



Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Social Solidarity

THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
SOLIDARITY'S
INTERVENTIONS FOR THE
ELDERLY

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Introduction

The Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS) is the responsible entity for providing social care and social protection for different age groups according to their needs. The elderly are considered one of the top priorities of MoSS, and thus are covered by multiple and diverse services. In addition, MOSS capitalizes on their potential and capabilities for an inclusive development process that contributes to the advancement of society.

MoSS works on several pillars including the human and institutional capacity building to ensure a decent life for the elderly, through the following:

The elderly law

In implementation of the Egyptian Constitution Article 83, which states that:

“The state shall guarantee the health, economic, social, cultural and entertainment rights of the elderly, provide them with appropriate pensions to ensure them a decent standard of living, and empower them to participate in public life. The state shall take into account the needs of the elderly while planning public utilities. It also encourages civil society organizations to participate in caring for the elderly”

In light of the Egyptian Constitution, the MoSS played a key role in preparing the draft law that aims to provide social protection, social care, and to guarantee the provision of all basic rights and freedoms on equal basis, as well as secure a decent and dignified life for them.

In September 2021, The Egyptian Cabinet approved the draft law on the “Rights of the Elderly”, and it is currently before the Egyptian Parliament for discussion, and approval.

The General Administration of Family and Childhood

The mandate of the General Administration of Family and Childhood is the provision of care services to the elderly including, social, health and rehabilitation programs through a number of services:

Social Care Institution (Elderly Homes)

It is a social care institution equipped to accommodate the elderly and provide them with a decent life as well as provide appropriate health & psychological care, cultural & social activities as well as recreational programs.

The MoSS supervises nearly **168** elderly homes in **22** governorates, and serves around **3000** beneficiaries.

The Elderly Clubs

They are daycare centers for the elderly that provide various care programs such as social & cultural activities, as well as health and care services

The MoSS supervises **191** elderly clubs that serve on average **37,000** beneficiaries per year.

The Physiotherapy Centers

It is a service attached to the elderly homes and elderly clubs, where the elderly receive physiotherapy and fitness sessions at a minimal fee.

The Ministry of Social Solidarity supervises **52** physiotherapy centers.

The Elderly Service Offices

It is a service provided through the elderly homes and clubs to serve the elderly whether they are residents of the elderly homes, or members at the elderly club or not. The offices provide readymade meals, assistance in finishing paperwork, and referral to healthcare or social services.

The Moss supervises 30 Elderly service offices across Egypt.

Protection of the homeless Elderly

In addition, the Ministry provides care services to the elderly on the streets through the national program “The Homeless Elderly” which aims at providing shelter, hot meals, grooming and cleaning, health checkups, reunion with families as well as blankets and clothing.

Since the launch of the program in 2019 nearly 5000 homeless elderly received care and protection services.

Services for the elderly with disabilities

According to the provisions of Law No. 10 of 2018 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Ministry of Social Solidarity, represented by the General Administration of Social Rehabilitation, is mandated with monitoring the progress of the law's implementation as well as the provision of its services to persons with disabilities in general and to the elderly with disabilities in particular:

- Combining two due pensions without limits.
- Issuance of the Disability ID and integrated services cards to Persons with disabilities according to the type and degree of disability.
- Temporary or continuous hosting services for persons with severe and multiple disabilities, through care institutions of persons with disabilities based on availability and suitability.
- Providing accommodation services for persons with disabilities in care institutions with minimal fees based on the family's socio-economic level, with the possibility of exemptions.
- Work is underway to expand the establishment of care institutions for the elderly persons with disabilities.

The "Elderly Companion" project

The project was launched by the Ministry of Social Solidarity in 2019 with the purpose of maintaining social cohesion and family unity by providing home-based care for the elderly as an alternative to institutional care through training and qualifying young calibers to become elderly companions. Furthermore, the program aims at creating an integrated database to match the elderly needs with the suitable elderly companions, as well as establishing a monitoring and follow-up mechanism to work on the continuous improvement of the service.

During the pilot phase that was carried out in four governorates (Cairo-Giza-Alexandria-Qalyubia), 51 elderly companions were trained and 40% of were immediately hired.

The Higher Committee for Elderly Care

The Higher Committee for Elderly Care in the Arab Republic of Egypt was formed based on The Minister of Social Solidarity's Decree No. 432 dated 12/9/2017. It is headed by MOSS with the membership of representatives from all relevant all parties. It aims to:

- Develop an integrated plan for the care of the elderly in Egypt.
- Development and review of laws and legislations concerned with the elderly.
- Synchronization of programs provided to different entities.
- Design of programs to capitalize on the potential of the elderly in the development of society.
- Establishment of a database of all services relating to the elderly.

Cash Transfers to the Elderly

Karama (“Dignity”) is an unconditional cash transfer program that aims to protect Egypt’s poor elderly citizens above 65 years of age and citizens with severe disabilities and diseases as well as orphans.

The Number of Elderly benefiting from the program reached approximately 400,000 beneficiaries.

Wavering Public Transportation Fees

The Cabinet issued a decision to exempt the elderly over the age of 70 from public transportation expenses, including the subway and trains, in addition to wavering 50% of the cost to those who reached 65 years old, and the |MoSS bares the costs of that.

Programs to support and empower the elderly in cooperation with Nasser Social Bank

The “Giving Back” saving certificate

Introducing the “Giving Back” saving certificate for the elderly over 70 years old with 17% rate of return.

Payment of elderly homes' expenses

Availing the payment for the elderly home expenses through installments with the possibility of Nasser Social bank supporting those who cannot afford to pay.

Ownership of the means of production

Allocation of 5 million pounds to availing means of production for the elderly.

Soft loans

Providing 1,000 soft loans to pensioners with a total of 10 million pounds with zero interest.

Job provision

150 job opportunities were provided to the elderly who are able to work.

Socio-Economic Response to Covid-19

- Vaccinating the residents of the elderly homes.
- Regular disinfection and sterilization of the elderly homes in cooperation with the Egyptian Red Crescent.
- Dispensing protective equipment and detergents periodically (alcohol - Dettol - soap - chlorine - gloves - masks - wipes).
- Raising the awareness of residents and care givers on hygiene practices and Covid-19 prevention.
- Liaising with the Ministry of Health and population on the care and quarantine measures of the infected residents.