



وزارة التعاون الدولي  
Ministry of International  
Cooperation



# PANEL 05



## Investing in Human Capital



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September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Session Duration: 60 min  
Nile Ritz-Carlton Hotel

[egypt-icf.com/](http://egypt-icf.com/)



## Overview

This panel, organized by the Ministry of International Cooperation in partnership with the World Bank Group (WBG), aims to highlight the recent advancements in human capital in Egypt, whilst shedding light on the critical role of international cooperation in contributing to human development. It also provides an opportunity to pursue collaborative action and identify complementary efforts across development partners and government initiatives.

Human capital development has always been a top priority on Egypt's development agenda, especially more so after the recent economic reforms in the areas of monetary and fiscal policies, and energy subsidies. These continuous and progressive reforms have provided the needed fiscal space for the Government of Egypt (GoE) to invest further in human capital.

To that end, Egypt has undertaken a wide set of initiatives and implemented vital projects in the fields of social protection, health and education. With regards to scaling up social protection programs, the Takaful and Karama Social Safety Net Program is considered Egypt's largest cash transfer program (and the largest cash transfer program in MENA) and one of its largest investments in human capital, reaching 3.4 million households.

In light of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and in efforts to strengthen the education system, the GoE launched Education 2.0, which also contributes to accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has also embarked on a healthcare reform program with the overarching goal of achieving universal coverage of basic health services for its 100 million citizens.

Furthermore, the presidential initiative "Hayah Karima", one of the most prominent initiatives targeting human capital development, aims to improve the infrastructure of rural and vulnerable villages in Upper Egypt. It provides the proper basis for further social and economic investments in these areas, so as to exploit the maximum benefit from these interventions.

Focusing the financing lens on human capital goes hand in hand with the demands of the new age, and the priorities of the GoE; a human-centered economy that capitalizes on social impact. The Ministry of International Cooperation's (MoIC) 'Global Partnerships Narrative' is a vision that rests on three pillars: People, Projects and Purpose. With People at the core, we are committed to addressing



gaps that constrain Egyptians from realizing their full potential by achieving multi-sectoral impact. Projects in action are implemented across various sectors, moving beyond the social, to accelerate human development through efforts that enhance transportation, water desalination and access to renewable energy, among others. This expansion incorporates more partners in drafting an inclusive narrative, including the government, international development partners, the private sector and civil society. Finally, improving the livelihoods of the Egyptian people is ultimately the driving Purpose to achieve sustainable, impactful growth through our partnerships.

Capitalizing on human development harmonizes projects on the national level and creates a shared sense of purpose that guides the achievement of the global blueprint for development; the 2030 Agenda. Each of the 17 SDGs either directly or indirectly bolsters human capital. Therefore, streamlining multi-stakeholder efforts through the Global Partnerships Narrative ensures the advancement of the SDGs in the face of crisis, and empowers the people to develop their own impact narrative.

In partnership with different developing partners, Egypt has manifested its focus on human development through various initiatives, amongst which is its collaboration with the WBG to promote human capital development through multiple projects, such as strengthening Social Safety Nets, providing sanitation services and supporting health and education reform projects in the country. Moreover, the WBG's human capital project, launched in 2017, aims to promote governments' human capital strategies and spur investments in people as the key drivers for sustainable growth and poverty reduction. One of the project's main components is the Human Capital Index (HCI), currently covering 157 countries, which gauges the impact of health and education outcomes on an adolescent's productivity. Accordingly, utilizing such tool can enrich and encourage national approaches to advancing human development and accelerating investments in quality health and education services.

Evidently, international development cooperation supports government priorities through financing projects in social sectors. Additionally, investments in infrastructure, namely the water and sanitation, transport, electricity and telecommunications sectors, indirectly improves productivity, as it facilitates access to quality education and health services, which in turn reduces poverty and inequality levels. Consequently, the efforts undertaken by development partners in Egypt are aligned and complementary to the initiatives conducted by the Government, the most prominent of which is the presidential initiative "Hayah Karima".



*In that context, the workshop titled “Investing in Human Capital” provides a unique opportunity to:*

- **Showcase** how Egypt’s economic reforms and investments in non-social sectors such as infrastructure and energy contribute to enhancing people’s livelihoods.
- **Highlight** the role of international cooperation in contributing to human capital development through supporting government priorities, and the importance of streamlining projects across sectors and partners to ensure maximum benefit.
- **Identify** gaps in investment in human capital and effective ways to maneuver these gaps in developing countries.
- **Demonstrate** successful experiences in promoting human capital development through varied types of investments.
- **Set forth** policy recommendations to further advance the human capital agenda in Egypt.

## In attendance

- Egyptian and African Ministers
- Development partners
- Egyptian financial institutions
- Civil society organizations
- Private sector representatives
- Think tanks