



Egypt's Health System: Improving Lives and Investing in the Future

Since taking office, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi has made improving health care for all Egyptians a top priority. Egypt has launched various programs aimed at improving living standards for Egyptians, including allocating an unprecedented EGP 98.7 billion (USD \$5.51 billion) to the health sector this fiscal year. Egypt continues to modernize and develop the health sector through initiatives like reforming and expanding the national public health care system, a national initiative to improve hospitals, the elimination of patient waiting lists, and the largest-ever campaign to cure Hepatitis C.

EXPANDING HEALTH INSURANCE AND EXPEDITING CARE

- › In December 2017, Egypt's Parliament approved the New Health Insurance Law, which requires the government to fully cover the treatment of citizens who cannot afford it and to improve the quality of medical services in public hospitals.
- › The first phase of the new law launched in July 2018, which included eliminating patient waiting lists for surgery and critical medical interventions within six months, providing the necessary stock of infant formula and vaccines, and finishing the comprehensive survey and treatment of Hepatitis C virus for Egyptian citizens. The law will be implemented over the span of 15 years and covers all Egyptian governorates.
- › In October 2018, President El Sisi said that "the national medical insurance system will be an unprecedented step in the history of the Egyptian health sector, and the first step in the real reformation of the Egyptian health system," according to *Daily News Egypt*.



ERADICATING HEPATITIS C BY 2020

- › Egypt, a global leader in the campaign against Hepatitis C, has launched the largest-ever initiative to defeat the virus. The campaign, known as the Extensive Campaign to Eradicate Virus C 2020, was jointly launched in February 2018 by the Tahya Misr Fund and the Ministry of Health.
- › As part of the campaign, Egypt launched the largest screening campaign for Hepatitis C in the world, with screening tests from Chicago's Abbott Laboratories, with a goal to detect and treat Hepatitis C in nearly 50 million citizens. Screening began in October 2018 and will run until April 2019, targeting people age 19 through 59. Those who test positive for the disease are expected to undergo further checkups and will be provided free medication. In the past two months, more than 18,000 patients have been cured of Hepatitis C thanks to the national initiative to end waiting lists.
- › Egypt has already cured about two million patients in the country. This is largely attributed to the Government of Egypt's 2014 deal with Gilead, the initial developer of the life-saving Hepatitis C cure. Gilead agreed to license the drugs for sale in Egypt at \$300 per one-month supply, and generic manufacturers eventually drove the price in Egypt to \$84 per patient. By the end of March 2017, 1,055,266 patients had received treatment at state expense.

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Egypt is wiping [Hepatitis C] from its population at an unprecedented pace ... Egypt has shown that dramatic improvements in public health are possible when drugs are priced affordably—and a government makes an effort to systematically deploy them.”

—THE ATLANTIC, MAY 2018





UNITING TO SAVE LIVES

- › In June 2018, the World Bank announced the launch of a \$530 million project to improve health care in Egypt. The project will help expand family planning services, improve 600 primary health care facilities and 27 hospitals, and screen 20 million adults against non-communicable diseases.
- › In July 2018, Egypt's Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation and the United States Agency for International Development signed five agreements worth EGP 805.8 million (USD \$45 million) to support joint priorities in health, education, governance and agriculture across Egypt. This included an EGP 89.5 million (USD \$5 million) grant for family planning and health research.
- › In May 2017, GE Healthcare announced a deal with the Government of Egypt to supply over 200 hospitals with 700 units of advanced technology, as well as to provide training to more than 1,200 doctors, technicians and nurses who operate these devices. "The Egyptian government has put the creation of a fairer healthcare system and improved patient care at the forefront of public policy in recent years," GE said in its announcement of the deal.

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Improving Egypt's health care system will strengthen the country's human capital and further build the foundation for growth and prosperity.”

—DR. ASAD ALAM, WORLD BANK
COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR EGYPT,
YEMEN AND DJIBOUTI, JUNE 2018



IMPROVING HOSPITALS

- › In July 2018, President El Sisi launched the National Project for Model Hospitals, which aims to equip and operate a model hospital in each governorate within two years. It also coincides with the end of patient waiting lists in all public health sector hospitals in Egypt.
- › The hospitals will offer the highest levels of medical service to citizens without additional financial burdens, and will include all specialties such as open heart surgery, bone marrow transplants, kidney and liver care, neurology, and micro-surgery. As of July 2018, 29 hospitals had been selected to become model hospitals.
- › The first phase of the project will include the rehabilitation of hospitals and health facilities that will provide medical equipment, infrastructure, mechanization and training. The National Project for Model Hospitals will start in Port Said governorate, followed by Suez, Ismailia, South Sinai and North Sinai.



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Health is a top priority for the government ... The [Transforming Egypt's Health Care System] project will allow us to achieve our goal of ensuring that every Egyptian has access to the quality health care that will enable them to lead prosperous lives and contribute to Egypt's development.”

—DR. HALA ZAID, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND POPULATION,
JUNE 2018