

The Egyptian National Human Rights Strategy: Year 3 Implementation

Economic, Social & Cultural Rights



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The National Human Rights Strategy (NHRS) 2021-2026 is the first of its kind in Egypt, it focuses on advancing all human rights in Egypt through enhancing respect for all civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, stipulated for in the Constitution, national laws, and international and regional instruments ratified by Egypt, while protecting vulnerable groups such as women, youth & elderly and promoting raising awareness and spreading a culture of human rights.

Pillar II Economic, Social & Culture Rights

The Egyptian government has made significant investment in social infrastructure and services to maintain and expand economic, social, and cultural rights. A central focus was the Presidential initiative for human development, *A New Beginning for Building the Egyptian*, to invest and coordinate across government and NGO sectors to improve the quality of life of all citizens, the total number of services provided by the initiative since its launching until mid-October 2024 amounted to 46.6 million services. Beyond *A New Beginning*, the NHRS focuses on:

Right to Health: Egypt received international certification from the World Health Organization for the successful eradication of Malaria. Health allocations in the State's general budget during the fiscal year 2024/2025 also increased to EGP 495.6 billion, an effort to ensure meeting the Constitutional entitlement to health. The number of insured persons in health insurance reached 53.6 million beneficiaries in June 2024.

Right to Education: UNESCO announced that Egypt won the Confucius Prize for Literacy for the year 2024, and the illiteracy rate in Egypt decreased by 1.4% in 2023 compared to 2022, reaching 16.1%. In fulfillment of the Constitutional entitlement, the total allocations for pre-university and higher education and scientific research in the State's general budget for the fiscal year 2024/2025 amounted to 998.1 billion pounds.

Right to Work: The state provided 683,794 job opportunities for young people, which resulted in reducing unemployment rates during the second quarter of 2024 to reach 6.5%. The minimum wage in the public and private sectors also increased to reach 6,000, and EGP 8.5 billion was pumped into loans to finance small and micro projects, providing about 465,000 job opportunities. 53,164 establishments were inspected, employing about 2,2 million workers, and 1,754 seminars were held to raise awareness of occupational safety and health.

Social Protection and Rights: Egypt has significantly expanded its social safety net programs in response to economic pressures and inflation. The cornerstone of this expansion is a 15% increase in pension values in 2024, benefiting 13 million citizens at a cost of EGP 74 billion. The Takaful and Karama program, a targeted cash transfer initiative for vulnerable families, benefited from allocations in the fiscal year 24/25 amounting to EGP 40 billion to support 5.2 million families.

Right to Food: Egypt's food security strategy operates on multiple fronts, with the 2024/2025 budget allocating EGP 134 billion for food subsidies that benefit 62.2 million citizens. The State provided 465.6 million pounds in financing for agricultural and food projects, and 5649 technical support services.

Water and Sanitation: Egypt's water management strategy has achieved significant results, 18 drinking water projects were completed, with a capacity of 96,500 m³/day, in 9 governorates, and 10 sanitation projects were implemented with a capacity of 1,900,000 m³/day, in 8 governorates. Additionally, 38 rural sanitation projects were completed in 12 governorates. Investments worth 135 billion pounds were directed to improving water and sanitation services in the 2024/2025 economic and social development plan.

Housing: The government's housing strategy addresses both affordable housing needs and informal settlement challenges. The budget for the fiscal year 24/25 included financial allocations to support the social housing program with about 11.1 billion pounds. The National Committee for the Compensation of Aggrieved Nubians also disbursed financial compensation of approximately 306,19 million pounds to 1,550 people entitled to compensation.

Cultural Rights: Egypt's cultural development strategy expanded cultural service centers. An amount of EGP 1.63 billion was allocated from the 24/25 fiscal year budget to expand the availability of cultural services. 855 cultural and artistic events benefiting 78,844 residents of the Decent Life initiative villages, and 35 book fairs were held during 2023/2024 in a number of governorates and universities.

To learn more, visit the Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights website:
<https://sschr.gov.eg>



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