

Social support mechanisms and anti-poverty policies through social security in Egypt

By

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Abstract

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.

Keywords: Social Welfare, The Problem of Poverty, Social Welfare Egypt, Ministry of Social Solidarity.

Introduction

Social protection programs represent a platform to reach millions of the world's most vulnerable families and individuals and are integral to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. According to the Global Social Protection Report 2017-2019, nearly half of the world's population (45%) is covered with at least one social protection benefit; however, this form is lower in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). (Peterman, Valli, Palermo, 2022: 529)

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

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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 that the state provides to its citizens.

Social assistance is support 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

Poverty and guarantees

Discussions about poverty, which have been reintroduced to the agenda of most countries of the world and international organizations in recent years, have led to an even more intense discussion about ways to combat poverty and the mechanisms that mitigate the severe consequences of this scourge. At the beginning of these methods were studies in the field of social security and support. (Amer,2011): Social protection is defined as all protection mechanisms, including insurance and other benefits that the state provides to its citizens.

The 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 meets social protection as such. (Romer, Romer:1998).

Social assistance is support mechanisms put in place by the state to combat poverty. Social benefits can be categorized as old-age benefits, disability pensions, non-contributory payments and temporary benefits and can be in kind or cash.

Labor policies constitute an important pillar of social policy, and labor policies consist of practices aimed at providing income support to a person who loses work, such as unemployment insurance and end-of-service compensation. (Dirck,1999). Active labour policies include policies aimed at reducing unemployment and accelerating the return to work, such as increasing the skills of the workforce and shortening the unemployment period.

A social welfare system was formed in the 1960s and 1970s in European countries, where demands for social rights were met, and passive action policies were implemented, with more opportunities and less demand from the beneficiary. In a welfare society, work is seen as generating income and the family is seen as providing care services - and it works that way. It is indicated that the problems that appeared in the social welfare systems in 1980 and onwards were caused by the change of these two factors (family and work) (Fouda,2014). Replacement of regular high-paid jobs with irregular ones, long-term unemployment and changes in the demographic composition of the population (population aging) causes of the problems main in the system. (Gaurav, Manohar, 2017) The concept of poverty as a problem and the attempt to understand it and struggle with it go back to the sixteenth century. Who are the poor? And why are they poor? What is their contribution to society? There is an ongoing debate between explaining being poor through laziness and individual mistakes and having an individual who is able and willing to work but does not work.

The problem of poverty should be viewed alongside work, considered a labor force, or turned into a productive force.

1.2. Social Security and Social Assistance Practices in the World

In general, social protection mechanisms have four main purposes ([http://www.mof.gov.eg/MOFGallerySource/English/Overview of the Egyptian Economy and Business Environment.pdf](http://www.mof.gov.eg/MOFGallerySource/English/Overview%20of%20the%20Egyptian%20Economy%20and%20Business%20Environment.pdf)):

- (1) Protecting permanent income
- (2) Reducing poverty
- (3) Ensuring economic equality
- (4) Preventing social exclusion and marginalization

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) (<http://www.ijbcnet.com/3-8/IJBC-14-3802.pd>).

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.

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 ((bin Rashid,2009: 35).

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*

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. (Tahir,2018). 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.

1.5. 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 has been estimated, and Egypt is considered one of the countries with medium human development, and international reports indicate that the poverty rate for 2020 is about 33% of the population. The postpartum non-survival rate is 9% and the adult illiteracy rate is 47%. The size of the population deprived of access to an improved water source is 6%, and underweight children (under the age of five) are estimated to be 12% of the number of children in Egypt (CAPMAS 2020).

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

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.

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).

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.

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.

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. 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' (Allen, et al,2004):

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. (Andrews,2010)

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. (Noureddine,2018).

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 as a means 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 up the associations from a technical point of view. (Andrews,2011)

Table No. (3) 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. (Bouyon,2015)

Table No. 4 Diversity of “hidden loan” projects until 2020

Project Type	number of projects	loan amount one million pound
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. (Butrica,2016)

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

Table No. (5) 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.

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. (Sushanta,2008).

Table No. (6) *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. (7) *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. (8) *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. 9 includes a focused and simplified presentation of the Ministry's programs towards poverty reduction

Program name / details
<p>Program to increase families benefiting from cash support</p> <p>(1) Families increased from one million and 68 thousand families in 2014. To 3 million and 800 thousand families in the year 2020.</p> <p>(2) The increase is 120%</p>
<p>Program for raising the budget of cash support allocations</p> <p>(1) It was 3.7 billion pounds in 2014</p> <p>(2) It became 91 billion pounds in the year 2020</p> <p>(3) The rate of increase is 500%</p>
<p>Population Reduction Program</p> <p>(1) 65 family planning clinics have been established.</p> <p>(2) 6 thousand visits to knock on doors</p> <p>(3) 4 thousand seminars.</p> <p>(4) 42 Street Theatre.</p> <p>(5) The number of beneficiaries is one million women.</p> <p>(6) With the participation of 108 associations and NGOs.</p>
<p>cash assistance program (non-regular)</p> <p>(1) The number of families is one and a half million.</p> <p>(2) Amounts paid / 960 million pounds.</p> <p>(3) The average payment is 400 pounds per month.</p> <p>(4) The total in-kind aid in the governorates / 41 million pounds.</p> <p>(5) The number of beneficiaries is 80 thousand.</p>
<p>Natural Gas Links Program</p> <p>(1) The beneficiary families 112,000 families.</p> <p>(2) The number of governorates 6</p> <p>(3) The amount of the program is 230 million pounds</p>
<p>affection program</p> <p>(1) The number of visitors to the platform is 4 million, (70% of them are female).</p> <p>(2) 260,000 certified trainer certificates were granted.</p> <p>Note / The program has been approved as an optional graduation requirement in public universities</p>
<p>Addiction control and treatment program</p> <p>(1) The number of centers has increased to 26 in 16 governorates.</p> <p>(2) The number of beneficiaries is 100,000 patients annually. (Free)</p>

(3) Providing loans to establish small projects for those recovering from drug abuse.

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.

"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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.
- 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 solution 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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