



Social Support Mechanisms And Anti-Poverty Policies Through Social Security

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	<p>The problem of poverty is an old problem in Egypt, rooted in its economy and society in general, and it is due to a large number of reasons, including ignorance, illiteracy, and low level of education, weak domestic product and some old wrong economic policies. The government does not hesitate to find ways to reduce and limit this problem. Of which. The support of the Ministry of Social Solidarity in the Arab Republic of Egypt is due to the poor, raising their standard of living, and empowering them (men, women, and families), Enabling them to work and transforming them into productive forces, which dates back to the beginning of the sixties of the last century, and it adopted this as a development trend that contributes to achieving sustainable development goals to overcome the problems of poverty among the neediest groups. This study aimed to shed light on the activities and programs undertaken by the Ministry of Social Solidarity, as it is the governmental body responsible - mainly - for alleviating the suffering of the poor and raising their standard of living. The problem of poverty, and also changed one of its causes, so it began to gradually shift from supporting others to supporting them and enabling them to work and turning them into a producer. The study concluded that the Ministry continued its previous efforts to support the poor. In addition, the Ministry of Social Solidarity adopted modern programs based on the idea of enabling the poor to work and turning them into producers and shifting from the idea of feeding them to the idea of employing them. This happened through several initiatives and programs, such as supporting small and micro enterprises, the Forsa program, the hidden loan program, and other effective activities in this field. The study concluded with a set of conclusions and recommendations.</p> <p>Keywords: Social Welfare, the Problem of Poverty, Social Welfare Egypt, Ministry of Social Solidarity.</p>

1. Introduction

Discussions about poverty, which have been reintroduced on the agenda of most countries of the world and international organizations in recent years, have led to a more intense discussion about methods of combating poverty and the mechanisms that mitigate the disastrous consequences of this scourge. At the beginning of these methods were studies in the field of social security and the support that it provides. There were many names for social policies practices such as social status, social protection, welfare society, etc., and the most important of them was the concept of social protection, which is frequently mentioned in European countries and in studies conducted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Social protection is defined as all protection mechanisms, including insurance and other benefits, which the state provides to its citizens.

Social assistance is supporting mechanisms developed by the state to combat poverty, in which the beneficiaries do not contribute in any way. Social benefits can be categorized as non-contributory payments and public benefits. Old age, disability pensions, non-contributory payments, and non-performing temporary benefits are generally included, which can be in kind and cash, in general benefits.

This research is devoted to discussing the social role of social guarantees (or aid, subsidies, programs, support), the role of social guarantees - with their different names - their role in eliminating or reducing the phenomenon of poverty in Egyptian society.

The research falls into four main parts, the first part deals with the theoretical framework of poverty and social insurance from the global point of view, the second part deals with the phenomenon of poverty and its causes in Egypt, and the rest of the parts discuss the programs and activities undertaken by the Ministry of Social Security in Egypt, in order to reduce the phenomenon of poverty.

The most important finding of the study is that the Ministry of Social Solidarity has begun to transform its programs from the traditional idea that was prevalent, which is helping the poor, to the modern idea, which is empowering the poor, and turning them into producers. The research concluded with a set of conclusions and recommendations.

Part one: the global theoretical framework for the topic

1.1 Poverty and guarantees.

Discussions about poverty, which have been reintroduced on the agenda of most countries of the world and international organizations in recent years, have led to a more intense discussion about methods of combating poverty and the mechanisms that mitigate the disastrous consequences of this scourge. At the beginning of these methods were studies in the field of social security and the support that it provides (1).

Social policy practices are conceptualized in terms like marital status, social protection, welfare society, etc. The concept of social protection is frequently found in European countries and in studies conducted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Social protection is defined as all protection mechanisms, including insurance and other benefits, which the state provides to its citizens.

Different concepts in this field can be used interchangeably. Social security is seen as the institutionalization of support and solidarity that individuals and families need in the event that they face economic and social risks through public programs, and it meets social protection as such (2). Social protection expenditures and general social expenditures are interchangeable when it comes to expenditures. It can be said that social policy defines the entirety of policies aimed at increasing social welfare, while social security or social protection defines policies that include social insurance, social assistance, and social services.

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Labor policies constitute an important pillar of social policy. Labor policies are defined as passive and active labor policies. While passive labor policies consist of practices intended to provide income support to the dismissed person, such as unemployment insurance and severance compensation, (3) active labor policies include policies aimed at reducing unemployment and accelerating return to work, such as increasing workforce skills, lifelong learning shortening the unemployment period.

It is clear that social security mechanisms are manipulated and influenced by the general course of the economy (growth, crises, etc.), employment policies that change and diversify accordingly, changes in the supply of labor, and family and social structures.

It is mentioned that in parallel with the growth in the general course of the economy and developments in the labor market, a social welfare system was formed in the sixties and seventies in European countries, where the demands of social rights were met, and passive work policies were implemented, with more opportunities and less demand from the beneficiary. In the welfare society, work is seen as generating income and the family is seen as providing care services - it works that way. It is stated that the problems that emerged in the social welfare systems in 1980 and onwards are caused by the change of these two factors - family and work (4) replacement of regular high paying jobs with irregular ones, long-term unemployment and changes in the demographic structure of the population (population aging) are the reasons The main problems in the system (5)

The conception of poverty as a problem and the attempt to understand it and struggle with it date back to the sixteenth century. Who are the poor, why are they poor, and what is their function in society constitutes the content of meaning. To put it approximately, there is an ongoing debate between explaining one's being poor through laziness, indulgences, and individual mistakes - shortcomings, and explaining this with structural and systemic factors. In keeping with these diagnoses, in the solutions, in the first case, it is suggested that the poor be made a subject of pity and an attempt to save them through alms, while in the second, the poor are to be seen as equal members of society, the struggle against poverty must be seen in Rights framework, poverty must be eradicated by structural measures. The discussion highlights supposed rights that are seen as people rather than a labor force, and are assumed to be part of society, in contrast to suggestions that the poor should be viewed alongside work, seen as a labor force, or turned into a force female worker.

In addition to theoretical discussions, recent studies have focused on poverty criteria (this is also necessary in terms of where and how social policy tools are used). In other words, poverty will be determined by the use of what criteria, or in other words, what characteristics a person who is defined as poor has. Defining "norms" leads naturally to relativism (by time and place). Despite this, two methods for measuring poverty have been developed, one based on mathematical calculations and the other looking at what it offers to society: 1-

Consumption of income. 2- Living conditions - possibilities - ability. Income poverty is expressed quantitatively (income below a certain income level and a consumer below this level) and qualitatively (living under the relative acceptable living conditions in a given society). On the other hand, the Conditions, Opportunities and Capacity approach focuses on access to services such as nutrition, shelter, health, and education, removing obstacles to "human capacity" regardless of income and consumption.

1.2. Social Security and Social Assistance Practices in the World

In general, social protection mechanisms have four main purposes: (1) protecting permanent income (2) reducing poverty (3) ensuring economic equality (4) preventing social exclusion and marginalization (6) Social protection mechanisms exist in all countries in different forms. It is known that European countries are pioneers in this field, and their social protection mechanisms are classified under three categories: (1) It is the general support granted to a particular social group regardless of income and employment status (such as child support, paid to families with children). (2) It is social insurance practices (unemployment insurance, pension, etc.) that vary according to an individual's employment status and the contribution he or she makes while working. (3) Depending on test average or wealth income, benefits are generally granted to those below the poverty line or to special groups (such as the disabled) (7)

Benefits tested on an average basis or on an income basis, benefits granted to people whose income is below a certain income level (minimum income scheme, etc.); They are categorized as cash benefits in general (pregnant women, single-parent families, etc.) and benefits in kind (housing, health, etc.) that provide access to a particular good or service.

In Egypt there is a good proportion of this aid, but under different names.

In some countries, social assistance applications cover only residents who are outside the labor market and do not own any assets. This understanding is based on the approach in which employees receive sufficient income, that is, it excludes poor workers. Egypt also falls into this category.

Transfers to the framework of public social spending programs represent 27% of the GDP of EU member states. In 8 new EU member states, these programs correspond to 13%-24% of GDP. Social benefits range from 0.1% to 0% of GDP in these eight countries. The largest increase in public social spending is seen in expenditures on old age and health. Old age expenditures, which was 5.1% of GDP in 1980, rose to 6.9% in 2003 and to 7% in 2005; Health expenditures increased from 4.7% to 5.9% in 2003 and to 6% in 2005. While social expenditures in the European Union ranged between 15.9% (Ireland) and 31.3% (Sweden) of GDP in 2003. (15)

1.3. Effects of social assistance on income and poverty

In continental Europe, social benefits account for a higher proportion of household income than in the United States and England. When we look at the level of countries, we see that income inequality is lower in countries where social assistance plays an important role in income. Income inequality in northern European countries is much lower than in the United States. The Gini coefficient is 35.7 in the United States, 24.3 in Sweden, 25.1 in the Netherlands, 27.2 in Belgium, 27.3 in France and 27.7 in Germany (8).

As for Egypt, the Gini coefficient, according to estimates by the World Bank, is about 67%, which is a large percentage, but it began to shrink gradually and slowly after the package of programs launched by the Ministry of Social Solidarity.

Social assistance has significant effects on the population who are on the poverty line.

Table 1: Social assistance and poverty risk (before and after 2019 transfer)

The state	Percentage of the population at risk of poverty before social transfers	Percentage of the population at risk of poverty after social transfers
	%	%
European Union	25	16
USA	30	25
Canada	26	12
Australia	31	17

Source: Guido, A., Income, overtly and Social Exclusion in the EU25, 2005

In the European Union, social transfers reduce the population at risk of poverty by 9 points, in Canada by 13 points, in Australia by 14 points, while in America it is reduced by only 5 points. Studies conducted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development show that social assistance reduces poverty. When the dependent population (children of the beneficiaries) is taken into account, the minimum income subsidy (RMI), an important tool for fighting poverty in France, affects 3 million people (9).

When we look at the resources transferred within the framework of social assistance in European countries, we see that the support varies according to the needs of the individual. Being married or alone, having

children, and raising a child alone determines the amount of this support. Excluding housing support (e.g., rent allowance), the net disposable income (minimum income support) for a couple with two children ranges from £233 (Spain) to £607 (Sweden) (10).

1.4. Social assistance and the labor market

There is much talk and discussion about the effects of social assistance on the labor force, the performance of the economy, and whether the benefits reduce the desire of those who are able to work. Discussions focus on the duration, level and terms of social assistance, job search status, the difference between social assistance and income from work, training programs for the unemployed, and the differences between social insurance and social assistance. Some studies of social benefits emphasize the negative effects of benefits on the readiness of the workforce for work or the labor market and suggest that regulations take this negative into account. According to a study by Haveman, as the amount and availability of income protection support increases, Income poverty and inequality in wage distribution decrease, but at the same time, the desire to work decreases and unemployment increases (11) Studies show that minimum income support decreases the willingness of married women and single mothers to work there. At this point, two understandings emerge: On the one hand, it is assumed That the social welfare system provides people with a good life without work - it makes work unnecessary, on the other hand, it is argued that there is no **negative negative** relationship between welfare state practices and size (the ratio of public social protection expenditures to GDP) and economic performance.

The effect of social assistance on the labor market depends not only on the provision of social assistance or not, but also on the level of opportunities available in the labor market (general wage, work benefits) and the search for a job and finding skills - the effectiveness of institutions working in this field, the level of social assistance - Duration, cultural formation (the meaning that culture attaches to work) etc. It will vary based on a number of variables.

1.5. Active Labor Policies and Social Benefits

In order to fight poverty, it is important to try to influence the demand and supply of labor through investment policies, incentives, education and ensuring harmony. Active workforce policies, which are based on the assumption that poverty will decrease as employment increases, is the most important tool that has been used in this framework recently. Support for those who will start their own business, vocational training, wage support, social security support, temporary job creation in the public sector, advisory services, etc. Designed in this context. Studies in developed countries focus on including the population that is thought to be outside the labor market due to social support and aid. In this context, three strategies are implemented. The first is the workforce mobilization strategy. . While participants benefit from unemployment and other benefits, they are introduced to active labor market practices. Participants are forced to choose between participating in these programs and forfeiting the assistance they have received. The second is the bridge construction strategy. In the face of shocks in the labor market, the scope of active labor policies is expanded, and participation in programs can lead to a rearrangement of benefits. In times of economic crisis, an attempt is made to protect the employability of the workforce by keeping the unemployed close to working life (Sweden, Finland). The third is the restricted benefits and advantages, early merger strategy. It aims to accelerate the economic integration of the unemployed - to ensure their return to work in a short time - by forecasting unemployment benefit at a low level and for a short period, and similar practices (England, Turkey).(24)

Studies on the effects of active workforce policies such as vocational training and publicly subsidized temporary work employment in OECD countries do not yield consistent results. Employment policies focused on labor supply and subsidized employment policies in European and North American countries, in order to take advantage of incentives, employers fire the existing worker and replace him with one who participates in the training programmer.

Active labor policies, passive labor policies, and social benefits should be seen as complementary rather than contradictory practices. While active labor policies aim to reduce unemployment time by anticipating employment-enhancing measures such as lifelong learning of skills, passive work practices aim for income streams during unemployment. Social benefits are also important in terms of income. Successful active labor policies are also important in terms of reducing the population dependent on social assistance. However, it should not be concluded that active labor and social assistance policies should always be considered and implemented together. They should take social benefits (regulations for alleviating the consequences of poverty) takes into account not only the population who can engage in work, but also those who are not employed and/or unable to work in any way. (25)

1.6. The relationship between poverty and employment

There is a direct relationship between poverty and informal work. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 1.8 billion people work informally while 1.2 billion people are registered in the world. 700 million informal workers live on less than \$1.25 a day. In other words, they live below the absolute poverty line (12) Informal employment is also an important problem in Egypt. About 40% of employment is informal. In order to use social security as an effective tool for fighting poverty,

unregistered employment should be reduced and the social security base should be expanded. The self-employed, casual workers and unpaid workers make up a large portion of the informal workers. Expanding the social security base will not only relieve the system financially, but also provide protection from poverty.

Part Two: The Problem of Poverty in Egypt

2.1. The extent of poverty in Egypt

The extent of poverty in Egypt was estimated, and it is one of the countries that considers Egypt one of the countries with medium human development, and international reports indicate that the poverty rate for the year 2020 is about 33% of the population. The non-survival rate after birth is 9% and the adult illiteracy rate is estimated at 47% of the population; The size of the population without access to an improved water source is 6%, and children under the normal weight (under the age of five) are estimated at 12% of the number of children in Egypt (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics 2020).

As for income poverty, the proportion of the population who receives one dollar - the poorest groups according to the standards of the World Bank - per day from 1990 to 2020 is estimated at 36% of the population; While the proportion of those who receive two dollars - which are the poor groups according to the standards of the World Bank - for the same period was 46% of the population.

As for the extent of poverty in Egypt, according to the Egyptian poverty line, special estimates based on comprehensive surveys of expenditure, income and consumption carried out by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics indicated that the poverty rate in Egypt had reached by the year 2000 to 17% of the population, and that Based on the poverty line in Egypt set by the Egyptian Ministry of Planning in 2004, estimated at 2 pounds per day, meaning that for a family of six people to be considered poor, its monthly income must be less than 315 pounds, but in 2018, the poverty rate increased to reach to 32.5% of the population, and the agency set the poverty line at 8827 pounds per year.

2.2. The causes of poverty in Egypt

a. Low level of economic development

The following table shows the sectors of the Egyptian economy and their contribution to the GDP (2020 stats), the ratios are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Table No. 2 Sectors' contribution to the GDP

sector	Contribution to GDP
	%
Extractive and manufacturing industry	35%
agricultural sector	11%
industrial	36%
Services	50%

It is evident from the above table that the contribution of the agricultural sector has decreased, which plays a key role in the Egyptian economy due to what it secures from the society's food needs. And what it provides of raw materials for many manufacturing industries (cotton, for example), and what it also secures from work for a significant proportion of the labor force, but the agricultural output in Egypt, whose contribution does not exceed 11% of the GDP: As a result of the increase in population, it was not able to secure The necessary needs, due to the low labor productivity in the Egyptian agricultural sector, which does not exceed 60% of labor productivity in developed countries. . It is noted that the Egyptian agricultural trade balance is in a permanent and increasing deficit. Which led to the persistence of the disparity between agricultural production and the demand for agricultural commodities and the increase in the food gap in the main agricultural commodities, and consequently the rate of self-sufficiency in Egypt for a number of necessary food commodities (the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, various numbers).

B. Unemployment high

The unemployment rate is defined: "They are individuals from (15-64 years old) who are able to work, desire and search for it, but they do not find it related to the labor force in the same age group, according to the data of the Labor Force Survey in 2017: (the contribution rate of young people reached 18-29 years) in the labor force 46.1% (63.4% males, 27.5% females) of them: 9.1% are illiterate, 43.8% have an intermediate qualification, 24.2% have a university qualification or higher, and it has been shown that the percentage of youth employed in permanent work is 49% (48.6% males, 50.2% females), and the percentage of workers with a legal contract was 25% (20% males, 42.2% females).

It is noted that the unemployment rate among youth reached 25.7% (20.5% males, 38.7% females). And the unemployment rate among young people with a university degree or higher recorded 38.3% (30.2% males,

49.4% females) compared to 30.7% for those with an intermediate technical qualification (24.7% males, 48.9% females). The state has taken many measures to advance economic growth and encourage many sectors, with the aim of reducing unemployment rates. The Central Bank issued an initiative aimed at supporting and financing small and medium enterprises, which contributed significantly to reducing unemployment rates, starting in 2013. The continuous decline in the unemployment rate in Egypt is very important, as it bears a positive indication of the feasibility of economic growth rates and their ability to reach different sectors. Looking at the detailed data, the following becomes clear:

- The decrease in the total unemployment rate was accompanied by a noticeable decrease in the labor force from 29.18 million individuals in the quarter (April-June 2017) to 28.07 million individuals in the same quarter of 2018, knowing that this decrease is occurring in a society where the population of working age is increasing, i.e. The percentage of the employed in the human force is declining, which leads to a high burden of dependency. Women represented the largest proportion of the decline in the labor force; An increase in the percentage of women who are devoted to domestic work, which reached 58.9% of the workforce for women in the first quarter of 2018, compared to 54.5% in the same quarter of 2017, which raises the question of women's problems in entering the labor market or the ability of job-generating sectors to absorb women workers and provide a suitable work environment for them. There were also a number of reasons that limited the increase in the rate of male contribution, which may be (but not limited to) leave without pay and not looking for work for recruits and university graduates who perform public service. Those who are temporarily suspended from work, do not receive wages, and are not looking for work, but it is not possible to be certain which of these causes have the greatest weight in the interpretation.

- The percentage of unemployed people holding intermediate, above-average, university degrees and above continues to rise, reaching 88.9% in 2018, compared to 77.9% in 2017, which means that most of those who moved from unemployment to employment status are of sub-intermediate qualifications, meaning that they are skilled low. Unemployment rates increased among the age groups (20-24 years) and (25-29 years) to reach 40.4% and 36.9% in 2018 compared to 30.8% and 30.4% 2017, respectively. This is inseparable from the structural problem that the Egyptian labor market suffers from, which is the weakness of the delivery channels between the supply and demand sides of labor. The quality of the jobs generated is low in order to achieve the aspirations of the educated groups on the one hand, while the educational organization's outputs are weak to match the high-productivity jobs on the other hand.

C. corruption

Egypt has witnessed a major qualitative leap in the field of confronting corruption and combating its crimes. Especially in the period from mid-2016 until now, because of its negative effects on investment and its close connection with strengthening confidence in the system and state institutions, as the government strives to achieve sustainable development goals by launching Egypt's Vision 2030, and raising economic growth rates. Egypt jumped 12 places in the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index, the results of which were announced by Transparency International. It ranked 105th out of 180 countries after it was ranked 117th in the index last year.

According to Transparency International, which is concerned with fighting corruption. Egypt's position on the Corruption Perceptions Index advanced 3 degrees in 2018, scoring 35 points out of a hundred, compared to 32 points last year. From 100, the more it reflects, the greater its integrity.

Egypt ranked 105th in the Corruption Perceptions Index for 2018 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. 2014), after it was ranked 117th in 2017: as in the past years, this ranking is topped by Denmark, followed by New Zealand, Finland, Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland.

D. Low level of education

The Ministry of Education announced the rise of Egypt in education indicators in the international competitiveness reports in 2016/2017 to rank 134th out of a total of 139 countries in the primary education quality index, and 28th out of 139 countries in enrollment rates in primary education, a difference of 31 places from last year. .

It came in 85th place out of 139 countries in enrollment rates in secondary education, and 135th out of 139 countries in the quality of public and higher education. It is ranked 130 out of 139 countries in the quality of science and mathematics.

In its statement, the ministry stated that in 2014/2015, Egypt ranked 141 out of a total of 140 countries (ie, outside the classification) in the primary education quality index, and ranked 64th out of 140 countries in enrollment rates in primary education, and 81st out of 140 countries in Enrollment rates in secondary education, and 141st place out of 140 countries (ie, outside the classification) in the quality of public and higher education. It is ranked 136th out of 140 countries in the quality of science and mathematics.

This bitter reality requires strenuous efforts and a long time in order to eliminate this scourge that cracks the pillars of the state, if it wants to be a developed state. It must be clear that there is no development with ignorance, and it is not possible to keep pace with rapid development and technology only by providing education for all segments of society so that it can rush strongly towards economic growth.

The ratios and statistics and comparing them from year to year and commenting on them is long to explain, but what concerns us from this part and as far as the topic of research is concerned, we conclude from the

review of the above ratios that Egypt suffers from the problem of poverty, which is an old and rooted problem in the Egyptian society and economy, and what concerns us here is Examine the ways and activities adopted by the Ministry of Solidarity and its support agencies in the judiciary or to reduce this problem.

Part three: Programs of the Ministry of Social Security in the fight against poverty.

3.1. Introduction to solutions

The problem of poverty was dealt with within the framework of the traditional model of subsidies and relief. With the reconsideration of the role of the state and the increase in the shift towards the private sector, new dimensions to the problem of poverty emerged, especially with regard to the issue of unemployment and the provision of job opportunities. . This was accompanied by the expansion of partnerships between the public and private sectors within the framework of the spread of the concept of corporate social responsibility on the one hand, and the consideration of poverty reduction as a global product that requires effective international intervention and financing to deal with it on the other hand.

Poverty is always associated with low income and unmet basic needs required to achieve a minimum standard of living. When this is focused, the measurement of poverty in this case becomes a measure of the minimum income needed to meet basic needs, and everyone whose income is below that limit becomes poor. The measurement of poverty is related to the concepts of poverty lines, which are the types of {extreme poverty line: it determines the minimum income needed to meet basic food needs}, the absolute poverty line: It specifies the minimum income required to meet basic needs. It differs from the extreme poverty line in that it includes a number of non-food products such as housing, clean drinking water, education, and health.” The absence of these products reduces the ability of the poor to participate effectively in society. The International Labor Office on Poverty defines poverty as the inability to obtain basic public services such as clean drinking water, health services, education and transportation, in addition to the lack of suitable job opportunities for able family members who are looking for work. (13)

Then this traditional view of poverty as representing the inability to achieve a minimum standard of living changed. This was reflected in the mechanisms of dealing with it and the transition from relief orientations to development orientations, which consider that work is one of the best means to deal with the problem of poverty. Thus, poverty turns into a global public product worthy of saturation and concerted international efforts to confront it, especially in societies where the rate of poverty increases. This is the focus of the efforts of the United Nations Development Program and its reliance on human development indicators to measure multidimensional poverty and to propose solutions to confront and reduce it. (14)

3.2. State activities towards the phenomenon of poverty.

The activities of state agencies in dealing with the problem of poverty express the orientations of public policies and the view of policy makers on the nature of the poverty problem. When poverty is seen as only the inability to provide the minimum necessary food commodities, the focus is on providing these devices through in-kind food support systems. And when poverty is widely viewed as a deprivation of well-being and the lack of worthy social public services, The responsibility of public administration bodies is expanding to provide these services to the poor and low-income people, gradually moving from in-kind support to conditional cash support, and providing a number of social protection measures in conjunction with supporting efforts to combat unemployment, including encouraging investment and supporting income-generating projects.(15)

International grants and aid represent an additional important source of financing the efforts of public administration bodies to address the problem of poverty, taking into consideration the issue of the feminization of poverty. Efforts in this context have focused on three main mechanisms: directing direct in-kind and cash assistance to the poor, improving the living environment through the development of satiable social public services such as health, education and drinking water, in addition to granting loans to establish income-generating projects for the poor to help provide job opportunities to improve their living conditions and reduce the negative effects of poverty. Citizens' demands for greater social justice and equal opportunity have led in many countries to place job creation at the forefront of public policy concerns. (16)

3.2.1. Small business activity

The Egyptian state (represented in this field by the Ministry of Social Solidarity) used support and revitalization of micro-enterprises to reduce poverty, as a tool to provide job opportunities for the poor for the purpose of reducing poverty.

It supports the implementation of productive families' projects at the level of all governorates within villages, rural and urban centers and cities. The productive families' associations and the local community development associations working in the productive families' projects are financed through a number of local agencies - which may be agents of other entities in providing funding - such as the Medium, Small and Micro Enterprise Development Agency and the National Foundation for Family and Community Development, and also through Self-resources for these associations. As previously explained, the Ministry of Solidarity plays an important role in following up the work of these associations financially and administratively as part of the

role of the central administration of associations and unions. The Central Administration for Social Development follows the associations from a technical point of view. (17)

The applicant for a productive families project loan - after fulfilling the required documents and conditions, conducting a social and technical research and a simplified feasibility study with the help of its social unit specialist - does not receive the value of the loan, which on average does not exceed 5,000 pounds, but receives the project components according to a record of receipt and after providing guarantees determined by the association implementing the project. The loans of the productive family's project are provided on an individual basis, and the applicant can contribute a part of the total cost of the project to ensure seriousness. The applicant shall bear administrative expenses that do not exceed 10% of the total cost of the project.

Table No. (3) Number of productive family's projects and total loans disbursed during the period from 2011 to 2020.

year	number projects	total loans One million pound
2011	12143	401
2012	14422	948
2013	9661	603
2014	12932	510
2015	11,740	539
2016	12974	937
2017	13881	915
2018	14051	978
2019	14100	1080
2020	15620	983

In this regard also, the activity of the Ministry of Social Solidarity in supporting micro-enterprises is represented in the activity of supporting productive families, and this activity can be illustrated in the following table:

Table No. (4) Activity of the Productive Families Project

project name	Productive Families Project in 2020	borrowed loan project
What is it?	One of the development sector projects of the Ministry of Social Solidarity	It offers home project loans that do not conflict with health, environment or security
target millennium	All classes of society	Women who did not receive Takaful and Dignity Assistance
Target	Entering an appropriate return that helps the family	Increasing the effectiveness of working women
the place	It is implemented in 27 governorates within villages, rural and urban centers and cities	Included 26 provinces
Number of beneficiaries	8 thousand families	20 thousand women
loan amount	3 9 million pounds	3 3 2 million pounds

3.2.2. Nasser Social Bank Activities

This bank has a history, contributions and multiple activities related to supporting the poor, but with regard to the topic of the research, we will highlight its adoption of the "hidden loan" program, which is an economic empowerment program specifically directed at poor women who are able to work to establish small projects. Infinitesimal, it is a revolving loan that is delivered as projects - as is the case in all projects affiliated with the Ministry of Social Solidarity - and not as amounts of money. The value of the loan ranges between 4 thousand and 20 thousand pounds. It is paid monthly or according to the nature of the project over two years without interest, but with operating expenses of 5% over two years at a rate 5, 2% annually. (18)

The projects implemented under the initiative vary between animal production, commercial, service and household projects. The following table summarizes the nature of the projects of this program

Table No. 5 Diversity of "hidden loan" projects until 2020

Project Type	number of projects	loan amount
		one million pounds
animal production	1471	23
home project	515	5
Business	1961	27
industrial project	226	3

Among the reasons for this initiative - in particular - and the reasons for supporting micro-enterprises - in general is: the high unemployment rate among females, which reached 24.2% compared to 9.4% for males in 2015, and that about 30% of Egyptian families support them. (19)

With regard to the various activities of Nasser Bank, it can be viewed through the following table data:

Table No. (6) The most important activities of Nasser Bank

Nasser Social Bank's investment activities for the year 2020				
First / financing activities				
Housing Finance	5	billion pounds	48	A thousand beneficiaries
Marriage apartments financing	2	one million pound	52	A thousand beneficiaries
investment finance	3	billion pounds	36	A thousand beneficiaries
production financing	4	one million pound	207	beneficiary
Car purchase finance	270	one million pound	645	beneficiary
Second / social activities				
social lending	175	one million pound	18	A thousand beneficiaries
Owning the means of production	1	one million pound	147	A thousand beneficiaries
Subsidies and aid	62	one million pound	16	A thousand beneficiaries
zakat money	530	one million pound	1	million beneficiaries

3.2.3. Forsa Activity

It is a recent activity of the Ministry of Social Solidarity to support micro-enterprises, targeting family members who are able to work in the age group (15-55) in security families, and families of the "Solidarity and Dignity" program and who did not meet the requirements of the "Solidarity and Dignity" program. The program includes several axes, including raising the level of skills and training for employment according to the needs of the labor market, providing small and micro loans, improving the quality of local services, in addition to providing job opportunities through networking with the private sector. The first phase of the program focuses on the governorates of Beni Suef, Minya, Assiut, Luxor, Aswan, Kafr El-Sheikh, Beheira and Dakahlia (20)

3.2.4. Pension activity for families of victims of terrorism

It is one of the activities of the Ministry of Social Solidarity, and the following table summarizes the activities of this activity.

Table No. (7) Pension activity for families of victims of terrorism

Pensions for the families of victims of terrorism				
	The number of martyrs	the cost	The number of martyrs	the cost
	(Person)	(Thousand pounds)	(Person)	(Thousand pounds)
2014	1374	2.5	1374	78
2020	2379	2.7	2379	122

3.2.5. Pensions Activity

It is one of the important activities within the periodic work of the Ministry of Solidarity. His achievements for the year 202 can be explained in the following table.

Table No. (8) Pensions Activity

Pensions / for the year 2020	
First / insurance pensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14% increase over the pension value, up to a maximum of EGP 980 • 14% increase over the pension value, up to a maximum of EGP 980 • 900 pounds per month as the minimum pension, as of July 1, 2020 • 25 billion pounds annual cost
Second / exceptional pensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of cases is 3174 cases • The monthly cost is 490 thousand pounds • The social cost is 5.8 million pounds

3.2.6. Unconditional cash support activity

This activity can be illustrated with the data summarized in the following table:

Table No. (9) Unconditional cash support activity

Unconditional cash support	Beneficiary families	total amounts
First / exceptional aid	47 thousand families	9 million pounds
Second, the child's pension	46,000 families	46 million pounds
Third, security assistance	388,000 families	2 billion pounds

Part four: Programs of the Ministry of Social Solidarity / Closer Look

For the purpose of reducing poverty rates and raising the standard of living for the poor, the Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity has adopted a package of (various) programs and initiatives, which can be summarized in the following table

Table No. 4 includes a focused and simplified presentation of the Ministry's programs towards poverty reduction.

Program name / details	
1	Program to increase families benefiting from cash support
	(1) Families increased from one million and 68 thousand families in 2014.
	To 3 million and 800 thousand families in the year 2020.
	(2) The increase is 120%
2	Program for raising the budget of cash support allocations
	(1) It was 3.7 billion pounds in 2014
	(2) It became 91 billion pounds in the year 2020
	(3) The rate of increase is 500%
	Program name / details
3	Population Reduction Program
	(1) 65 family planning clinics have been established.
	(2) 6 thousand visits to knock on doors
	(3) 4 thousand seminars.
	(4) 42 Street Theatre.
	(5) The number of beneficiaries is one million women.
	(6) With the participation of 108 associations and NGOs.
4	cash assistance program (non-regular)
	(1) The number of families is one and a half million.
	(2) Amounts paid / 960 million pounds.
	(3) The average payment is 400 pounds per month.
	(4) The total in-kind aid in the governorates / 41 million pounds.

	(5) The number of beneficiaries is 80 thousand.	
5	Natural Gas Links Program	5
	(1) The beneficiary families 112,000 families.	
	(2) The number of governorates 6	
	(3) The amount of the program is 230 million pounds	
6	affection program	
	(1) The number of visitors to the platform is 4 million, (70% of them are female).	
	(2) 260,000 certified trainer certificates were granted.	
	Note / The program has been approved as an optional graduation requirement in public universities	
7	Addiction control and treatment program	
	(1) The number of centers has increased to 26 in 16 governorates.	
	(2) The number of beneficiaries is 100,000 patients annually. (Free)	
	(3) Providing loans to establish small projects for those recovering from drug abuse.	
8	Program to improve the standard of living of families in the poorest villages	
	(1) The first phase started in 143 villages.	
	(2) In the second phase, it will include 51 centers.	
	(3) The total cost of the program is 500 billion pounds.	
9	"Bar Aman" program to protect and support young fishermen	
	(1) The initiative covers 42,000 fishermen nationwide	
	(2) At a cost of 50 million pounds.	
	Note: The program is in partnership with the Long Live Egypt Fund and the General Authority for Fish Resources Development	
10	Partnership program with the Egyptian Red Crescent	
	(1) Through 7 hospitals, 50 medical clinics, 30 medical convoys, 5 blood banks, 43 dialysis machines,	
	(2) Psychological and social support.	
	(3) First aid training.	
	(4) The number of beneficiaries is 3 million citizens.	
	(5) The number of volunteers is 30 thousand volunteers.	
11	Program (activities) to combat the Corona virus	
	(1) 4,000 sterilization and disinfection campaigns have been carried out	
	(2) Psychological support was provided to 6,000 people affected by the virus.	
	(3) A total of 10,000 elderly citizens and people with special needs were vaccinated.	
	(4) Five thousand health awareness campaigns were implemented in all governorates.	
	(5) The number of beneficiaries is five million citizens.	
	(6) 30,000 bags of protective equipment were distributed.	
	(7) The mission of organizing gatherings of citizens and spreading awareness messages was carried out. Among them in the post office	
	(8) The number of beneficiaries, including 758 thousand.	
	(9) A number of 30 thousand medical convoys were implemented, benefiting 50 thousand citizens.	
12	Information Systems Development Program	
	(1) The first database of poor families was developed, covering 9 million families (31 million citizens).	
	(2) Networking was done between the databases uploaded to the servers of the Ministry of Social Solidarity Information Center, the Ministries of Health and Education, Al-Azhar and Al-Azhar Sheikhs, the Administrative Control Authority, and the National Insurance and Pensions Authority,	
	(3) Work is underway to link up with the Ministry of Justice and Supply.	
	(4) Electronic registration services have been made available to obtain various services and upload all official documents.	
	(5) All grievances and complaints have been made available on the website, in a way that separates workers and citizens and increases transparency and integrity.	
	(7) Developing a database of irregular employment affected by the Corona pandemic, and developing a	

	unified and comprehensive database.
	(8) The first stages of the integrated electronic system for civil work in Egypt, related to reconciling the conditions of all civil work institutions, was launched.
13	Laws and Instructions Development Program
	(1) The Ministry of Social Solidarity succeeded in increasing the minimum pension to 900 pounds instead of 750 pounds.
	(2) The preparation of a new law "Unified Insurance", which was implemented as of January 2020.
	(3) The number of beneficiaries of "Solidarity and Karama" and social security reached nearly 3 million and 600,000 families, equivalent to about 15 million beneficiary citizens.
	(4) Preparing a new social security law to allow all groups currently benefiting from cash assistance to be transferred to a solidarity and dignity program.
	(5) Work to introduce new categories into the social protection umbrella, including widowed women without children, divorced women without children, and women who have not married and reached the age of more than 50 years.
	(6) Preparing a proposal for a fund to support irregular employment.
	(7) The Ministry succeeded in issuing Law No. 149 of 2019 regulating the practice of civil work and its executive regulations in January 2021
	(8) A number of 171 cooperation protocols and memoranda of understanding were signed between the ministry and all ministries, agencies and partner associations.
	(9) The restructuring of the Ministry has been completed and an updated organizational and administrative structure has been designed in line with the vision of developing the state's administrative apparatus, and it has been approved by the Central Agency for Organization and Administration.
	(10) The establishment, replacement, renewal or development of the infrastructure for a total of 602 social units, representing 26% of the total units, in addition to 18 social departments and 5 directorates, at a total cost of 406 million Egyptian pounds.
	(Finally) The Ministry of Social Solidarity is responsible for targeting families and the most vulnerable groups within these villages, as the initiative aims to promote social, economic and environmental development in remote and poor villages and provide basic services in them, and support the most vulnerable groups to contribute to the extension of water and sewage connections to families that lack basic services and improve the infrastructure Infrastructure for places to provide health, social and veterinary services, implement convoys, provide compensatory and orthopedic devices for persons with disabilities, establish nurseries for early childhood development, improve environmental indicators and recycle solid and agricultural waste, and link these indicators to the sustainable development plan.

From the data in the above table, it is clear that:

- 1) An increase in the number of families benefiting from insurance support.
- 2) The budget allocations also increased (by 500%).
- 3) Regarding family planning, there are clear contributions in this field.
- 4) The Ministry assisted one and a half million families within a non-periodic aid program.
- 5) More than 100,000 families benefited from the natural gas supply program.
- 6) More than a quarter of a million (young men and women) have been granted a certified trainer certificate, within the affection program.
- 7) More than 100,000 patients benefited from the Ministry's program to combat drug addiction and drug addiction.
- 8) The Ministry contributed to improving the poorest villages.
- 9) The Ministry has assisted more than 40,000 fishermen within the "Bur Aman" initiative.
- 10) There is help and fruitful participation with the Red Crescent Society.
- 11) The Ministry has made a serious contribution to combating the Corona virus.
- 12) The Ministry is interested in introducing modern and advanced information systems.
- 13) There is a clear campaign to modernize and develop the system of laws regulating social welfare operations

Conclusions

Based on the foregoing, the researcher concludes the following:

- 1) With the Ministry of Social Solidarity continuing its previous efforts to support the poor through grants and aid... and others, it has adopted modern programs based on the idea of enabling the poor to work and turning them into producers.
- 2) The Ministry shifted from the idea of feeding the poor to the idea of employing them.

- 3) The Ministry runs important and effective programs that reduce poverty. The most important of these programs are: The Productive Families Support Program (supporting micro-enterprises), the Forsa program, the hidden loan program, and other effective activities in this field.
- 4) There is still a long way to go before the ministry, as the problem of poverty is old and rooted in Egyptian society

Study recommendations.

- 1) Deepening the orientation towards empowering the poor to work, with a focus on empowering rural women in this field.
- 2) Take advantage of modern technological products and introduce them as important factors in eradicating poverty, such as opening current accounts to the components of the poor class. Global studies have proven the efficacy of this method in facilitating anti-poverty programs.
- 3) Not to neglect the involvement of the private sector in programs to support and empower the poor.
- 4) Supporting the Ministry on a continuous basis and turning it into a smart solutions center to adopt modern and innovative programs in the field of empowerment.
- 5) Finally, adopting the idea of (management by objectives and results) in evaluating all the activities and programs of the ministry directed towards developing the poor.

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2. Buna rağmen yararlanılan kaynaklarda yer alan "social protection" metinde "sosyal koruma" olarak çevrilmiş ve kullanılmıştır.
3. Bu politikaların "Pasif" olarak nitelendirilmesine ilişkin tartışmalar yürütülmektedir.
4. Kadın hareketinin etkisiyle Batılı kadınların ev bakım işlerinden özgürleşmesi, giderek daha çok sayıda kadının işgücüne dahil olması, gibi.
5. Bu değişim Fordist-Keynesyen refah devleti modelinden, Schumpeterian çalışma-istihdam devleti modeline geçiş olarak da tanımlanmaktadır. Fordist-Keynesyen model kitlesel üretimi ve tüketimi öngörürken, Schumpeterian model, ürün- süreç-örgütlenme ve piyasa yaratıcılığı yoluyla ulusal ekonomilerin dünya ekonomik sistemindeki rekabet edilebilirliğini artırmayı öngörmektedir.
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