3	6.5	3.9	373
Primary complete/some secondary	34.8	23.6	5.4	5.8	663

Background characteristic	Anaemia status by haemoglobin level ¹				Number of girls
	Any anaemia	Mild anaemia	Moderate anaemia	Severe anaemia	
Secondary complete/higher	31.9	23.7	4.2	4.0	2494
Mother not present or identified/missing	35.7	24.0	6.5	5.2	815
Wealth quintile					
Lowest	35.8	25.8	5.6	4.5	1100
Second	33.3	23.0	5.1	5.3	1011
Middle	36.8	27.2	5.5	4.1	1038
Fourth	26.2	17.7	4.0	4.5	1083
Highest	35.4	25.6	5.2	4.5	1047
Total	33.5	23.8	5.1	4.6	5279

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021

Note: Table includes girls who stayed in the household on the night before the interview and who were tested for anaemia. Prevalence of anaemia based on haemoglobin levels, is adjusted for altitude. Haemoglobin is measured in grams per decilitre (g/dl).

¹ The cutoffs used in determining anaemia status varied with age as follows: (1) girls aged 10-11 years: any anaemia <11.5 g/dl; mild anaemia 10.0-11.4 g/dl; moderate anaemia 7.0-9.9; severe anaemia <7.0, and (2) girls aged 12-19 years: any anaemia <12.0 g/dl; mild anaemia 10.0-11.9 g/dl; moderate anaemia 7.0-9.9 g/dl; severe anaemia <7.0 g/dl.

² Does not include North Sinai governorate.

³ For women who are not interviewed, information is taken from the Household Questionnaire.

Table A.15 Prevalence of anaemia in males aged 10-19 years, 2021

Percentage of never-married males aged 10-19 years classified as having anaemia, by background characteristics, Egypt 2021

Background characteristic	Anaemia status by haemoglobin level ¹				Number of boys
	Any anaemia	Mild anaemia	Moderate anaemia	Severe anaemia	
Age					
Years 10-11	27.3	16.9	6.6	3.8	1330
Years 12-14	28.8	20.9	4.0	3.9	1842
Years 15-19	31.0	11.9	10.5	8.6	2122
Urban-rural residence					
Urban	29.1	15.5	7.7	5.9	2560
Rural	29.5	17.0	6.9	5.6	2733
Place of residence					
Urban Governorates	33.8	18.5	8.8	6.4	1076
Lower Egypt	26.3	14.1	5.6	6.6	2215
Urban	25.5	12.7	5.3	7.5	704
Rural	26.7	14.7	5.8	6.2	1511
Upper Egypt	30.3	17.4	8.4	4.4	1949
Urban	25.9	13.7	8.6	3.7	745
Rural	33.0	19.8	8.3	4.9	1204
Frontier Governorates ²	27.0	18.8	4.5	3.7	54
Mother's education³					
No education	32.5	17.3	9.4	5.8	884
Some primary	32.5	18.7	5.8	8.0	310
Primary complete/some secondary	36.3	21.5	10.4	4.4	720
Secondary complete/higher	28.3	16.8	5.9	5.7	2461
Mother not present or identified/missing	22.2	8.9	7.1	6.2	918

Background characteristic	Anaemia status by haemoglobin level ¹				Number of boys
	Any anaemia	Mild anaemia	Moderate anaemia	Severe anaemia	
Wealth quintile					
Lowest	31.6	18.9	7.2	5.5	1092
Second	31.4	16.9	9.2	5.4	927
Middle	29.4	15.2	8.9	5.3	1066
Fourth	27.0	14.0	6.9	6.0	1059
Highest	27.5	16.4	4.6	6.4	1149
Total	29.3	16.3	7.3	5.7	5294

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021

Note: Table is based on boys who stayed in the household on the night before the interview and who were tested for anaemia. Prevalence of anaemia, based on haemoglobin levels, is adjusted for altitude. Haemoglobin is measured in grams per decilitre (g/dl).

¹ The cutoffs used in determining anaemia status varied with age as follows: (1) boys aged 10-11 years: any anaemia <11.5 g/dl; mild anaemia 10.0-11.4 g/dl; moderate anaemia 7.0-9.9 g/dl; severe anaemia <7.0 g/dl, (2) 12-14 years: any anaemia <12.0 g/dl; mild anaemia 10.0-11.9 g/dl; moderate anaemia 7.0-9.9 g/dl; severe anaemia <7.0 g/dl, and (3) 15-19 years: any anaemia <13.0 g/dl; mild anaemia 12.0-12.9 g/dl; moderate anaemia 9.0-11.9 g/dl; severe anaemia <9.0 g/dl.

² Does not include North Sinai governorate.

³ For women who are not interviewed, information is taken from the Household Questionnaire.

Table A.16 Prevalence of anaemia in never-married female youth aged 5-19 years, 2014

Percentage of never-married female youth aged 5-19 years classified as having anaemia, by background characteristics, Egypt 2014

Background characteristic	Anaemia status by haemoglobin level ¹				Number of never-married female youth
	Any anaemia	Mild anaemia	Moderate anaemia	Severe anaemia	
Age					
Years 5-9	21.4	19.2	2.2	0.0	2,037
Years 10-19	20.5	19.8	0.7	0.1	3,147
Urban-rural residence					
Urban	18.7	17.5	1.1	0.0	1,901
Rural	22.1	20.7	1.3	0.1	3,282
Place of residence					
Urban Governorates	20.0	18.2	1.8	0.0	627
Lower Egypt	17.8	16.9	0.8	0.1	2,369
Urban	13.2	12.4	0.9	0.0	590
Rural	19.3	18.3	0.8	0.1	1,779
Upper Egypt	24.4	22.8	1.5	0.0	2,135
Urban	21.7	21.1	0.7	0.0	657
Rural	25.5	23.6	1.9	0.0	1,479
Frontier Governorates ²	28.2	26.2	2.0	0.0	52
Mother's education³					
No education	22.8	21.4	1.3	0.1	1,423
Some primary	20.5	19.0	1.4	0.0	377
Primary complete/some secondary	21.4	20.1	1.3	0.0	820
Secondary complete/higher	19.0	18.0	1.0	0.0	2,312
Mother not present or identified/missing	25.7	23.3	2.4	0.0	251

Background characteristic	Anaemia status by haemoglobin level ¹				Number of never-married female youth
	Any anaemia	Mild anaemia	Moderate anaemia	Severe anaemia	
Wealth quintile					
Lowest	26.5	24.6	1.9	0.0	1,073
Second	23.1	21.4	1.5	0.2	1,137
Middle	19.8	18.8	1.0	0.0	1,000
Fourth	16.8	16.0	0.9	0.0	992
Highest	17.3	16.4	0.9	0.0	982
Total	20.9	19.6	1.3	0.0	5,183

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EDHS 2014

Note: Table is based on youth who stayed in the household on the night before the interview and who were tested for anaemia. Prevalence of anaemia, based on haemoglobin levels, is adjusted for altitude. Haemoglobin is measured in grams per decilitre (g/dl).

¹ The cutoffs used in determining anaemia status varied with age as follows: (1) aged 5-11 years: any anaemia <11.5 g/dl; mild anaemia 10.0-11.4 g/dl; moderate anaemia 7.0-9.9 g/dl; severe anaemia <7.0 g/dl, (2) 12-19 years: any anaemia <12.0 g/dl; mild anaemia 10.0-11.9 g/dl; moderate anaemia 7.0-9.9 g/dl; severe anaemia <7.0 g/dl.

² Does not include North and South Sinai governorate.

³ For women who are not interviewed, information is taken from the Household Questionnaire. Excludes youth whose mothers are not listed in the Household Questionnaire.

Table A.17 Prevalence of anaemia in never-married male youth aged 5-19 years, 2014

Percentage of never-married male youth aged 5-19 years classified as having anaemia, by background characteristics, Egypt 2014

Background characteristic	Anaemia status by haemoglobin level ¹			Number of never-married male youth
	Any anaemia	Mild anaemia	Moderate anaemia	
Age				
Years 5-9	17.0	16.2	0.9	2,208
Years 10-19	17.9	14.5	3.4	3,661
Urban-rural residence				
Urban	16.9	14.7	2.2	2,087
Rural	17.9	15.3	2.6	3,782
Place of residence				
Urban Governorates	19.7	17.1	2.6	700
Lower Egypt	15.3	13.5	1.9	2,661
Urban	14.7	12.9	1.8	612
Rural	15.5	13.6	1.9	2,049
Upper Egypt	19.2	16.2	3.0	2,459
Urban	15.5	13.5	2.0	748
Rural	20.8	17.4	3.4	1,711
Frontier Governorates ²	26.0	22.1	3.9	49
Mother's education³				
No education	20.8	16.6	4.2	1,794
Some primary	17.6	15.1	2.6	430
Primary complete/some secondary	19.4	17.6	1.8	880
Secondary complete/higher	15.2	13.9	1.4	2,490
Mother not present or identified/missing	11.0	8.7	2.3	275

Background characteristic	Anaemia status by haemoglobin level ¹			Number of never-married male youth
	Any anaemia	Mild anaemia	Moderate anaemia	
Wealth quintile				
Lowest	23.9	19.4	4.5	1,278
Second	16.4	14.5	1.9	1,240
Middle	15.1	13.4	1.8	1,178
Fourth	17.5	15.9	1.6	1,141
Highest	13.8	11.7	2.1	1,032
Total	17.5	15.1	2.4	5,869

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EDHS 2014

Note: Table is based on youth who stayed in the household on the night before the interview and who were tested for anaemia. Prevalence of anaemia, based on haemoglobin levels, is adjusted for altitude. Haemoglobin is measured in grams per decilitre (g/dl).

¹ The cutoffs used in determining anaemia status varied with age as follows: (1) aged 5-11 years: any anaemia <11.5 g/dl; mild anaemia 10.0-11.4 g/dl; moderate anaemia 7.0-9.9 g/dl; severe anaemia <7.0 g/dl, (2) 12-14 years: any anaemia <12.0 g/dl; mild anaemia 10.0-11.9 g/dl; moderate anaemia 7.0-9.9 g/dl; severe anaemia <7.0 g/dl, and (3) 15-19 years: any anaemia <13.0 g/dl; mild anaemia 12.0-12.9 g/dl; moderate anaemia 9.0-11.9 g/dl; severe anaemia <9.0 g/dl,

² Does not include North and South Sinai governorate.

³ For women who are not interviewed, information is taken from the Household Questionnaire. Excludes youth whose mothers are not listed in the Household Questionnaire.

Table A.18 Forms of spousal violence

Percentage of ever-married women aged 15-24 years who have experienced various forms of violence committed by their husbands ever or in the 12 months preceding the survey, Egypt 2021

Type of violence	Ever	In the past 12 months		
		Often	Sometimes	Often or sometimes
SPOUSAL VIOLENCE COMMITTED BY CURRENT/MOST RECENT HUSBAND				
Physical violence				
Any physical violence	25.4	7.6	13.3	20.9
Pushed her, shook her, or threw something at her	14.4	4.6	6.7	11.3
Slapped her	21.4	5.7	9.2	15.0
Twisted her arm or pulled her hair	14.1	4.1	5.7	9.7
Punched her with his fist or with something that could hurt her	6.5	2.2	2.4	4.7
Kicked her, dragged her, or beat her up	5.7	2.0	2.0	4.1
Tried to choke her or burn her on purpose	1.9	0.8	0.4	1.2
Threatened her or attacked her with a knife, gun, or other weapon	1.8	0.9	0.2	1.1
Sexual violence				
Any sexual violence	5.7	2.9	2.7	5.6
Physically forced her to have sexual intercourse with him when she did not want to	5.2	2.5	2.0	4.5
Physically forced her to perform any other sexual acts she did not want to	2.7	1.9	0.5	2.4
Forced her with threats or in any other way to perform sexual acts she did not want to	2.1	1.3	0.5	1.8
Emotional violence				
Any emotional violence	20.2	7.3	10.5	17.8
Said or did something to humiliate her in front of others	11.8	3.8	5.4	9.2
Threatened to hurt or harm her or someone she cared about	4.7	2.0	1.9	4.0
Insulted her or made her feel bad about herself	17.7	6.6	7.2	13.8

Type of violence	Ever	In the past 12 months		
		Often	Sometimes	Often or sometimes
Any form of physical and/or sexual violence	26.0	8.1	14.4	22.4
Any form of emotional and/or physical and/or sexual violence	29.4	10.0	17.9	27.9
SPOUSAL VIOLENCE COMMITTED BY ANY HUSBAND				
Physical violence	25.4	na	na	na
Sexual violence	5.9	na	na	na
Physical and/or sexual violence	26.0	na	na	na
Number of ever-married women	1115	1115	1115	1115

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021

Note: Detailed information on the forms of spousal violence were obtained only for violence perpetrated by the current or, in the case of women who were divorced, separated, or widowed, the most recent husband. For women who married more than once, information on violence perpetrated by former husbands was limited to physical or sexual violence ever experienced and experienced at any time during the year before the survey.

na = Not applicable

Table A.19 Spousal violence by background characteristics

Percentage of ever-married women aged 15-24 years who have ever experienced physical, sexual, and emotional violence committed by their husband, by background characteristics, Egypt 2021

Background characteristic	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Emotional violence	Physical and sexual	Physical and sexual and emotional	Physical or sexual	Physical or sexual or emotional	Number of ever-married women
Age								
15-19	18.0	7.4	16.9	5.7	5.1	19.7	22.0	163
20-24	26.7	5.4	20.7	5.1	4.5	27.0	30.7	952
Number of living children								
0	19.7	8.2	14.2	8.2	6.6	19.7	19.7	158
1-2	25.1	5.1	20.7	4.6	4.3	25.6	29.7	865
3-4	38.0	7.3	25.7	5.5	3.8	39.8	43.5	93
Marital status								
Married	23.8	4.3	18.4	3.7	3.1	24.3	27.9	1072
Divorced/separated	(69.6)	(46.3)	(67.3)	(46.3)	(44.3)	(69.6)	(71.3)	39
Widowed	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4
Urban-rural residence								
Urban	22.3	3.9	18.7	3.9	3.6	22.3	24.9	275
Rural	26.5	6.3	20.7	5.6	4.9	27.2	30.9	841
Place of residence								
Urban Governorates	17.9	3.4	19.1	3.4	3.4	17.9	20.2	101
Lower Egypt	21.1	3.0	18.8	2.7	2.7	21.4	26.8	480
Urban	25.3	3.4	20.2	3.4	3.4	25.3	28.9	72
Rural	20.4	2.9	18.6	2.6	2.6	20.7	26.4	407



Background characteristic	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Emotional violence	Physical and sexual	Physical and sexual and emotional	Physical or sexual	Physical or sexual or emotional	Number of ever-married women
Upper Egypt	31.3	8.8	22.0	7.9	6.6	32.2	34.1	525
Urban	26.0	5.0	18.2	5.0	4.3	26.0	28.2	95
Rural	32.5	9.6	22.8	8.6	7.1	33.5	35.4	430
Frontier Governorates ¹	(2.6)	(0.0)	(2.4)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(2.6)	(5.0)	10
Education								
No education	39.7	10.3	28.4	10.3	6.7	39.7	39.7	57
Some primary	28.6	16.6	25.8	13.1	13.1	32.0	35.0	56
Primary complete/some secondary	30.8	6.7	24.5	6.1	5.6	31.4	35.0	462
Secondary complete/higher	19.0	3.3	15.0	3.1	2.6	19.2	23.0	540
Husband's (current/last) education								
No education	36.1	14.8	28.0	13.1	12.0	37.8	39.5	98
Some primary	(26.9)	(8.7)	(22.7)	(8.7)	(7.5)	(26.9)	(32.6)	63
Primary complete/some secondary	29.2	7.8	22.9	6.2	4.9	30.8	33.7	205
Secondary complete/higher	22.9	3.7	18.2	3.6	3.2	23.0	26.7	749
Work status								
Working for cash	37.3	13.4	38.9	13.4	13.4	37.3	45.6	57
Not working for cash	24.8	5.3	19.2	4.8	4.1	25.3	28.6	1058
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	39.9	12.7	32.8	10.6	9.4	42.0	44.4	136
Second	30.9	10.1	24.6	9.3	8.3	31.6	34.5	214



Background characteristic	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Emotional violence	Physical and sexual	Physical and sexual and emotional	Physical or sexual	Physical or sexual or emotional	Number of ever-married women
Middle	25.2	5.8	20.7	5.8	4.8	25.2	29.4	248
Fourth	24.4	1.5	17.9	1.0	1.0	24.9	28.7	301
Highest	12.6	2.9	10.3	2.9	2.5	12.6	16.0	216
Total	25.4	5.7	20.2	5.2	4.6	26.0	29.4	1115

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021

Note: Husband refers to the current husband for currently married women and the most recent husband for divorced, separated, or widowed women. Total includes 2 women for whom information on the husband's education is missing. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates a figure is based on fewer than 25 cases and has been suppressed.

¹ Does not include North Sinai governorate.

Table A.20 Prevalence of female circumcision among never-married female youth

Percentage of never-married females aged 15-24 years who have been circumcised according to selected background characteristics, Egypt 2021.

Background characteristic	EHIS 2015		EFHS 2021	
	Percentage circumcised	Number	Percentage circumcised	Number
Age				
15-19	65.4	1191	38.2	4666
20-24	65.5	382	41.3	2091
Urban-rural residence				
Urban	50.1	688	26.2	3117
Rural	77.3	885	50.3	3640
Place of residence				
Urban Governorates	45.5	235	17.8	1261
Lower Egypt	61.2	722	30.0	2846
Urban	36.2	221	18.4	896
Rural	72.2	501	35.3	1950
Upper Egypt	78.3	606	59.6	2565
Urban	68.4	226	44.4	897
Rural	84.2	380	67.8	1668
Frontier Governorates ¹	56.9	10	46.6	86
Education				
No education	85.8	36	64.8	67
Some primary	85.2	34	44.8	88
Primary complete/ some secondary	65.6	973	39.7	3420
Secondary complete/ higher	62.3	529	37.8	3183



Background characteristic	EHIS 2015		EFHS 2021	
	Percentage circumcised	Number	Percentage circumcised	Number
Work status				
Working for cash	66.6	103	41.0	577
Not working for cash	65.3	1470	39.0	6181
Total	65.4	1573	39.2	6757

Source: Estimated by author based on data from 2015 EHIS and EFHS 2021

¹ EFHS 2021 Does not include North Sinai governorate, EDHS 2014 does not include North and South Sinai governorates.

Table A.21 Prevalence of female circumcision among ever-married female youth

Percentage of ever-married females aged 15-24 years who have been circumcised according to selected background characteristics, EDHS 2014, EFHS 2021.

Background characteristic	EDHS 2014		EFHS 2021	
	Percentage circumcised	Number	Percentage circumcised	Number
Age				
15-19	87.6	764	66.5	397
20-24	87.5	3055	71.3	2220
Urban-rural residence				
Urban	77.1	875	61.7	616
Rural	90.6	2944	73.3	2001
Place of residence				
Urban Governorates	71.6	272	58.3	194
Lower Egypt	85.4	1839	61.0	1217
Urban	70.6	251	51.3	191
Rural	87.7	1588	62.9	1027
Upper Egypt	93.1	1670	83.0	1182
Urban	87.6	331	75.5	216
Rural	89.8	1649	84.7	966
Frontier Governorates ¹	54.5	38	40.3	24
Education				
No education	91.2	418	76.6	140
Some primary	94.1	214	75.7	119
Primary complete/ some secondary	88.2	2865	72.1	1081
Secondary complete/ higher	72.1	321	68.1	1277



Background characteristic	EDHS 2014		EFHS 2021	
	Percentage circumcised	Number	Percentage circumcised	Number
Work status				
Working for cash	82.1	135	70.6	147
Not working for cash	87.7	3684	70.6	2470
Wealth quintile				
Lowest	92.3	639	75.4	317
Second	93.9	731	76.2	490
Middle	90.0	1114	75.7	575
Fourth	84.5	887	65.9	701
Highest	69.6	449	63.1	534
Total	87.5	3819	70.6	2617

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EDHS 2014 and EFHS 2021

¹ EFHS 2021 Does not include North Sinai governorate, EDHS-2014 does not include North and South Sinai governorates.

Table A.22 Attitude of male youth about continuation of female circumcision

Percentage of never-married male youth aged 15-24 years who believe circumcision is required by religious precepts and per cent distribution of never-married male youth aged 15-24 years by own attitude and perception about women's attitude toward the continuation of the practice of female circumcision, according to selected background characteristics, EFHS 2021

Background characteristic	Percentage saying circumcision is required by religious precepts	Attitude about practice			Perception about women's attitudes			Number of males aged 15-24 years
		Continue	Be stopped	Don't know	Continue	Be stopped	Don't know	
Age								
15-19	14.6	15.5	27.5	57.0	12.2	24.1	63.6	4956
20-24	22.9	24.9	41.3	33.8	19.7	37.3	43.0	3603
Urban-rural residence								
Urban	16.8	15.5	40.5	44.0	11.3	37.3	51.4	3633
Rural	19.1	22.4	28.0	49.6	18.4	24.0	57.6	4925
Place of residence								
Urban Governorates	15.7	11.7	46.8	41.5	8.5	43.1	48.4	1420
Lower Egypt	20.4	21.0	34.8	44.2	18.0	32.2	49.8	3591
Urban	17.3	17.5	41.6	40.9	13.3	39.9	46.8	1005
Rural	21.5	22.4	32.1	45.5	19.8	29.2	51.0	2585
Upper Egypt	16.9	21.4	25.8	52.8	15.8	21.2	63.1	3455
Urban	17.8	19.0	31.7	49.3	13.3	27.9	58.7	1144
Rural	16.4	22.6	22.9	54.5	17.0	17.8	65.2	2311
Frontier Governorates ¹	13.7	6.0	48.8	45.2	4.0	45.1	50.9	93
Education								
No education	18.9	26.5	20.3	53.2	16.2	21.8	62.0	58
Some primary	17.4	22.2	19.1	58.7	17.8	17.1	65.2	300
Primary complete/ some secondary	14.5	16.1	23.7	60.2	12.9	20.9	66.2	3971
Secondary complete/ higher	21.5	22.4	43.5	34.2	17.5	39.0	43.5	4228



Background characteristic	Percentage saying circumcision is required by religious precepts	Attitude about practice			Perception about women's attitudes			Number of males aged 15-24 years
		Continue	Be stopped	Don't know	Continue	Be stopped	Don't know	
Work status								
Working for cash	20.9	22.8	30.3	46.9	18.3	26.8	54.9	4452
Not working for cash	15.0	15.9	36.5	47.6	12.2	32.8	55.1	4107
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	18.1	24.4	21.0	54.5	20.4	17.8	61.7	2005
Second	19.0	21.1	26.8	52.1	16.4	22.8	60.8	1643
Middle	20.8	21.3	33.2	45.5	16.7	28.5	54.7	1695
Fourth	18.4	17.0	39.7	43.3	12.9	37.0	50.1	1632
Highest	14.0	12.2	49.1	38.7	9.0	45.5	45.6	1584
Total	18.1	19.5	33.3	47.2	15.4	29.7	55.0	8558

¹ Does not include North Sinai governorate.

Table A.23 Attitude of female youth about continuation of female circumcision

Percentage of never-married female youth aged 15-24 years who believe circumcision is required by religious precepts and per cent distribution of never-married female youth aged 15-24 years by own attitude and perception about men's attitude toward the continuation of the practice of female circumcision, according to selected background characteristics, EFHS 2021

Background characteristic	Percentage saying circumcision is required by religious precepts	Attitude about practice			Perception about men's attitudes			Number of males aged 15-24 years
		Continue	Be stopped	Don't know	Continue	Be stopped	Don't know	
Age								
15-19	15.9	13.8	71.7	14.5	12.1	40.7	47.2	4666
20-24	14.5	11.8	81.6	6.7	11.7	52.7	35.6	2091
Urban-rural residence								
Urban	9.7	6.6	82.1	11.3	7.7	47.8	44.5	3117
Rural	20.4	18.8	68.4	12.7	15.6	41.5	42.9	3640
Place of residence								
Urban Governorates	7.4	3.2	86.6	10.1	4.7	48.7	46.6	1261
Lower Egypt	12.0	7.8	80.5	11.7	7.0	48.9	44.0	2846
Urban	7.0	3.4	85.5	11.1	3.9	52.0	44.1	896
Rural	14.2	9.8	78.2	12.0	8.5	47.5	44.0	1950
Upper Egypt	23.3	24.1	62.4	13.5	21.1	36.7	42.2	2565
Urban	15.6	14.4	72.5	13.1	16.0	41.7	42.4	897
Rural	27.5	29.4	56.9	13.7	23.9	34.0	42.1	1668
Frontier Governorates ¹	12.2	10.0	79.7	10.3	7.0	61.3	31.7	86
Education								
No education	32.5	43.5	47.8	8.7	22.0	41.4	36.5	67
Some primary	20.0	23.6	54.5	22.0	12.2	30.8	57.0	88

Background characteristic	Percentage saying circumcision is required by religious precepts	Attitude about practice			Perception about men's attitudes			Number of males aged 15-24 years
		Continue	Be stopped	Don't know	Continue	Be stopped	Don't know	
Primary complete/ some secondary	17.5	14.9	68.0	17.1	12.9	38.5	48.6	3420
Secondary complete/ higher	12.8	10.4	83.1	6.4	10.7	51.2	38.1	3183
Work status								
Working for cash	16.5	12.9	80.6	6.5	10.2	55.6	34.2	577
Not working for cash	15.4	13.2	74.2	12.6	12.1	43.4	44.5	6181
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	23.6	24.0	61.0	15.1	19.9	34.2	45.9	1376
Second	20.7	18.7	66.9	14.4	14.6	38.8	46.6	1195
Middle	14.2	11.4	77.5	11.1	10.2	48.9	40.9	1301
Fourth	11.5	8.2	82.0	9.8	7.6	48.8	43.7	1372
Highest	8.5	5.1	84.5	10.5	8.2	50.2	41.6	1514
Total	15.4	13.2	74.7	12.1	12.0	44.4	43.6	6757

¹ Does not include North Sinai governorates

Table A.24 Exposure to information regarding female circumcision

Percentage of never-married youth aged 15-24 years discussing female circumcision with relatives, friends, or neighbours, and receiving information about female circumcision during the year prior to the survey, and among youth receiving information during the year prior to the survey, percentage of youth by sources of information, according to selected background characteristics, EFHS 2021

Background characteristic	Percentage discussing female circumcision with relatives, friends, or neighbours	Percentage receiving information recently about female circumcision	Number of never-married youth	Last source from which male/female youth saw/heard about female circumcision								Number of never-married youth receiving information about female circumcision recently
				TV	Other media ¹	Any medical provider contact	Home visit by medical provider	Facility visit to medical provider	Other relatives/friends/neighbours	School	Other	
Sex												
Male	16.3	23.6	8558	62.9	7.8	2.8	1.3	2.6	50.1	16.7	19.4	2017
Female	12.6	26.5	6757	69.6	7.0	1.0	0.5	3.1	32.3	8.7	13.6	1792
Age												
15-19	11.3	20.5	9622	65.4	6.3	1.0	0.4	1.6	41.5	14.9	14.3	1974
20-24	20.3	32.2	5694	66.7	8.7	3.0	1.5	4.1	41.9	10.8	19.1	1835
Residence												
Urban	16.8	26.2	6751	65.8	6.8	2.5	1.3	3.8	41.7	9.1	18.0	1768
Rural	13.0	23.8	8565	66.2	8.0	1.5	0.6	2.0	41.7	16.3	15.5	2040
Place of residence												
Urban Governorates	16.5	24.8	2681	69.2	7.0	1.5	1.1	4.4	39.3	7.4	18.5	664
Lower Egypt	16.0	30.4	6436	70.3	9.8	1.2	0.7	2.4	45.1	18.5	13.8	1955
Urban	16.7	30.3	1901	67.2	7.8	1.5	1.4	3.6	46.6	14.0	15.9	576
Rural	15.7	30.4	4535	71.6	10.7	1.1	0.4	1.9	44.5	20.4	12.9	1379
Upper Egypt	12.3	19.4	6020	57.0	3.9	3.5	1.2	2.6	37.5	6.9	20.6	1166
Urban	17.3	25.1	2041	59.5	5.8	4.9	1.5	3.2	39.6	6.0	19.9	512
Rural	9.7	16.5	3979	55.0	2.5	2.4	1.0	2.0	35.8	7.6	21.1	655



Background characteristic	Percentage discussing female circumcision with relatives, friends, or neighbours	Percentage receiving information recently about female circumcision	Number of never-married youth	Last source from which male/female youth saw/heard about female circumcision								Number of never-married youth receiving information about female circumcision recently
				TV	Other media ¹	Any medical provider contact	Home visit by medical provider	Facility visit to medical provider	Other relatives/friends/neighbours	School	Other	
Frontier Governorates ¹	20.5	13.2	179	71.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	6.8	32.2	9.6	7.5	24
Education												
No education	6.4	14.6	126	42.4	0.0	0.0	5.5	0.0	60.6	0.0	12.1	18
Some primary	10.5	14.8	388	53.3	3.1	0.0	0.0	4.5	62.7	0.0	13.5	57
Primary complete/ some secondary	9.8	17.5	7391	64.3	5.5	0.5	0.5	1.4	44.7	18.2	12.3	1290
Secondary complete/ higher	19.9	33.0	7411	67.4	8.7	2.8	1.1	3.6	39.4	10.6	19.0	2443
Work status												
Working for cash	16.8	24.2	5028	64.1	7.8	2.7	1.0	3.3	48.9	11.9	18.4	1215
Not working for cash	13.6	25.2	10287	66.9	7.3	1.6	0.8	2.6	38.3	13.4	15.9	2594
Wealth quintile												
Lowest	11.4	19.1	3381	64.6	9.2	1.8	0.6	2.4	44.7	14.5	13.5	644
Second	13.3	20.2	2838	65.3	7.2	1.7	0.6	1.7	44.3	13.4	12.4	572
Middle	14.6	27.5	2996	65.9	5.7	1.7	0.3	2.6	42.7	12.3	14.7	825
Fourth	16.0	27.5	3003	70.2	6.2	1.5	1.1	3.2	40.8	14.0	16.9	825
Highest	18.2	30.4	3098	63.8	9.1	2.9	1.7	3.6	38.0	11.4	23.0	942
Total	14.7	24.9	15316	66.0	7.5	2.0	0.9	2.8	41.7	13.0	16.7	3809

¹ Includes radio, newspaper, magazine, pamphlet, brochure, or poster.

² Does not include North Sinai governorate.

Table A.25 Person performing circumcision among never-married female youth by residence

Per cent distribution of never-married females aged 15-24 years who are circumcised by person performing the circumcision, according to urban-rural residence and place of residence, Egypt 2021

Person performing circumcision	Urban	Rural	Urban Governorates	Lower Egypt			Upper Egypt			Frontier Governorates ¹	Total
				Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural		
Doctor	73.6	69.8	68.9	72.2	75.5	71.4	70.6	75.2	69.0	69.4	71.0
Nurse/other health worker	7.5	7.5	4.4	7.7	6.0	8.1	7.9	10.0	7.2	6.1	7.5
Daya	15.4	18.3	23.0	14.8	16.0	14.5	18.0	11.3	20.3	17.5	17.4
Barber	0.9	1.9	2.2	3.4	1.1	3.9	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.5	1.6
Gagarina	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Other	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1
Don't know/missing	2.5	2.3	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.7	2.8	3.1	2.7	6.5	2.4
Total per cent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3117	3640	1261	2846	896	1950	2565	897	1668	86	6757

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021

¹ Does not include North Sinai governorate.

Table A.26 Logistic regression model of child labour

Background characteristics	Number of children	OR
Gender		
Male ^(R)	3929	1.000
Female	3559	0.356**
Age		
5-11 ^(R)	4049	1.000
12-14	1820	1.775
15-17	1619	3.085**
Urban-rural residence		
Urban ^(R)	3291	1.000
Rural	4197	1.512**
School attendance		
Not attending school ^(R)	489	1.000
Attending school	6999	0.587**
Mother's education		
No education/some secondary or mother not present in household/missing ^(R)	3257	1.000
Secondary comp./ higher	4231	0.648**
Father's education		
No education/some secondary ^(R)	2500	1.000
Secondary comp./ higher or mother not present in household/missing	4988	0.665**

Background characteristics	Number of children	OR
Father's work status		
Not working for cash or Father not present in household/missing ^(R)	1763	1.000
Working for cash	5725	0.838*
Wealth quintile		
Lowest 2 quintiles ^(R)	2966	1.000
Other	4522	0.554**
Household receives Takaful & Karama cash transfer		
Yes ^(R)	1066	1.000
No	6422	0.776**
Number of children	7488	

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021

OR: Odds Ratio

(R): Reference Category

The results are significant at:

* p-value <0.05

** p-value <0.01

Table A.27 Gender roles and the difference between men and women

Percentage of never-married youth aged 15-24 years, who agree and strongly agree with some of the various specific statements about gender roles, and the difference between men and women, Egypt 2021.

Statement	Male	Female	Total
	Agree	Agree	
Gender roles			
The idea of equality between men and women is part of Egyptian customs and cultures	37.0	62.4	48.2
The man should have the final say in decisions in the home	84.3	46.4	67.6
In the case of scarcity of resources, it is more important to enrol a boy in school than a girl	15.6	8.7	12.6
The difference between a man and a woman			
Married woman should have the same rights to work outside the home	41.1	72.4	54.9
Younger girls should help out with the housework more than little boys	73.5	49.2	62.8
It is important for a woman to get married than to be successful in her work	70.3	38.5	56.3
The most important role of a woman is to take care of the house and prepare food for the family	84.2	54.9	71.3
Changing diapers, bathing children, and feeding them should be a mother's responsibility	88.0	69.3	79.7
It is the duty of a man to be responsible and have authority over his female relatives	67.5	36.8	53.9
If you are not working, you are supposed to help with household expenses	50.3	69.7	58.8
I think it is shameful for a man to be involved in childcare or other household chores	21.1	12.7	17.4
Number of youth	8558	6757	15316

Source: Estimated by author based on data from EFHS 2021



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[2. Progress and inequities in child rights](#)

[3. Groups at-risk of being left behind](#)

[4. Key takeaways and strengthening the enabling environment](#)

[References](#)

